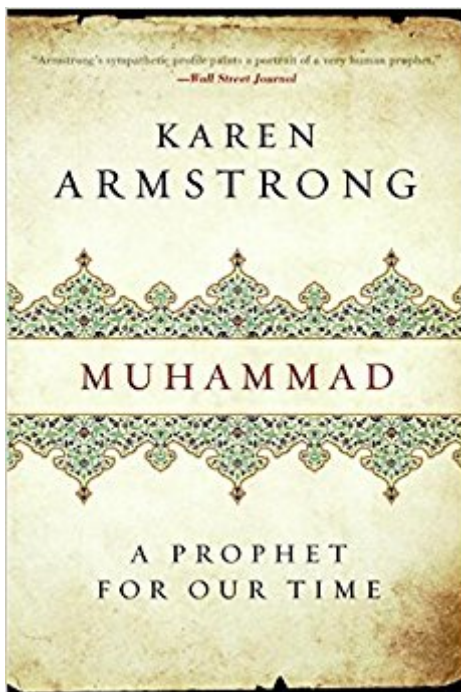


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Muhammad: A Prophet For Our Time



Synopsis

The Man Who Inspired the World's Fastest-Growing Religion Muhammad presents a fascinating portrait of the founder of a religion that continues to change the course of world history. Muhammad's story is more relevant than ever because it offers crucial insight into the true origins of an increasingly radicalized Islam. Countering those who dismiss Islam as fanatical and violent, Armstrong offers a clear, accessible, and balanced portrait of the central figure of one of the world's great religions.

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; Reprint edition (August 28, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0739482637

ISBN-13: 978-0739482636

ASIN: 0061155772

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.6 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 300 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #19,649 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Muhammed](#) #10 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > History](#) #10 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Islam](#)

Customer Reviews

Muhammad was born in 570 CE, and over the following sixty years built a thriving spiritual community, laying the foundations of a religion that changed the course of world history. There is more historical data on his life than on that of the founder of any other major faith, and yet his story is little known. Karen Armstrong's immaculately researched new biography of Muhammad will enable readers to understand the true origins and spirituality of a faith that is all too often misrepresented as cruel, intolerant, and inherently violent. An acclaimed authority on religious and spiritual issues, Armstrong offers a balanced, in-depth portrait, revealing the man at the heart of Islam by dismantling centuries of misconceptions. Armstrong demonstrates that Muhammad's life is a pivot point in history; has genuine relevance to the global crises we face today.

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Armstrong's second biography of Islam's prophet is lucid and stylish, never condescending. It puts the best face possible on its subject. The Muhammad it projects gave his followers "a mission: to create a just and decent society, in which all members were treated with respect." Moreover, Armstrong's Muhammad behaved justly and decently while he lived, though perhaps a bit according to the stringent standards of Arab culture at the time. He taught tolerance toward Jews and Christians. Never mind--Armstrong doesn't--about denials of civil equality to non-Muslims and fulminations about them as "infidels." The Jewish clan whose men were exterminated after a particular battle? It wasn't that they were Jews but that they were traitors, and it wasn't Muhammad who decided they should be executed. The fact that, after declaring that Muslim men could have no more than four wives, Muhammad himself exceeded the limit? Hey, a leader has to make alliances with other groups. A nicely written book, but don't let it be the only biography of Muhammad you read. Ray Olson Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent ! Broadview of this most Important prophet,his suffering,courage & inspirational life. Very helpful in understanding the impact of this man's life on billions of persons throughout the world. It is unfortunate that some followers corrupt the meaning of his message but it will help non muslims to better understand the founder of such a major religion.

I really enjoyed this book. It had a much more positive take on the life and political situation of Muhammad. Really interesting.

This book was required for a college course. It's well written, but it was, frankly, a required purchase. Thanks to for making it easy and affordable to purchase.

I liked Washington Irving's Muhammad better although this was easier reading.

Loved it Karen Armstrong is amazing and researches well

This clear, short, and enlightening account of the life of the prophet Mohammad offers readers an approachable understanding of what lies behind Islam. It makes clear that Islam is NOT the source of the violence and extremism we see today, but rather originally tried to restrain and balance the violence already endemic to the Arab world. Based on excellent research and boasting smooth expository prose, the book is difficult only in the extensive foreign terms it uses. These are all explained in the text at first usage and Armstrong has included an excellent glossary of the terms at the end, but I read the e-book, and hence did not discover the glossary until the end. I recommend reading the physical book to make it easy to use the glossary. I highly recommend this book to anyone seeking to understand more about the origins of Islam, even Muslims, as I suspect even they are not familiar with all this book covers.

Karen Armstrong successfully captures the world in which Islam was born and the complexities of Muhammad, one of history's most important figures. She is particularly effective in showing how Muhammad's message, especially in the area of women's rights, was far more advanced than others of his time, including the attitudes of Christians and Jews of that era. Some of the reviewers are troubled because she is "sympathetic" toward Muhammad, which of course reflects their agenda. It is easier to hate others when you can vilify their heroes, harder when you take a moment to look at them with a fair eye. Muhammad saw himself as the last of the Biblical prophets, and indeed lived in a world the prophets would have been familiar with. Comparing his life to that of Biblical heroes such as Moses, Joshua, David and others is instructive. Muhammad exceeded the moral standards of not only his world, but that of these biblical figures. Had Muhammad been born a few centuries earlier, he would undoubtedly have been part of the canon of Jewish and Christian prophets, as his life and actions are parallel to Moses, Joshua, Elijah etc. That is why he is so disturbing for some Westerners -- we have been taught to vilify him, but the truth is in him we see ourselves.

Great book !

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