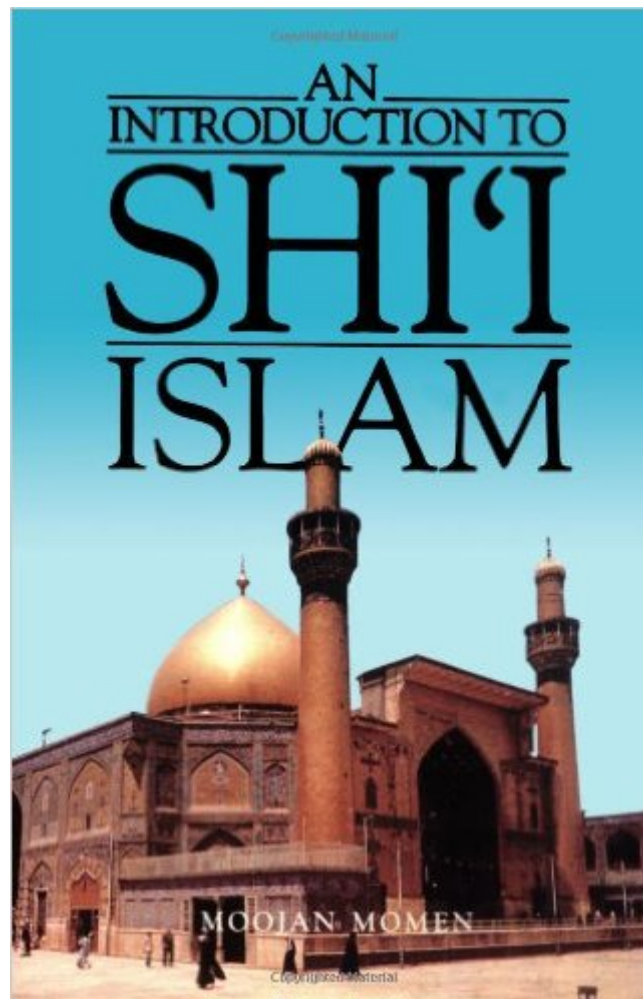


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An Introduction To Shi`i Islam: The History And Doctrines Of Twelver Shi`ism



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Customer Reviews

This is a book that I recommend to everyone who is interested in understanding the history of Shi'e split from Sunni faction(s) in Islam. The book, however, goes much beyond that, and provides insight to developments of Islam at Mohammed's time, and immediately after his death, as well as a detailed follow on to present day. It is written with a style that keeps the reader glued to the book, unlike most books in similar subjects. There are two points that I have minor criticism: the book contains numerous Arabic (and Farsi) names, perhaps too many names are given in the book. This practice, even though it provides credibility for the content, makes the reading of the book difficult for even those who can read Farsi and Arabic. The second point is this: a few of dates provided in the text (such as birth, death, start or completion of events, etc.) appear inaccurate, even if one accepts the information detailed on the same page where the dates are recorded. All in all, an excellent book for both the novice, as well as informed individuals. This book can also be used as a reference source; it has nearly 100 pages of bibliography, index, etc.

I would recommend this book to anyone, but especially to Shia parents wishing to explain Shia Islam to their children. The book is easy enough for a high-schooler and up to read. As someone who grew up in a relatively small Shia community in the United States, this book was especially helpful in educating me over the years. Recently, many of my friends (who are of the college and professional school age) and who have not necessarily grown up in a household that stresses Shia Islam but who want to learn more about the area, have also turned to this book for understanding.

I have read many books about the religious development and history of Shia Islam and have to say without any hesitation that this is the most detailed and objective book I have ever read on the subject. The author, Mr. Momen, has done a thorough job of accurately presenting its early history as well as its development up to present time. Very scholarly, with many footnotes and cross references. Based upon the information that I was already familiar with, I recommend this book to anyone interested in gaining unbiased information about the subject.

I was surprised to find that I could not put this book down. I figured this would be a dry subject and picked it up because I wanted to have a better understanding of Shi'ite Islam. Dr. Momen's book was very detailed yet the subject matter read like a story rather than a series of facts strewn together. The succession of the Imams and the tribulations entwined within that history were especially riveting. At the same time I always felt Dr. Momen was treating the subject fairly, giving a detailed and balanced account, especially in areas where the history is a source of controversy between the two branches of Islam.

Dr. Momen provides a comprehensive and objective overview of Shia history and beliefs. It doesn't matter if you are new to learning of Islam, or an advanced scholar, you can get a wealth of information from this book. I have sometimes heard that this book by Dr. Momen was the catalyst for Shia Islam being taken seriously as a subject in theological studies in the West. Any question that I had while reading, Dr. Momen did not leave unanswered. With that, it was organized appropriately for easy reference. I never have to dig for the information I'm looking for. Most interesting to me was his study of the changing role of the ulema. I had always wondered how the Shia community evolved from having an Imam at the head of things, to an Ayatollah, and Dr. Momen covers the gradual shifts in full. I haven't seen a better book on the subject to date.

The author has created a remarkable book on Shia Islam which will undoubtedly serve as a valuable reference guide for students in Islamic studies, Middle Eastern studies, Iranian history. The author covers a vast range of history and theology, up to and including the 1979 Iranian revolution. Biographies of prominent Iranian figures and theologians make this book a valuable aide in the field of Iranian studies. Yet it is enjoyable to read, written in a pleasant academic style that is not dry. For those seeking to understand contemporary Iran today, this is a useful reference book.

The name of must be changed to AMAZING. Just received my book today it's the 16th February

2016. When I go to the tracker it says my book is due on February the 22nd SIX days from now!!!!!!! I ordered it on Feb. 7th and it was shipped I think the 9th so with a weekend or two it took only FIVE days to reach me in Australia!!!!!!!!!!!!!! was expecting it next Monday. Great Comdition and has everything I wanted but I didn't expect it to be so extensive. It has maps and details like the population of Shiah's and where they are and all sorts of information I never dreamed of being included and of course the main point for me about the Mahdi and that is about the Bab and Baha'u'llah fulfilling the prophecies of Shiah Islam. But it is so informative and just flipping through it I thought WOW, "I didn't know that". A very welcome addition to "Muhammad and the Course of Islam" and the Quran by Bakhtiar who she clears up the mistranslation 4:34 about beating wives and corrects it to the right meaning of 'leave them alone' if a woman gets angry. This book goes into the history of Shiah and events and gives charts and visual examples so you can grasp information at a glance. is great and I'm very happy shopping here and recommend everyone to shop here.

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