



# An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad

By Claude Andrew Clegg

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The compelling biography of Elijah Muhammad. The visionary leader whose ideals and political actions have shaped a century of African-American History.

Elijah Muhammed, the founding father of The Nation of Islam and the forbear to Louis Farrakhan, has no emerged as one of the most significant black leaders of this century. Claude Andrew Clegg II examines Muhammad's life from his birth in 1897 in Georgia, to his creation of the American Nation of Islam, to his final split with Malcolm X. Through this brilliant biography, we are finally able to understand the origins of Islam and black nationalism that has helped form the consciousness of African-American society for the last half-century.

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**An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad** By Claude Andrew Clegg Bibliography

- Rank: #2172112 in Books
- Published on: 1998-01-15
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.20" h x 1.07" w x 6.06" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 400 pages

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### Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan get more attention, but Elijah Muhammad indelibly defined the Nation of Islam from the time he assumed its leadership in 1934 until his death in 1975. This much-needed book illuminates the impact of Muhammad's personal history on the movement, particularly its stress on economic independence for black Americans. Historian Claude Andrew Clegg's balanced appraisal acknowledges Muhammad's financial and sexual misdeeds but credits him with promoting racial pride and "moral living." Clegg makes a strong case for the Nation of Islam being "as homegrown as the NAACP or the Ku Klux Klan."

From Library Journal

Head of the Nation of Islam for 40 years, Muhammad was a charismatic leader. In this portrait, historian Clegg reveals how this visionary figure relied on religious ideals and political action to shape African American history in this century.

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From [Booklist](#)

Although Elijah Muhammad was well known, having scores of proponents and critics, his life has not been well documented. Now, Clegg has ended all that with this masterful analysis that stresses Muhammad's role in the evolution of black nationalism and the concurrent rise of Islam as an alternative religion among African Americans; the economic factors that had a critical impact on his leadership; and the historical context that brings texture to his struggles. Clegg traverses Muhammad's life through his coming-of-age in Georgia, the wilderness and his ascent in the Nation of Islam, the so-called keys of the kingdom and his sovereignty as the messenger of Allah, and the judgment and his final years. Clegg asserts that Muhammad has not been given credit for his leadership and vision in shaping African American racial consciousness, and that most accounts of his disciples, Malcolm X and Louis Farrakhan, overshadowed him. If initiating the study of a key player in the Muslim movement and its role in twentieth-century American history was the goal, Clegg wins a gold star. This is an exceptional discussion of the man behind the Nation of Islam for more than four decades. *Lillian Lewis*

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**Joshua Rodrigue:**

The book An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book to see, this book very suitable to you. The book An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad is much recommended to you to study. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

**Betty Terry:**

Reading a guide tends to be new life style in this particular era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information which will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their very own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the ability about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on this planet always try to improve their proficiency in writing, they also doing some research before they write on their book. One of them is this An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad.

**Katherine Adkins:**

A lot of people always spent their very own free time to vacation or go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you realize? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you need to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read any book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you just read you can spent all day every day to reading a book. The book An Original Man: The Life and Times of Elijah Muhammad it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

**Marilyn Oxford:**

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