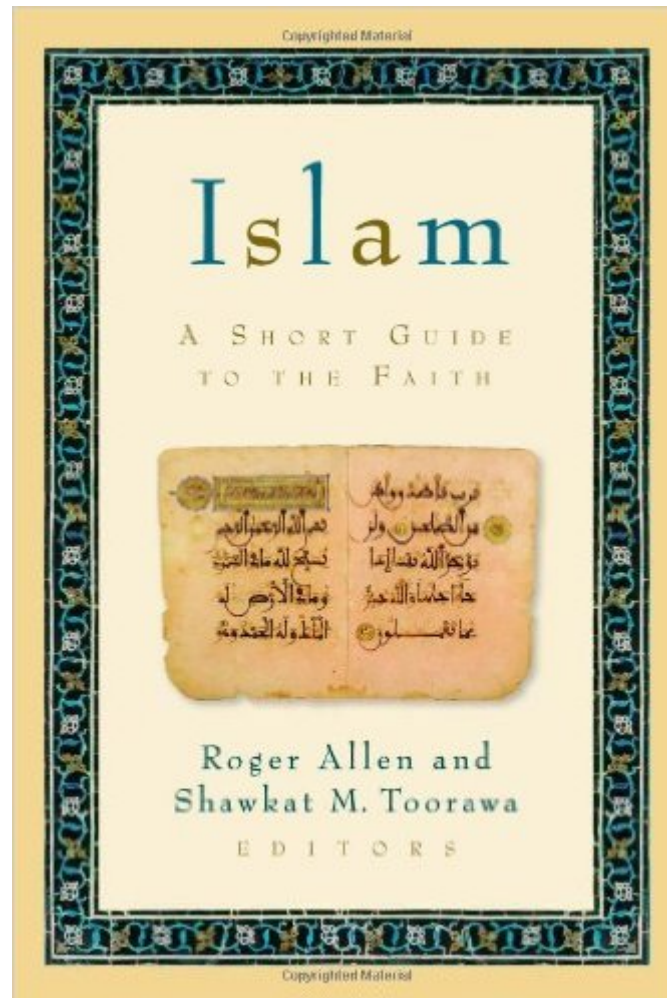


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# Islam: A Short Guide To The Faith



## Synopsis

In this straightforward and authoritative collection of fifteen essays -- each by a different, specialized expert in the field -- readers will encounter all the major elements of Islam, including its history, its beliefs, its practices, and its interactions, notably with Christianity, Judaism, and the modern world. *Islam: A Short Guide to the Faith* will inform and enlighten all who wish to better understand this increasingly influential world religion. *Â*

## Book Information

Paperback: 200 pages

Publisher: Eerdmans (March 3, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080286600X

ISBN-13: 978-0802866004

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.5 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars *Â* *Â* See all reviews *Â* (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #130,928 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in *Â* Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Theology #105 in *Â* Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > History #111 in *Â* Books > History > World > Religious > Islam

## Customer Reviews

Prior to reading this book I had read the Qur'an (translated by Abdel Haleem, 2011, Oxford). I found this translation clear and easy to understand. Then I realized that Islam is more than the Qur'an. That lead me to this book which I finished this morning. Here's my evaluation. This is a book of 15 short essays written by 16 scholars. That means it exhibits both the pros and cons of scholarship. PROS Lots of facts. Not just names, dates and places but structures too. Example: The four different traditions of Sunni law. Neutral tone. Essays neither promote nor criticize Islam. CONS The neutral tone often leads to bland, inoffensive writing. Fortunately the essays are short, typically about 10 pages. Often there is a lack of citation in the Qur'an. Writers should provide evidence for their statements. Topics are avoided. Political correctness? Example: The section on the growth of the Islamic empire shortly after Muhammad's death in 632 is entitled "Flowering" (page 11). It should be entitled military conquest. These conquests, most of which took place within 15 years of Muhammad's death, are contrary to instructions in the Qur'an (fighting is only allowed for self-defence, Q2.190, Q16.126, Q22.39. Muhammad's role is only to act as messenger, Q3.20,

Q4.80 & 84, Q5.92 & 99, Q16.125. These citations are from the Abdel Haleem translation I mentioned above). Why, contrary to the Qur'an, military conquest took place is ignored by this book. Muhammad lead four battles to defend Medina from Meccan attacks (Badr, Uhud, Khandaq, Khaybar). It was mainly under the rule of the second successor, Umar, that military conquest "Flowered".

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