



A World Without Islam

By Graham E. Fuller

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What if Islam never existed? To some, it's a comforting thought: no clash of civilizations, no holy wars, no terrorists.

But what if that weren't the case at all? In **A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM**, Graham E. Fuller guides us along an illuminating journey through history, geopolitics, and religion to investigate whether or not Islam is indeed the cause of some of today's most emotional and important international crises. Fuller takes us from the birth of Islam to the fall of Rome to the rise and collapse of the Ottoman Empire. He examines and analyzes the roots of terrorism, the conflict in Israel, and the role of Islam in supporting and energizing the anti-imperial struggle. Provocatively, he finds that contrary to the claims of many politicians, thinkers, theologians, and soldiers, a world without Islam might not look vastly different from what we know today.

Filled with fascinating details and counterintuitive conclusions, **A WORLD WITHOUT ISLAM** is certain to inspire debate and reshape the way we think about Islam's relationship with the West.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

In this wide-ranging historical text, Fuller, former vice chairman of the National Intelligence Council at the CIA, suggests that many of the current tensions that exist between the East and the West have geopolitical rather than religious origins and that these tensions would have arisen in a "world without Islam." The author opens the book with a theological analysis that emphasizes the continuities among the three Abrahamic faiths. He then pivots to an extended history of the Christian world that focuses on the conflict between Latin and Byzantine Europe, pointing out that the schism between them largely motivated the Crusades. The book then covers the relationship of Islam to Russia, India, and China before turning to the Muslim world specifically, surveying its centuries-long decline from a position of cultural, political, and economic dominance. Fuller covers an extraordinary number of subjects lucidly, and whether readers are persuaded by his valorization of geopolitics above religion, he cogently lays out the complex causes of contemporary conflicts and makes bold policy recommendations that move conversations about East-West relations beyond religious and ideological divides.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Challenging commentators who regard Islam as the seedbed of anti-Western terrorism, Fuller argues that the perilous tensions between the West and the Middle East spring from nonreligious sources, not Islamic theology. Fuller defends his provocative thesis by showing that long before Muhammad, the peoples of the Middle East viewed the Western powers as interlopers. Readers explore, in particular, the ways the eleventh- and twelfth-century Christian crusaders against Islam were replaying scripts written by Roman Catholic authorities, who suppressed heresies in the Levant and then waged doctrinal war against the patriarchs of Eastern Orthodoxy. The persistence of pre-Islamic resentments surfaces most tellingly in the willingness of Catholic crusaders to ignore the Muslims long enough to sack the Christian (but Eastern Orthodox) city of Constantinople for political and economic reasons. These reasons for regional conflict continued, as Fuller illustrates, after the Protestants' revolt and Russia's emergence as a new Byzantium. Fuller thus dares to suggest that overcoming the twenty-first-century anti-Western animosities of Middle Eastern Muslims requires an honest and historically informed assessment of economic and political inequities that moves us beyond a fixation on religious issues. This exceptional inquiry finally sustains a quite specific—and controversial—set of recommendations for reframing American foreign policy. --Bryce Christensen

Review

Fuller has been a voice of reason and calm in an otherwise hysterical debate about the root causes of the contemporary world. *A World Without Islam* is a needed corrective, a sober call not to settle for historical pabulum and instead recall a past and recognize a present that is far more complicated and layered than any polemic would have us believe.

(*Los Angeles Times* Zachary Karabell) .

Fuller dares to suggest that overcoming the twenty-first-century anti-Western animosities of Middle Eastern Muslims requires an honest and historically informed assessment of economic and political inequities that moves us beyond a fixation on religious issues. This exceptional inquiry finally sustains a quite specific-and controversial-set of recommendations for reframing American foreign policy. 4; (*Booklist*) .

;Well-reasoned...Fuller's book is indeed a useful corrective. ; (**Time Ishaan Tharoor**) .

;Another must-read by one of the most thought-provoking writers on Islam and the Middle East. ; (**author of No god but God and Beyond Fundamentalism Reza Aslan**) .

;A tour de force by one of the foremost authorities on global Muslim politics. (**author of The Future of Islam John L. Esposito**) --publisher

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Enders:

The book A World Without Islam can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Why must we leave a good thing like a book A World Without Islam? A few of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim which book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer along with your book. Knowledge or information that you take for that, you could give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book A World Without Islam has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by available and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

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Randy Gable:

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