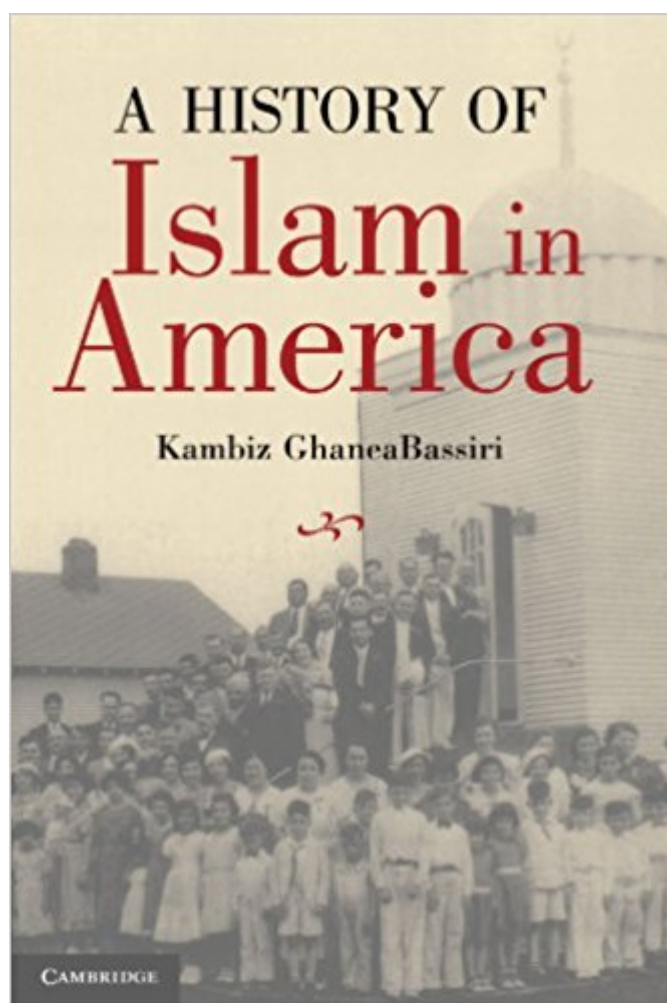


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A History Of Islam In America: From The New World To The New World Order



Synopsis

Muslims began arriving in the New World long before the rise of the Atlantic slave trade. The first arrivals date to the turn of the sixteenth century when European explorers and colonists crossed the Atlantic in search of new horizons and trading routes. Kambiz GhaneaBassiri's fascinating book traces the history of Muslims in the United States and their different waves of immigration and conversion across five centuries, through colonial and antebellum America, through world wars and civil rights struggles, to the contemporary era. The book tells the often deeply moving stories of individual Muslims and their lives as immigrants and citizens within the broad context of the American religious experience, showing how that experience has been integral to the evolution of American Muslim institutions and practices. This is a unique and intelligent portrayal of a diverse religious community and its relationship with America. It will serve as a strong antidote to the current politicized dichotomy between Islam and the West, which has come to dominate the study of Muslims in America and further afield.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"GhaneaBassiri's extraordinary collection and redaction of materials, combined with his historiographical and methodological insights, constitute a major intervention into several off-segregated fields." -Journal of the American Academy of Religion "This book offers a much needed and richly detailed overview of the story of Islam and Muslims on this continent from earliest times to the present. An invaluable work." -Leila Ahmed, Harvard Divinity School "This remarkable book draws on a broad range of primary and secondary sources to develop a new synthesis. It

deepens our appreciation of Islam's internal diversity, reveals some of the different ways that Muslim identity has been improvised in inter-religious exchanges in America, and debunks stereotypes about what it means to be Muslim and American. This is a careful work of scholarship and a fascinating narrative history." -- Christopher G. White, Assistant Professor of Religion in America, Vassar College

"A History of Islam in America is a major step forward in understanding the encounters and exchanges between Muslims and non-Muslims in the US. This richly documented and fascinating analysis provides a powerful challenge to stereotypes that exclude Islam from the orbit of 'the West.' -- Carl W. Ernst, William R. Kenan, Jr. Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

"This book is the most comprehensive historical monograph yet written about Islam in the United States." -Edward E. Curtis, *Journal of American History*

"...this scholarly book is a valuable and welcome contribution to the historical study of Islam in the West in general, and the United States in particular. The book's core thesis is the complexity and diversity of American Muslims' experience in the new world. The book is highly recommended, for it serves specialists and non-specialists alike." -Digest of Middle East Studies

"Professor GhaneaBassiri does an excellent job, and his encyclopedic, erudite, and objective study deserves to be read widely, and its arguments deserve to be taken seriously by others in the field." -Journal of Church and State

"GhaneaBassiri modestly pens not The History of Islam in America, but A History of Islam in America splendidly." -Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion

"Of all the books under review, GhaneaBassiri's is the most self-conscious and rigorous in its methodology." -Middle East Journal

"GhaneaBassiri provides a timely, informative, scholarly, and well-documented book that sheds new light on the history and experience of Muslims in the United States, refuting the naive notion of a clash of civilizations." -El-Sayed El-Aswad, *Digest of Middle East Studies*

"GhaneaBassiri...addresses the production of knowledge about both Muslims and the United States that allows for...dichotomizing logic. In doing so, he disproves suppositions that Muslims' lives are intrinsically or historically distinct from "America" while demonstrating that a scholar of Islamic traditions can also be a thorough and theoretically sophisticated Americanist, and vice versa. GhaneaBassiri's extraordinary collection and redaction of materials, combined with his historiographical and methodological insights, constitute a major intervention into several off-segregated fields." -Rosemary R. Hicks, *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*; Tufts University

"When we come to GhaneaBassiri's volume, I believe that we have one of the best books available today describing how Muslims from the earliest days of their presence in America to the very contemporary period have both participated in and have been molded by the flow of American history." -Jane I. Smith, *The Journal of Religion*

Kambiz GhaneaBassiri's fascinating book traces the history of Muslims in the United States and their different waves of immigration and conversion across five centuries, through colonial and antebellum America, through world wars and civil rights struggles, to the contemporary era. The book tells the often deeply moving stories of individual Muslims and their lives as immigrants and citizens within the broad context of the American religious experience, showing how that experience has been integral to the evolution of American Muslim institutions and practices. This is a unique and intelligent portrayal of a diverse religious community and its relationship with America.

There is not a lot of great scholarly work done on Islam in America and this is one of those great works. My only caveat is that the book relies on quotations so much that there are times I think it is just a book of quotations. Outside of this the book is well structured and thorough.

Awesome read; kinda funny, too. Using this for research.

This book is very thorough. It includes various movements, their origins, and impacts. It discusses the interaction between people's lived religious identities and the surrounding culture.

Interesting and little know part of our history.

Great book. I found this book very informative and thorough.

Excellent reading materials. Book was new and had no visible damages.

This book provides further research on figures such as Inyat Khan, Job ben Solomon, Alexander Russell Webb, Duse M Ali, the controversial Satti Majid etc. It reveals Duse's involvement as Exalted Ruler of the Order of Elks and Rosicrucianism through his European wife. It also delves into his relationship with the Ahmadiyya sect of Islam and serving as a bridge between Ahmadiyya & the U.N.I.A ORGS, there are some very interesting Ahmadiyya photographs. Duse himself studied under one Khwajah Kamel-ud-Din in Great Britain. Duse also associated with known 96degree Mason and Shriner Dr. Abdul Hamid of Kartoum Egypt. The common nexus of these groups was Detroit MI in the early to mid 1920s. In the 1950s many Jazz musicians converted to Islam via the Ahmadiyya (such as Ahmad Jamal, Art Blakely and McCoy Tyner). The author makes the Masonic

connections between Job Ben Solomon and the craft as well as the NOI, MST and UNIA; which I believe were largely "borrowed" from some "black" authors works from early 2005 without proper recognition or referencing (especially the constant use of the tell tale phrase [rise]). The author also gives the reader info on various Sufi orders pretty successfully. Overall not bad.

This book by Ghaneya Bassiri is really great for an overview, as well as many details, about how Muslim immigrants and slaves were forced to acculturate and assimilate to the American culture in order to survive. This overview begins as early as the European explorers discovered America all the way until recent modern-day and post-9/11. This book gives a lot of information in every sentence and, while it is a good thing to include a lot of information, it almost makes it difficult to read. The pictures that are sparsely included offer better visuals of certain people, events and circumstances. He also makes some claims about disassociation from Islam and de-negrofication as well as conversion to Christianity and it raises some questions. Could these actions really have altered the power dynamic between races? Were these conversions genuine or were they made for pure survival? These are the kinds of questions Ghaneya Bassiri doesn't answer in his text.

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