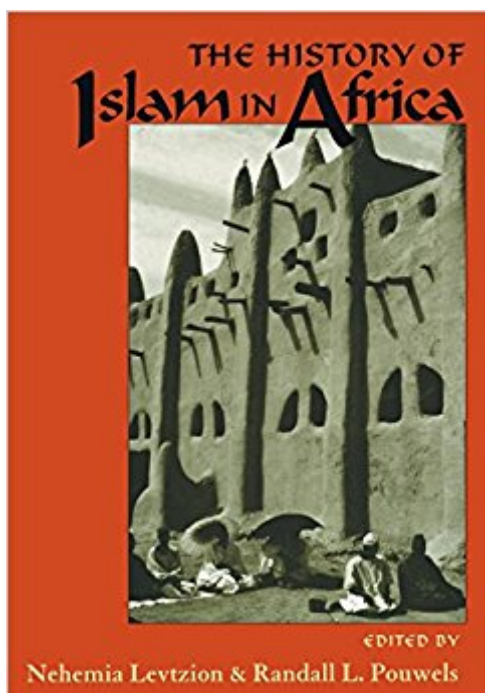


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# History Of Islam In Africa



## Synopsis

The history of the Islamic faith on the continent of Africa spans fourteen centuries. For the first time in a single volume, *The History of Islam in Africa* presents a detailed historic mapping of the cultural, political, geographic, and religious past of this significant presence on a continent-wide scale. Bringing together two dozen leading scholars, this comprehensive work treats the historical development of the religion in each major region and examines its effects. Without assuming prior knowledge of the subject on the part of its readers, *The History of Islam in Africa* is broken down into discrete areas, each devoted to a particular place or theme and each written by experts in that particular arena. The introductory chapters examine the principal "gateways" from abroad through which Islam traditionally has influenced Africans. The following two parts present overviews of Islamic history in West Africa and the Sudanic zone, and in subequatorial Africa. In the final section, the authors discuss important themes that have had an impact on Muslim communities in Africa. Designed as both a reference and a text, *The History of Islam in Africa* will be an essential tool for libraries, scholars, and students of this growing field.

## Book Information

Paperback: 601 pages

Publisher: Ohio University Press; 1 edition (March 31, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0821412973

ISBN-13: 978-0821412978

Product Dimensions: 7 x 1.3 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #319,471 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #161 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Islam](#) #235 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Africa](#) #842 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam](#)

## Customer Reviews

"The text is a welcome and much-needed addition to any library and the editors and contributing authors should be commended for their work." - John Glover, *The International Journal of African Historical Studies* "A great resource...The book covers a wide range of topics within the history of Islam in Africa: everything you always wanted to know about the subject but were afraid to ask." - Janice M. Saunders, *Sixteenth Century Journal* "An elegantly produced and up-to-date reference

work of high scholarly quality." - Foreign Affairs "Massive and marvelous synthesis...The editors and contributors deserve high praise for this achievement." - J. A. Works Jr., Choice

Nehemia Levtzion was a director with the Council for Higher Education in Israel and was a professor of history at the Hebrew University.

The reason I called this book the "step two" to understanding Islam in Africa is due to its assumption that the reader understands orthodox or "global Islam" and African geography. This book is excellent. It covers, chapter by chapter, not only each African region but also builds on each region through history. The editors and contributing authors make distinct connections between North African Islam and its influence in the Sub-Saharan region. I liked the frequent mention of influential scholars, Sufi leaders and African rulers and how they disseminated and interacted with Islam. The authors, in my opinion, are objective describing everything crucial elements like Sufi movements, religious syncretism, the Arab Slave trade, early and late reform movements, jurisprudence and women and minority dynamics. The book is highly informative on the stages of Islam in Africa and the waves of reform or jihad describing in depth the 16th century movements, 18th and 19th movements and the current age of reform initiatives, peaceful and violent across the continent. Seeing the interaction of Arab Islam with African Islam throughout the centuries makes for a great overall picture of contemporary Islam. I would have liked to see a few more maps. The authors would often cite cities, historical kingdoms and boundaries with barely a reference to their modern equivalent. Many authors would describe the syncretistic behavior of Islam in Africa as it adapted African culture to Islam but many of the African spiritual rituals or traditions were never explained. The authors took for granted that the reader understood what "spirit possession", mawlid ceremony, or dhikr session looked like. Without a deep understanding of "mainstream Islam" many of the authors' points may have been lost. I would recommend this book to anyone seriously wanting to understand Islam in Africa. The editors are known scholars of the region and the contributors provide some excellent depth of analysis. Islam in Africa (I grew up there) is not understood well, especially when "Global Islam" is the teacher.

This book has a lot of information to read, I recommend any student or teacher of history to read it and enjoy.

Excellent volume. Tons of information. Well written and informative.

good book...

The history of the Islamic faith on the continent of Africa spans fourteen centuries. For the first time in a single volume, *The History of Islam in Africa* presents a detailed historic mapping of the cultural, political, geographic, and religious past of this significant presence on a continent-wide scale. Bringing together two dozen scholars, this comprehensive work treats the historical development of the religion in each major region and examines its effects." "Designed as both a reference and a text, *The History of Islam in Africa* will be an essential tool for libraries, scholars, and students of this growing field. Synopsis Islam has enlivened life in African communities and has also been molded by its African settings. In this first comprehensive history, scholars identify the role that Islam and Muslims have played in the story of African development. Introductory chapters examine gateways from abroad through which Islam has traditionally influenced Africans. Following sections present overviews of Islamic history in various regions, and discuss important themes that have made an impact on Muslim communities in Africa. Levtzion directs the Council for Higher Education in Israel and teaches history at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Pouwels teaches African history at the University of Central Arkansas. Annotation c. Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Collection of detailed articles on the spread of Islam to the Maghreb and coastal East Africa. Some parts not very enjoyable.

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