

The Shiite Religion A History Of Islam In Persia And Iraq

The Shiite Religion A History Of Islam In Persia And Iraq Book Review: Unveiling the Power of Words

In some sort of driven by information and connectivity, the power of words has be evident than ever. They have the capacity to inspire, provoke, and ignite change. Such may be the essence of the book **The Shiite Religion A History Of Islam In Persia And Iraq**, a literary masterpiece that delves deep to the significance of words and their impact on our lives. Written by a renowned author, this captivating work takes readers on a transformative journey, unraveling the secrets and potential behind every word. In this review, we shall explore the book is key themes, examine its writing style, and analyze its overall affect readers.

Islamic History: A Very Short Introduction Adam J. Silverstein 2010-01-21 Does history matter? This book argues not that history matters, but that Islamic history does. This Very Short Introduction introduces the story of Islamic history; the controversies surrounding its study; and the significance that it holds - for Muslims and for non-Muslims alike. Opening with a lucid overview of the rise and spread of Islam, from the seventh to twenty first century, the book charts the evolution of what was originally a small, localised community of believers into an international religion with over a billion adherents. Chapters are also dedicated to the peoples - Arabs, Persians, and Turks - who shaped Islamic history, and to three representative institutions - the mosque, jihad, and the caliphate - that highlight Islam's diversity over time. Finally, the roles that Islamic history has played in both religious and political contexts are analysed, while stressing the unique status that history enjoys amongst Muslims, especially compared to its lowly place in Western societies where history is often seen as little more than something that is not to be repeated. Some of the questions that will be answered are: · How did Islam arise from the obscurity of seventh century Arabia to the headlines of twenty first century media? · How do we know what we claim to know about Islam's rise and development? · Why does any of this matter, either to Muslims or to non-Muslims? ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short

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The Emergence of Modern Shi'ism Zackery M. Heern 2015-07-01 This book takes a fresh look at the foundations of modern Islam. Scholars often locate the origins of the modern Islamic world in European colonialism or Islamic reactions to European modernity. However, this study focuses on the rise of Islamic movements indigenous to the Middle East, which developed in direct response to the collapse and decentralization of the Islamic gunpowder empires. In other words, the book argues that the Usuli movement as well as Wahhabism and neo-Sufism emerged in reaction to the disintegration and political decentralization of the Safavid, Ottoman, and Mughal empires. The book specifically highlights the emergence of Usuli Shi'ism in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The long-term impact of the Usuli revival was that Shi'i clerics gained unprecedented social, political, and economic power in Iran and southern Iraq. Usuli clerics claimed authority to issue binding legal judgments, which, they argue, must be observed by all Shi'is. By the early nineteenth century, Usulism emerged as a popular, fiercely independent, transnational Islamic movement.

The Usuli clerics have often operated at the heart of social and political developments in modern Iraq and Iran and today dominate the politics of the region.

Mahdis and Millenarians William F. Tucker 2008-01-07 Mahdis and Millenarians is a discussion of Shiite groups in eighth- and ninth-century Iraq and Iran, whose ideas reflected a mixture of indigenous non-Muslim religious teachings and practices in Iraq in the early centuries of Islamic rule and demonstrates the fluidity of religious boundaries of this period. Particular attention is given to the millenarian expectations and the revolutionary political activities of these sects. Specifically, the author's intention is to define the term 'millenarian', to explain how these groups reflect that definition, and to show how they consequently need to be seen in a much larger context than Shiite or even simply Muslim history. The author concentrates, therefore, on the historical-sociological role of these movements. The central thesis of the study is that they were the first revolutionary chiliastic groups in Islamic history and, combined with the later influence of some of their doctrines, contributed to the tactics and teachings of a number of subsequent Shiite or quasi-Shiite sectarian groups.

The Shi'is of Iraq Yitzhak Nakash 2018-06-26 The Shi'is of Iraq provides a comprehensive history of Iraq's majority group and its turbulent relations with the ruling Sunni minority. Yitzhak Nakash challenges the widely held belief that Shi'i society and politics in Iraq are a reflection of Iranian Shi'ism, pointing to the strong Arab attributes of Iraqi Shi'ism. He contends that behind the power struggle in Iraq between Arab Sunnis and Shi'is there exist two sectarian groups that are quite similar. The tension fueling the sectarian problem between Sunnis and Shi'is is political rather than ethnic or cultural, and it reflects the competition of the two groups over the right to rule and to define the meaning of nationalism in Iraq. A new introduction brings this book into the new century and illuminates the role that Shi'is could play in postwar Iraq.

Short History of the Ismailis Farhad Daftary 2020-03-31 Despite being one of the key Shi'i Muslim communities, the Ismailis were until recently studied primarily on the basis of the accounts of their enemies. This new introduction

is the first to be based on modern scholarship, taking account of recently recovered Ismaili texts. It covers all the main developments in the major phases of Ismaili history, from the early formative period, through the Fatamid golden age and the Alamut and post-Alamut periods, to more recent history. Dealing only with the most important historical developments, this is a comprehensive and accessible survey for all newcomers to the subject.

Twelver Shiism Andrew J. Newman 2013 Charts the history of Twelver Shi'ism and the processes underlying the development of its key distinctive doctrines and practices, which ensured its survival in the face of repeated internal and external challenges.

The Mantle of the Prophet P. Mottahedeh 2008-10 A new edition of Mottahedeh's gripping account of Islam and Politics in revolutionary Iran.

The History of the Sunni and Shia Split Charles River Charles River Editors 2014-09-16 *Includes pictures *Discusses the political and religious history of both main branches of Islam *Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading "Our followers are of three kinds, one who follows us but depends on others, one who is like a glass involved in his own reflections, but the best are those who are like gold, the more they suffer the more they shine." - Muhammad al-Baqir Different branches of the same religion are the exception more than the rule, and they have had a profound impact upon history. The schism between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches influenced relationships between nations across Europe, and religious intolerance based on different Christian faiths led to persecution and outright violence across the continent for centuries. The Protestant Reformation split Christianity further, and the results culminated in the incredibly destructive Thirty Years' War in the 17th century. Today, the most important religious split is between the Sunnis and the Shias (Shiites) within Islam. Unlike divisions in other faiths - between Conservative and Orthodox Jews or Catholic and Protestant Christians - the split between the Sunnis and Shia has existed almost as long as the faith itself, and it quickly emerged out of tensions created by the political crisis after the death of the Prophet Muhammad. In a sense,

what are now two different forms of Islam essentially started as political factions within the unified body of Muslim believers. Over the past few centuries, Christians have mostly been able to live alongside their co-religionists, but the split between the Sunnis and Shias is still so pronounced that many adherents of each branch view each other with disdain if not as outright apostates or non-believers. The religious divide is perhaps the most important fault line in the turbulent Middle East today, with Sunni nations like Egypt and Saudi Arabia at odds with Shiite nations like Iran. At lower levels, non-state groups like the Islamic State and Hezbollah are fighting each other in ways that cross state lines in places like Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria. Although it is technically a split in religion, the divide has had substantial global ramifications for decades, and there seems to be no end in sight. The History of the Sunni and Shia Split traces the origins of the split and the historic effects of the main divide within Islam. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the history of the Sunnis and Shias like never before, in no time at all.

Expectation of the Millennium Seyyed Hossein Nasr This is an anthology on the history, politics, and social aspects of Shi'ism including translations of original sources. It examines the historical development of Shi'ism, Shi'i political thought, the status of Shi'i minority communities in the Muslim world, and the life and works of prominent social and political thinkers. The book assesses the extent of the politicization process in Shi'ism in recent years and addresses that important question of the Shi'i attitude towards authority.

An Introduction to Shi'i Islam Moojan Momen 1985

The Story of Islam, Muslims, and the Caliphate Iqrasense 2015-12-24 If you ever wanted to know the background and religious history of the conflict that has people in Syria and Iraq (along with Saudi-Arabia and Iran acting as proxies) embroiled in a never ending conflict, then this book provides those answers and a coverage of the sensational events from the first 100 years of Islamic history. This unique book provides a unique view of Islamic history starting from the time when Makkah did not exist as a city and takes the reader through the

next 100 years to a time when the Muslim territories included areas in present-day Saudi-Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Israel, Palestine, Azerbaijan, Pakistan, Tunisia, Turkey, and Morocco. You will learn about the Islamic caliphate, Shiite Sunni Split, battles in Iraq and Syria, and more. In this publication, you will learn the following: Pre-Islam Arabia and the beginnings of Makkah as a city The Message of Islam revealed on the Prophet History of the early years of the Muslim Caliphate Lives of the Rashidun Caliphs (Abu Bakr, Umar Ibn Khattab, Uthman Ibn Affan, Ali Ibn Abu-Talib, Hassan Ibn Ali) The early Muslim Caliphs How one person started the fitna / instigation that later resulted in the Shiite (Shia) split from the people of Sunnah (Sunnis) Differences between the Shia and Sunni The Battle between Caliph Ali and Ayesha The Battle between Caliph Ali and Muawiyah (Governor of Syria) Story of times when multiple Muslim caliphs ruled the Muslim lands The story of the Khawarij (Extremist dissenters) Banu Umayyah Caliphate Caliphate capitals (Madinah, Kufah, Damascus) Stories of conflict that brewed between Madinah, Kufah, Basrah, and Syria Hajjaj Ibn Yousuf's Tough Governance over the people of Iraq and more **The Twelver Shia in Modern Times** Werner Ende 2021-07-26 This publication discusses the development of Shiite Islam since the 18th century in its various aspects. Its 21 contributions focus on the transformation of theological traditions, the role of internal criticism and ideological and political tendencies in the 20th century.

Iran Hussein D. Hassan 2010-11 Iran is home to approximately 70.5 million people who are ethnically, religiously, and linguistically diverse. The central authority is dominated by Persians who constitute 51% of Iran's population. Iranians speak diverse Indo-Iranian, Semitic, Armenian, and Turkic languages. The state religion is Shia, Islam. Contents of this report: (1) Recent Developments; (2) Background; (3) Persian Dominance; (4) Under the Islamic Regime: History of Ethnic Grievances; Ethnic Unrest; (5) Major Ethnic Minority Groups: Azeris; Kurds; Arabs; Baluchis; (6) Religious Minority Groups: Sunni Muslims; Baha'is; Christians; Jews; (7) Reaction to the Status of Minorities; (8) International Rights Groups. Map

and table.

Shi'ism Hamid Dabashi 2012-05-07 For a Western world anxious to understand Islam and, in particular, Shi'ism, this book arrives with urgently needed information and critical analysis. Hamid Dabashi exposes the soul of Shi'ism as a religion of protest—successful only when in a warring position, and losing its legitimacy when in power. Dabashi makes his case through a detailed discussion of the Shi'i doctrinal foundations, a panoramic view of its historical unfolding, a varied investigation into its visual and performing arts, and finally a focus on the three major sites of its contemporary contestations: Iran, Iraq, and Lebanon. In these states, Shi'ism seems to have ceased to be a sect within the larger context of Islam and has instead emerged to claim global political attention. Here we see Shi'ism in its combative mode—reminiscent of its traumatic birth in early Islamic history. Hezbollah in Lebanon claims Shi'ism, as do the militant insurgents in Iraq, the ruling Ayatollahs in Iran, and the masses of youthful demonstrators rebelling against their reign. All declare their active loyalties to a religion of protest that has defined them and their ancestry for almost fourteen hundred years. *Shi'ism: A Religion of Protest* attends to the explosive conflicts in the Middle East with an abiding attention to historical facts, cultural forces, religious convictions, literary and artistic nuances, and metaphysical details. This timely book offers readers a bravely intelligent history of a world religion.

Sunnis and Shi'a Laurence Louër 2022-05-03 A compelling history of the ancient schism that continues to divide the Islamic world When Muhammad died in 632 without a male heir, Sunnis contended that the choice of a successor should fall to his closest companions, but Shi'a believed that God had inspired the Prophet to appoint his cousin and son-in-law, Ali, as leader. So began a schism that is nearly as old as Islam itself. Laurence Louër tells the story of this ancient rivalry, taking readers from the last days of Muhammad to the political and doctrinal clashes of Sunnis and Shi'a today. In a sweeping historical narrative spanning the Islamic world, Louër shows how the Sunni-Shi'a divide was never just a dispute over succession—at issue are questions about the very nature of Islamic

political authority. She challenges the widespread perception of Sunnis and Shi'a as bitter enemies who are perpetually at war with each other, demonstrating how they have coexisted peacefully at various periods throughout the history of Islam. Louër traces how sectarian tensions have been inflamed or calmed depending on the political contingencies of the moment, whether to consolidate the rule of elites, assert clerical control over the state, or defy the powers that be. Timely and provocative, Sunnis and Shi'a provides needed perspective on the historical roots of today's conflicts and reveals how both branches of Islam have influenced and emulated each other in unexpected ways. This compelling and accessible book also examines the diverse regional contexts of the Sunni-Shi'a divide, examining how it has shaped societies and politics in countries such as Iraq, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Yemen, and Lebanon.

Islam: A Brief Look at Faith and History (Revised Edition) Hafiz Ikhlās Ansari 2018-12-15

Paperback. Islam has influenced and continues to influence many cultures around the globe. It is shaping history, cultures and civilizations. Sadly, most of us only receive a two-dimensional look at Islam—a view that is often distorted by the brevity of the media sound-bites or by opinionated agendas. Our intention with this book is to present Islam, its teachings and the history of those who follow it. It is not a comprehensive study—nor should it be seen as definitive. Rather, it should be used as a stimulus for further detailed study. We hope and pray that this effort becomes a source of promoting (much needed) harmony, peace, tolerance, and coexistence in the human family. This can be done through school education systems, interfaith sessions, mosque open houses, educational seminars and individual readership. This new Revised Edition has larger text, clearer graphics and many new additions to the previous text.

Roman Catholics and Shi'i Muslims James A. Bill 2002-05-09 i" --> This timely work explores two influential religious traditions that might seem to have little in common: Twelver Shi'i Islam and Roman Catholicism. With the worldwide rise of religious fundamentalism, it is imperative that religious movements such as

Christianity and Islam begin working harder to understand one another's history and beliefs. Myths and misunderstandings continue to prevail, and observers tend to focus on the differences between the two faith systems. Without denying these differences, the authors of this book reveal a number of interesting linkages between Roman Catholicism and Twelver Shi'ism. They compare the histories of the two faiths, consider parallels between important figures in each, and highlight the doctrinal, structural, and sociopolitical similarities they share. Balanced in tone and carefully researched, the book helps explain the essence of both traditions while enriching our understanding of each. There are an estimated 140 million Twelver Shi'is in the world today. The highest percentages live in Persian Gulf countries, including Iran and Iraq, and in Azerbaijan, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. Sizable numbers also inhabit Pakistan, India, and Turkey. The largest Christian denomination, Roman Catholicism is present across the globe, though its population of more than one billion people is concentrated in North and South America and in Europe.

In the Shadow of the Prophet Roy P.

Mottahedeh 2023-01-19 In pieces drawn from over the course of his distinguished career, pre-eminent historian Roy Mottahedeh explores such diverse topics as the social bonds that connected people in the early Islamic Middle East, the transmission of learning in the Muslim world, religious and ethnic toleration in the past and in the present, and the theme of 'wonders' in *The Thousand and One Nights*. His essays extend from the early Islamic period through the medieval era and on to modern times. A number concern Iran, the country of his father's birth, and again Mottahedeh's studies range widely, including Persian panegyric poetry, the origins of the city of Kashan, and Shi'ite political thought. Speaking to contemporary concerns, he also touches upon voting rights, academic freedom, and censorship. Intended not only for those in Islamic studies but for students of history and interested lay readers, there are introductions to each section written with the non-specialist in mind, and these sections progress from more general topics to those more specialized. In the Shadow of the Prophet thus

reflects Mottahedeh's desire that the Islamic world and its history become better understood so that cooperation between Muslims and non-Muslims might become the order of the day. *The Shi'a in Modern South Asia* Justin Jones 2015-05-14 ""Explores various Shi'i communities across South Asia, revealing the many forms of Shi'i religion within this important region, and examining the responses of these communities to the many transformations of the modern world"--Provided by publisher"--

After the Prophet Lesley Hazleton 2009

Balancing past and present, Hazleton shows how 7th-century events are alive in Middle Eastern hearts and minds today as though they had just happened, shaping modern headlines from Iran's Islamic Revolution to the civil war in Iraq.

Apocalyptic Islam and Iranian Shi'ism Abbas

Amanat 2009-02-19 Interest in Shi'i Islam is running at unprecedented levels. International tensions over Iran, where the largest number of Shi'i Muslims live, as well as the political resurgence of the Shi'i in Iraq and Lebanon, have created an urgent need to understand the background, beliefs and motivations of this dynamic vision of Islam. Abbas Amanat is one of the leading scholars of Shi'ism. And in this powerful book, a showcase for some of his most influential writing in the field, he addresses the colourful and diverse history of Shi' Islam in both premodern and contemporary times. Focusing specifically on the importance of apocalypticism in the development of modern Shi'i theology, he shows how an immersion in messianic ideas has shaped the conservative character of much Shi'i thinking, and has prevented it from taking a more progressive course. Tracing the continuity of apocalyptic trends from the Middle Ages to the present, Amanat addresses such topics as the early influence on Shi'ism of Zoroastrianism; manifestations of apocalyptic ideology during the Iranian Revolution of 1979; and the rise of the Shi'i clerical establishment during the 19th and 20th centuries. His book will be an essential resource for students and scholars of both religious studies and Middle Eastern history. *Religion and Politics in Iraq* Muhammad Ismail Marcinkowski 2004 Religion and Politics in Iraq features four chapters that outline the major political developments faced by Iraq's Muslim

clerics from the end of the 19th century, under the ailing Ottoman empire, to the 1980s. This crucial period saw fierce internal struggles, foreign intervention and bloody persecution of the political opposition, as well as the emergence of a totalitarian one-party system with absolute control over all sectors of social and religious life. During this period, Baathist Iraq attacked its Muslim neighbours Kuwait and Iran and used poison gas in its "ethnic cleansing" campaign against the Kurds. This book focuses on the dilemma of Iraq's clerics within this setting, caught between political activism and quietism. It addresses also major developments in neighbouring Iran insofar as they had a bearing on Iraq.

Shi'ite Islam Sayyid Muḥammad Ḥusayn Ṭabāṭabā'ī 1979-06-30 Despite a growing interest in the last hundred years in both orientalism and comparative religions, and the fact that there are over fifty million Shi'a Muslims, until now there has been no thorough and objective study of that part of Islam called Shi'ism for Western scholars. The present work provides a clear account of the origin, history, and doctrines of an important sector of the Muslim religious community. It is written by a distinguished leader of that community, who, in addition to possessing a thorough knowledge of its traditional history and literature, presents its rational-philosophic, traditional-legal, and gnostic-mystical elements with warmth and sympathy. The result is a well-integrated general picture which succeeds in giving the reader a clear and comprehensive picture of how the Shi'ite Muslim views his religion.

Shi'i Sectarianism in the Middle East

Elisheva Machlis 2014-09-17 The eruption of violent sectarianism in Iraq following the US invasion in 2003 brought the question of Sunni-Shi'i relations in the country to the forefront of the international public agenda. It also strengthened the popular belief that contemporary Shi'ism is inherently sectarian. Yet several decades earlier, Ayatollah Khomeini had declared an Islamic revolution and downplayed its Shi'i origins and links. So what is the true orientation of Shi'i Islam in the contemporary era and how did modernisation alter its sectarian affiliation? This book contends that early Shi'i reformist thought set the

foundations for a more universal-oriented Shi'ism. Prominent reformists in the first half of the twentieth century from the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf in Iraq and from the Shi'i centres in Southern Lebanon played a significant role in the renewal of Shi'ism and laid the groundwork for its reinvention in the modern era. Exploring this shift towards a more ecumenical perception of Islam, Elisheva Machlis here provides a fresh perspective on inter-sectarian relations in contemporary Iraq and illuminates the intellectual roots of the Islamic revolution, by examining networks of Shi'i scholars such as Muḥammad Ḥusayn Kāshif al-Ghīṭī and Muḥsin al-Amīn al-'Iṣfahānī, operating within a more globalised Muslim world. Drawing on the experiences of early Shi'i reformists, such as 'Abd al-Ḥusayn Sharaf al-Dīn al-Mūsawwī in Lebanon and Muḥammad Jawād Mughniyya in Damascus, this book gives new insight on the future of inter-Muslim relations at a time of growing inter-sectarian contention, from the Iran-Iraq war to the post-2003 Sunni-Shi'i conflict in Iraq and al-Qa'ida's anti-Shi'i message, taking into account questions of theology, historiography, jurisprudence and politics which all played a vital role in the transition to the contemporary era. The author here analyses the broad scholarly connections between Iran, Iraq and Lebanon in the twentieth century, while debating paramount questions of leadership, identity and group membership in the development of modern Shi'ism. Examining the relationship between intellectual thought and socio-political development in the region, this book provides a new perspective concerning the future of an increasingly globalised Muslim world and will prove essential reading for students and specialists.

Sacred Space and Holy War

Juan Ricardo Cole 2021-03-30 How is it that Shi'i Muslims have set the agenda of political discourse in the Islamic world in recent years? Why have Shi'is been at the forefront of Islam's reassessment of the West? In the past three hundred years, Shi'i Islam, already the state religion in Iran since the 16th century, has grown impressively in Iraq, northern India and what is now Pakistan. Its effervescence dominated Islamic world politics in the last quarter of the twentieth century. Juan Cole examines Shi'i Islam as a world religion

that has faced modernity on its own terms. He explores the little known history of Shi'i communities as far afield as Bahrain and India, giving attention as well to important centres such as Lebanon, Iraq and, of course, Iran. He demonstrates the way in which Shi'is have sought to define space and time as sacred, and to defend those spaces from encroachments by the Other, whether that Other be Sunni Arab, Hindu or European Christian. Yet the Shi'i struggle for authentic identity in the modern world has not been only a matter of reactionary digging in. Cole shows that Shi'i clerical institutions have been supple and imaginative in coming to terms with phenomena such as modern finance capital, imperialism and the modern bureaucratic state. This book will prove of enormous interest to those interested in the history of Islam and the Islamic world, and to all students of the Middle East."

The Shi'ite Religion Dwight M. Donaldson 1933

Illustrated Dictionary of the Muslim World Marshall Cavendish Reference 2011 The three books comprising the Muslim World series provide a rich and balanced view of all aspects of Islamic religion and its varied manifestations through time and around the world, with emphasis on understanding modern Muslim society today. Illustrated Dictionary of the Muslim World contains hundreds of short entries on Islamic concepts, religious practices, historical events and personalities, geographical places, and fact files of nations with large Muslim populations. Islamic Beliefs, Practices, and Cultures begins with 14 chapters introducing the ideas promoted by the religion's founder in the seventh century and tracking their development into new doctrines, schools of thought, and philosophical, literary, and cultural traditions as diverse as recitation of scripture in madrassas in Egypt to gift giving at holiday time in the United States. Among the numerous special features are those examining the meanings of jihad, the persistence of mystical Islam, and stand-up comedy addressing the cultural divides surrounding Muslims today. Modern Muslim Societies, with a total of twenty-three chapters, devotes nine to subjects such as family life, marriage, law, human rights, and Muslim extremism before turning to fourteen

regional surveys on manifestations of Islam around the world, including the United States and Canada, Iran, Southeast Asia, Africa, and everywhere else Islam has flourished. From the women around Muhammad to pop stars of today, from medieval caliphates to breakthroughs in science and medicine, from love poetry to suicide, no aspect of a rich and diverse story goes unnoticed in the three books of Muslim World. Religion, philosophy, politics, economy, society, law, history, visual arts, architecture, literature -- all sides of Islamic thought and Muslim ways of life receive attention in this uniquely organized presentation for students and interested general readers. - Publisher.

Shi'ism in America Liyakat Nathani Takim 2011-09 Provides an overview of America's Shi'i community, tracing its history, describing its composition in the twenty-first century, and explaining how they have created an identity for themselves in the American context.

The Iranian Revolution And The Muslim World David Menashri 1990-10-30

Shi'ism Heinz Halm 2004 Heinz Halm's work presents a thorough discussion of the history, theology, and current state of this branch of Islam. Newly revised, Shi'ism includes updated information on the fate of the Shi'ite revolution in Iran as well as a new chapter on Iraq. Halm explores how Shi'ism differs from the rest of Islam, discussing the prominence of its authorities, the Imams, as well as its legal system, practices of worship, places of pilgrimages, and a religious ethos characterized by a fervor to suffer for the cause.

Iran and the Shia Janey Levy 2009-08-15 The history of Iran is a long, rich, multi-layered one. Iran was once known as Persia and was devoted to an ancient religion known as Zoroastrianism. The Persian people converted to Islam following the Arab conquest. Persia contributed as much to Islam as it received. Indeed, it eventually developed along a separate path from most Arab Muslims, as it adopted the Shia branch of the faith. Though the Shia would always be a minority within Islam, the Shia would nevertheless develop a complex and powerful faith, and Persia would experience several periods as a mighty and sophisticated empire. In the modern age, Iran came to be ruled by secular shahs, or kings, who tried to remove

religion from the public sphere. Yet with the overthrow of the last Shah in 1979, Iran became a Shia state, ruled by conservative religious clerics. It has since come to occupy a central role in Middle Eastern and world affairs, and its Shia government exerts a tight grip on its citizens and their lives. This book introduces readers to the vast sweep of Iranian history and religion. Shi'ism and Iran cannot be separated—they are so tightly entwined. The role Iran comes to play in world affairs in the 21st century will have everything to do with religion and its government's use of it. The consequences for the Middle East and the world at large could be dramatic.

The Shiites Heinz Halm 2007 The author highlights the three main aspects of Shi'a Islam: its historical development, especially the history of the Imams; the rituals, including flagellation and passion plays; and the rule of the mullahs, known as the "government of experts." Shi'ism is as old as Islam. It began as an exclusively Arab political issue of succession to Muhammad, and was later embraced by the Iranians. At the core of Shi'i religious practice are rituals of mourning and atonement.--Publisher description.

Shia Islam and Politics Jon Armajani 2020-05-20 This book argues that ever since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, which established a Shia Islamic government in Iran, that country's religious and political leaders, have used Shia Islam as a crucial way of expanding Iran's objectives in the Middle East and beyond. Since 1979, Iran's religious and political leaders have been concerned about Iran's security in the face of the hostility and expansionism of the United States and other western countries, and the threats from powerful neighboring Sunni leaders and countries. While Iran's government has attempted to align itself with Shia Muslims in various countries, such as Iraq and Lebanon, against American and Sunni expansionism, the Iranian government has attempted to religiously nourish and politically mobilize those Shias as a matter of principle, not only because of the Iranian government's desires to protect Iran from external threats. The book analyzes Shia Islam and politics in Iraq, Iraq, and Lebanon which have among the largest proportional Shia populations in the Middle East and are vibrant

centers of Shia intellectual life. The book's clear and jargon-free approach make it especially accessible for students and general readers who would like an introduction to the book's topics.

The Shi'ite Religion Dwight Martin Donaldson 1971

The Struggle Within Islam Rafiq Zakaria 1989 "Islam is a simple religion: it requires of its followers only two things -- one, a belief in the unity of God and, two, a belief in the prophethood of Muhammad. Despite the pure and homogeneous nature of the faith, the history of Islam has been one of conflict. The first problem Islam faced was the issue of succession to the Prophet. from then on, Islam has been riven by dissent -- a result of the almost uninterrupted face-off between Islamic rulers, who were usually secular and flexible in their interpretation and implementation of the rules and practices of Islam and fundamentalist theologians, jurists and their followers, who insisted on a rigid adherence to the Quran and the Sunna. Besides a thorough analysis of this problem, the author examines other issues that have led to discord -- the treatment of non-Muslims in an Islamic State; the power of taxation of the State; the nature of punishment for certain offences mentioned in the Quran and so on." --Page [4] of cover.

Shi'ism and Constitutionalism in Iran 'Abd al-Hādī Hā'irī 1977

The Shi'a in Modern South Asia Justin Jones 2015-05-14 While most studies of Shi'i Islam have focused upon Iran or the Middle East, South Asia is another global region which is home to a large and influential Shi'i population. This edited volume establishes the importance of the Indian subcontinent, which has been profoundly shaped by Shi'i cultures, regimes and populations throughout its history, for the study of Shi'i Islam in the modern world. The essays within this volume, all written by leading scholars of the field, explore various Shi'i communities (both Isna 'Ashari and Isma'ili) in parts of the subcontinent as diverse as Karachi, Lucknow, Bombay and Hyderabad, as well as South Asian Shi'i diasporas in East Africa. Drawing from a range of disciplinary perspectives including history, religious studies, anthropology and political science, they examine a range of themes relating to Shi'i belief,

practice, piety and belonging, as well as relations between Shi'i and non-Shi'i communities.

A Concise History of Sunnis and Shi'is John McHugo 2018-04-02 The 1,400-year-old schism between Sunnis and Shi'is is currently reflected in the destructive struggle for hegemony between Saudi Arabia and Iran—with no apparent end in sight. But how did this conflict begin, and why is it now the focus of so much attention? Charting the history of Islam from the death of the Prophet Muhammad to the present day, John McHugo describes the conflicts that raged over the succession to the Prophet, how Sunnism and Shi'ism evolved as different sects during the Abbasid caliphate, and how the rivalry between the Sunni Ottomans and Shi'i Safavids ensured that the split would continue into the modern age. In recent decades, this centuries-old divide has acquired a new toxicity that has resulted in violence across the Arab world and other Muslim countries. Definitive, insightful, and accessible, *A Concise History of Sunnis and Shi'is* is an essential guide to understanding the genesis, development, and manipulation of the schism that for far too many people has come to define Islam and the Muslim world.

The Sunna and Shi'a in History O. Bengio 2014-12-16 Sunni-Shi'i relations have undergone significant transformations in recent decades. In order to understand these developments, the contributors to the present volume demonstrate the complexity of Sunni-Shi'i relations by analyzing political, ideological, and social encounters between the two communities from early Islamic history to the present.

Shi'i Sectarianism in the Middle East Elisheva Machlis 2014-09-17 The eruption of violent sectarianism in Iraq following the US invasion in 2003 brought the question of Sunni-Shi'i relations in the country to the forefront of the international public agenda. It also strengthened the popular belief that contemporary Shi'ism is inherently sectarian. Yet several decades earlier, Ayatollah Khomeini had declared an Islamic revolution and downplayed its Shi'i origins and links. So what is the true orientation of Shi'i Islam in the contemporary era and how did modernisation alter its sectarian affiliation? This book contends that early Shi'i reformist thought

set the foundations for a more universal-oriented Shi'ism. Prominent reformists in the first half of the twentieth century from the holy cities of Karbala and Najaf in Iraq and from the Shi'i centres in Southern Lebanon played a significant role in the renewal of Shi'ism and laid the groundwork for its reinvention in the modern era. Exploring this shift towards a more ecumenical perception of Islam, Elisheva Machlis here provides a fresh perspective on inter-sectarian relations in contemporary Iraq and illuminates the intellectual roots of the Islamic revolution, by examining networks of Shi'i scholars such as Mu'ammad 'usayn K'shif al-Ghi'?' and Mu'sin al-Am'n al-'mil?', operating within a more globalised Muslim world. Drawing on the experiences of early Shi'i reformists, such as 'Abd al-'usayn Sharaf al-D'n al-M'saw? in Lebanon and Mu'ammad Jaw'd Mughniyya in Damascus, this book gives new insight on the future of inter-Muslim relations at a time of growing inter-sectarian contention, from the Iran-Iraq war to the post-2003 Sunni-Shi'i conflict in Iraq and al-Qa'ida's anti-Shi'i message, taking into account questions of theology, historiography, jurisprudence and politics which all played a vital role in the transition to the contemporary era. The author here analyses the broad scholarly connections between Iran, Iraq and Lebanon in the twentieth century, while debating paramount questions of leadership, identity and group membership in the development of modern Shi'ism. Examining the relationship between intellectual thought and socio-political development in the region, this book provides a new perspective concerning the future of an increasingly globalised Muslim world and will prove essential reading for students and specialists.

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