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***Print Resources for Studying Islam***

***Recommended by the Islamic Studies Program of Luther Seminary***

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*This list of books is helpful for gaining a deeper understanding of Islam in its many different facets. Both Muslim and Western perspectives on Islam are present, as are tools for Muslim-Christian relations/dialogue and resources for sympathetically understanding how others view Western wealth and power as manifested in economic globalism. These books can be purchased or ordered through the Luther Seminary Bookstore (651-641-3440).*

Ali Kazuyoshi Nomachi, *Mecca the Blessed, Medina the Radiant: The Holiest Cities of Islam* (New York: Aperture, 1997)

These photographs of the Muslim holy cities Mecca and Medina, taken by a Japanese convert, Ali Kazuyoshi Nomachi, are something new for most Westerners, and perhaps even for many Muslims. Non-Muslims are never allowed into Mecca, and it is almost unheard-of for religious and government leaders to allow such pictures to be taken. Most of these images were shot during the holy month of Ramadan, when many faithful are in Mecca and Medina on pilgrimage.

Dr. Seyyed Hossein Nasr, professor of Islamic studies at George Washington University, has contributed an essay explaining the history and significance of the two cities. Nomachi has worked for National Geographic and Life, and his pictures have the information-packed clarity one might expect. There are fascinating images: literally hundreds of thousands of white-robed believers circling the Ka'bah, Mecca's sacred center; men ritually shaving one another's heads; tired families fasting; small children praying. Nomachi's pictures convey the all-encompassing nature of the faith.

Sachiko Murata and William C. Chittick, *The Vision of Islam* (New York: Paragon House, 1994)

Covering the four dimensions of Islam as outlined in the Hadith of Gabriel—practice, faith, spirituality, and the Islamic view of history—*The Vision of Islam* draws on the Koran, the sayings of Muhammad and the great authorities of the tradition. This clearly written book introduces the essentials of each dimension and then shows how each has been embodied in Islamic institutions throughout history.



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**Introductions to Islam from  
Muslim Perspectives**

Habib Bourlarès, *Islam: The Fear and the Hope*  
(Atlantic Highlands, N.J.: Zed Books, 1990)

Ismail R. Al-Faruqi, *Islam* (Niles, Ill.: Argus Communications, 1979)

This volume is a primer for understanding Islam as a religion and culture. The author portrays the beliefs and practices of Islam and provides an overview of its institutions, culture, history and artistic expression as viewed by its adherents.

The late Dr. Isma'il al Faruqi (1921-1986) is widely recognized as an authority on Islam and comparative religion. He was professor of religion at Temple University, where he founded and chaired the Islamic Studies program. He wrote a number of books including: *Christian Ethics* (1967), *The Great Asian Religions* (1969), *Historical Atlas of the Religions of the World* (1974), *The Life of Muhammad* (1976) and *The Cultural Atlas of Islam* (1986).

For a list of recommended Internet sites pertaining to Islam and Muslim-Christian Dialog, access [www.luthersem.edu/gmi](http://www.luthersem.edu/gmi) and click "Internet Resources on Islam and Muslims"

Fazlur Rahman, *Islam* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979)

Fazlur Rahman, *Major Themes of the Qur'an* (Minneapolis: Bibliotheca Islamica, 1980)

In these books, a highly respected Muslim scholar attempts to explain his religion to a Western audience. In the Epilogue to the second edition of *Islam*, Rahman discusses the rising economic power of the Muslim world and the resulting implications for Islamic intellectual, educational, and political life.



### **Introductions to Islam from Western Perspectives**

Annmarie Schimmel, *Islam: An Introduction* (Albany, NY: SUNY Press, 1992)

This book is very easy to read and presents a thorough overview of the history and teachings of Islam. The table of contents is as follows: Arabia Before Islam, Muhammad, The Expansion of Islam, The Koran and Its Teachings, The Tradition, The Law, Theology and Philosophy, The Shi'i and Related Sects, Mystical Islam and Sufi Brotherhoods, Popular Piety and the Veneration of Saints, Modern Developments Inside Islam, and Modern Developments Inside Islam.

Clarice Swisher, ed. *The Spread of Islam, Series: Turning Points in World History* (Greenhaven Press, 1998)

**from Hazel Rochman (Booklist):**

This collection of essays and book excerpts, part of the Turning Points in World History series, presents a view of Islam through mainly Western eyes. There are some stereotypes about "tribal life untouched by civilization" and "the Quran's preoccupation with battles, spoils and women," but the best writers are fair and informative, pointing out American misperceptions of the modern Islamic resurgence. An excellent essay discusses the problems of Muslim immigrants in the U.S. and American converts to Islam. Another writer describes the nature and causes of the current Islamic revival in the Middle East. Some of the

best essays deal with Islamic literature and art, including religious inspiration through story and art, and the Islamic contributions to science and math. An appendix of original documents provides excerpts from the Koran and various personal perspectives, including a 1960 speech by Malcolm X. As one writer points out, these are subjects barely represented in most world history classrooms.

Roland E. Miller, *Muslim Friends, Their Faith and Feeling: An Introduction to Islam* (St. Louis: Concordia, 1996)

Written by the founder of the Islamic Studies Program at Luther Seminary, this volume presents Islam as a living faith.

John L. Esposito, *Islam: The Straight Path*, Third Edition (New York: Oxford, 1998)

**from Carolyn Fluehr-Lobban (The Middle East Journal):**

With this comprehensive volume, John Esposito has established himself as the preeminent translator and interpreter of Islamic theology and its worldview for a dominantly academic, English-speaking audience. The need for a popular, yet objective and readable introduction to the religion of Islam, its history, beliefs and practices, and contemporary revival is apparent. Although this book has been prepared primarily for the college classroom, it can only be hoped that it will be used by others outside of academia who seek a better understanding of a religious perspective that provides a backdrop to so many contemporary issues in world affairs... The outstanding value of the book is that it meets the need for a good introductory text that embraces the richness of the historical tradition, including the classical period of Islamic society, and, in doing so, lays the basis for an appreciation of the current period of revival.



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## Islam in Political Perspective

Bernard Lewis, *Islam and the West* (New York: Oxford, 1993)

In this enlightening and highly praised collection of essays, extensively revised, Lewis explores the vast common heritage shared by Islam and the West, the history of the troubled relationship, and the perceptions each side holds of the other. This is a matchless guide to the background of Middle East conflicts today.

John L. Esposito, *The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?*, 3rd edition (New York: Oxford, 1999)

The third edition of John Esposito's highly regarded book on the challenge that the Islamic revival poses for the West. The new edition is thoroughly updated and contains new material on current affairs in Turkey, Afghanistan, Palestine, and Southeast Asia, as well as a discussion of international terrorism.



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## Muslim-Christian Relations

Kenneth Cragg, *The Call of the Minaret*, 3rd edition (Oxford: Oneworld, 2000)

Kenneth Cragg is a distinguished scholar of Islamic and Christian studies. In this book, his most critically acclaimed and seminal work, he draws Muslim-Christian relations out of the shadows of hostile wariness, and into an enlightened realm of mutual understanding and a more profound appreciation of faith.

With the Islamic Call to Prayer as his starting-point, the author embarks on a spiritual journey which reveals the true nature of Muslim-Christian relations, and which opens with an insightful and thought-provoking consideration of the Islamic tradition. His conclusion, that the Call to Prayer holds a call to both Christian and Muslim believers, fuses the two faiths in a profoundly spiritual and deeply moving manner; while the combination of scholarly brilliance and the author's true, abiding faith make this an unforgettable volume.

Kate Zebiri, *Muslims and Christians Face to Face* (Oxford: Oneworld, 1997)

This is the only book of its kind—an exploration of the central issues in Muslim-Christian relations through Muslim writings on Christianity and Christian writings on Islam. The volume includes Christian and Muslim writers from popular and intellectual perspectives. Zebiri teaches Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of London.

Maurice Borrmans, *Guidelines for Dialogue Between Christians and Muslims*, trans. R. Marston Speight (Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1990)

from Paula I. Nielson, Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles) Library (*Library Journal*):

This revised edition of a 1971 French work commissioned by the Second Vatican Council emphasizes “the common values which should unite Muslims and Christians at all levels both of their experience with God and of their service to humanity.” A timely, informative work, it offers a basic overview of Islamic principles and history that will promote respect for the beliefs and traditions of others. However, the book is written for a narrow audience—those Catholic scholars who are prepared to engage in meaningful dialog with their Muslim counterparts.

from Lamin Sanneh, Yale University (*Christian Century*):

Although it was prepared by Maurice Borrmans, a former Catholic missionary in North Africa, [this] document is in the nature of an official statement by the Roman Catholic Church and hence it carries far more weight than an individual statement... [It] suggests a willingness to look at the world not as something we once owned and now relate to in the role of confessor, but as one in which Christian responsibility is greater than the West's racial and national criteria... I found myself deeply moved by the document's language of faith, hope and generosity, a language that spares neither our complacency nor skimps on our capacity for mutual esteem and responsibility. It is an extremely significant document, one that not only describes but achieves interreligious encounter. We should commend Marston Speight for his splendid translation from the French.

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## Perspectives on Globalization

Benjamin R. Barber, *Jihad vs. McWorld: How Globalism and Tribalism are Reshaping the World* (New York: Times Books, 1996)

**from James Rhodes, Luther College (Library Journal):**

In a highly serious book with a catchy title, Barber, director of the Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy at Rutgers University and an exponent of direct democracy, offers an extensive analysis of the state of the world, written for a general lay audience. Combining over 50 pages of reference notes with a barrage of examples from popular culture, this analysis explores the contemporary paradox between widespread political disintegration (Jihad) and global economic homogenization (McWorld). In colorful prose, he concludes that both trends pose major threats to democracy and personal liberty. More than anything else, what has been lost in the clash between Jihad and McWorld has been the idea of the public as something more than a random collection of people. Thus, Barber calls for a “reconstruction of civil society,” a middle ground between government and the private sector. “It is not where we vote and not where we buy and sell; it is where we talk with neighbors about the commonwealth.” This book starts that conversation effectively and in an entertaining fashion. For all academic and public libraries.

Friedman, Thomas. *The Lexus and the Olive Tree: Understanding Globalization*, Second Edition (New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 2000)

**From the publisher:**

The argument of the book can be summarized quite simply. Globalization is not just a phenomenon and not just a passing trend. It is the international system that replaced the Cold War system. Globalization is the integration of capital, technology, and information across national borders, in a way that is creating a single global market and, to some degree, a global village.

You cannot understand the morning news or know where to invest your money or think about where the world is going unless you understand this new system, which is influencing the domestic policies and international relations of virtually every country in the world today. And once

you do understand the world as Friedman explains it, you'll never look at it quite the same way again.

With vivid stories and a set of original terms and concepts, Friedman shows us how to see this new system. He dramatizes the conflict of “the Lexus and the olive tree”—the tension between the globalization system and ancient forces of culture, geography, tradition, and community. He also details the powerful backlash that globalization produces among those who feel brutalized by it, and he spells out what we all need to do to keep this system in balance. Finding the proper balance between the Lexus and the olive tree is the great drama of the globalization era, and the ultimate theme of Friedman's challenging, provocative book—essential reading for all who care about how the world really works.

Huntington, Samuel P. *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1996)

**from David Ettinger, George Washington University (Washington, D.C.) Library (Library Journal):**

Elaborating his seminal and controversial article in Foreign Affairs magazine, Harvard professor Huntington presents a paradigm for post-Cold War international politics in which the principal source of conflict will be cultural divisions among competing civilizations. Prophesying an assault on Western interests, values, and power from a Confucian-Islamic connection, he artfully extrapolates from recent history in defense of his thought-provoking thesis, enjoining Western governments to reconcile themselves to new global realities and offering recommendations for prescriptive action. Though only time will vindicate, or disprove, the author, this groundbreaking book merits serious attention. Scholars in particular will want to critically assess its viability as a replacement for the realist model of world politics that has dominated Western thinking since the end of World War II. This distinguished contribution from an equally distinguished author is recommended wherever there is an interest in international relations.



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