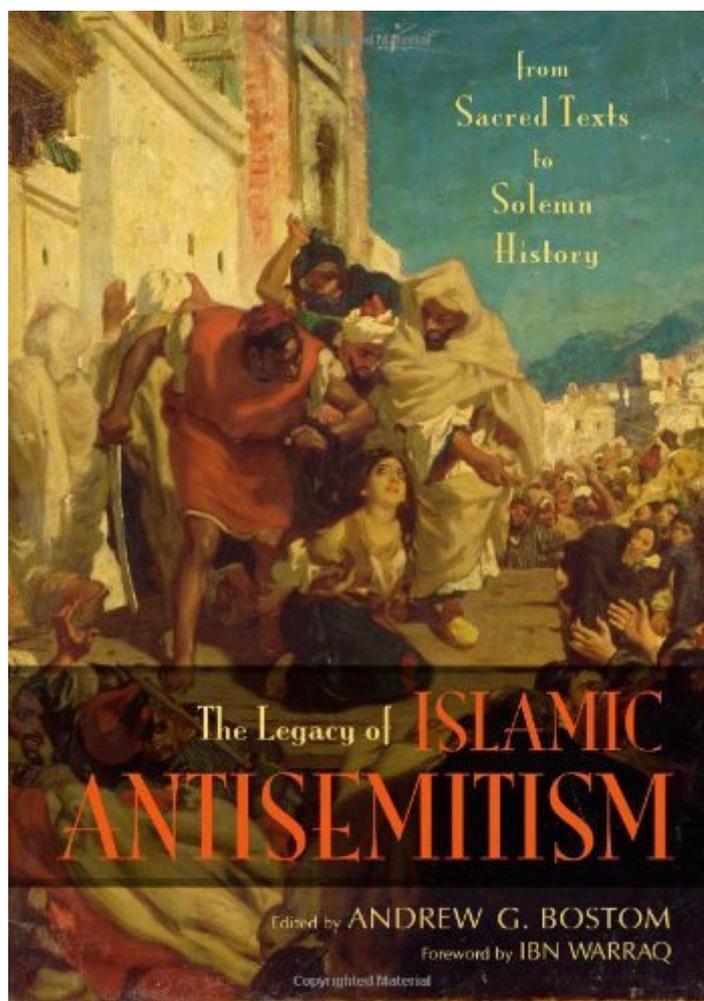


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The Legacy Of Islamic Antisemitism: From Sacred Texts To Solemn History



Synopsis

This comprehensive meticulously documented collection of scholarly articles presents indisputable evidence that a readily discernible and uniquely Islamic antisemitism has been expressed continuously since the advent of Islam. The contributors show that the "Koran" itself is a significant source of hostility towards Jews as well as other foundational texts.

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Customer Reviews

"Whenever a Jew is killed, it is for the benefit of Islam." Andrew Bostom was working on a book about Islamic treatment of "dhimmis," "infidels" or non-Muslims, when he came across this quote by Sufi jurist Sirhindi (d. 1621). The virulence of this quote inspired Bostom to put his general work on Islamic treatment of dhimmis aside, for the moment, and to focus on Islamic anti-Semitism. Andrew Bostom, a medical doctor, is a careful and ethical researcher and writer. Nowadays, there is so much political frenzy around the question of Islam, that readers often fear that they are exposed to more heat than light in best-selling books. When reading Andrew Bostom, readers need not worry that they are being spoon fed propaganda. Bostom works his way with painstaking slowness and exactitude through mountains of primary sources, and he presents that data to the reader, with full citations to original texts. Bostom uses Islam's own documents, including Islamic legal documents

on Jews, and historical accounts of Jewish life in Muslim lands, to support his inevitable conclusion: from the earliest days, from the founding of Islam by Mohammed, and from Islam's central text, the Koran, anti-Semitism has been a central aspect of Islam, and any reform of this aspect of Islam will be very difficult. Bostom effectively debunks three oft-repeated Islam-apologist myths: the alleged Islamic Golden Age, that Muslims learned their anti-Semitism from Christians or the West, and that anti-Semitism arose in the Muslim world only after the recognition of the state of Israel. There was no "Islamic Golden Age" when persons of various faiths lived in peace and harmony under wise, tolerant Islamic rulers, Bostom insists.

From Kenneth Ellman, Newton, New Jersey, 07860, ke@kennethellman.com I have recently finished reading "The Legacy of Islamic Antisemitism by Bostom." I could not put the book down. I read it three times, perhaps more. I am still reading it again. Bostom's presentation, organization and source material being vaster than my previous exposure gave an immersion that was both compelling and revealing. I am familiar with the Koran having studied from the very well done edition "Revised and Edited by The Presidency of Islamic Researches, IFTA, Call and Guidance" published by the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur-an. I have also read from various books such as "The Meaning of the Quran by Maududi" which is published by Islamic Publications (Pvt) Ltd. Lahore. There are parts of the Koran that impressed me with its adoption of the high moral and religious teaching of the Old Testament and parts that astounded me in its banality. I do believe that the Koran was written for its audience at that time. Perhaps for those people it fulfilled and gave them what was then needed. Certainly the commentary and Judicial decision of the Muslim community give greater insight into the meaning the Koran has for its community and geography. But Bostom has now done a great service to those who want to learn. Every once in a while a book is created by a dedicated individual like Bostom who possesses the skill, commitment and time to exhaustively exclaim on a subject in a fully dispositive and authoritative manner. Whether that book is in the sciences or law or history does not matter. What matters is that such a book shines and leaves much of the related literature behind.

Andrew Bostom does humanity a great service to historians, theologians, sociologists, archeologists, Christians, Jews, and Muslims by collecting these sources into a handy volume. This book is a database of historical accounts (unaltered and complete) on Islamic sentiments towards Christians, but mainly Jews, throughout the centuries up to today's manifestations anti-Hebrew ideology with incredible detail. One should buy this book just to have an exhaustive history of

Muslim persecutions, anti-semitic laws, punishments, stereotypes, beliefs, and even disgust of Christians and Hebrews from the primary sources and secondary sources of Islamic texts. Some peaceful aspects of Islam and pro-Hebrew arguments from historical Muslims are not mentioned in this book because it is not the intent of the author. The Quran does have some verses which show compassion and lots of tolerance towards Jews and Christians. This book lets history represent itself and allows for the historical Muslims to speak their minds and views as they originally did in their allotted time. Through this book, Historical Islam can be scrutinized and compared to Modern Islam to see if the situation between Muslims and Jews has gotten any better through out the centuries. The Qu'ran is given extensive treatment as well and the contributing authors document verses of the Qu'ran, passages of the Sira (the early biographies of Muhammad) and the Hadith (the traditions of the Muslims) that are used by anti-semitic Muslims to justify their views on their supposed fallen Hebrew and Christian brothers. Along with this, a huge amount of historical testimony, expert commentary, multiple stories of Muslims in power throughout history express their sentiments toward the Hebrew.

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