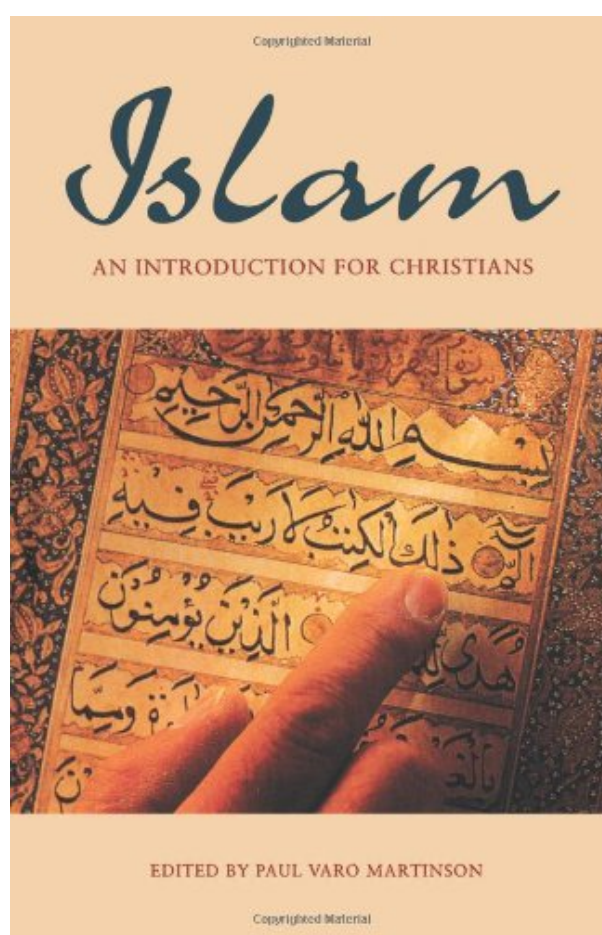


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CHRISTIANS (ARAB CULTURE AND
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AN INTRODUCTION FOR CHRISTIANS



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From Publishers Weekly

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Language Notes

Text: English (translation)

Original Language: German

From the Back Cover

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researched and clearly written, *Islam: An Introduction for Christians* is an ideal book for both individual and group use.

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Most helpful customer reviews

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

What Makes Those Guys Tick?

By Virgil Brown

One of the aftermaths of the World Trade Center/Pentagon attacks

was that there was an increased interest in Islam. People wanted to know what makes those guys tick. *Islam: an Introduction for Christians* was originally written in Germany in 1990 (and translated in 1994) as an ecumenical tool to help Christians understand Islam. Even so *Islam* is an excellent place to start the study of the world's fastest growing religion.

The chapters of the book touch on a variety of subjects. The first seven discuss Islamic faith: the Qur'an and Mohammed, the Five Pillars, law and justice, the family, and death and burial. Paul Martinson then inserted into the English translation a section on Islam in North America. The third part of the book discusses Islamic movements of the present and past and the emphases of these various groups. The fourth part of the book relates Islam and Christianity. How have these two religions acted as they have encountered each other in the past? What about Jerusalem? How is Jesus addressed in the Qur'an? The last part of the book offers a Christian appreciation of Islam.

Islam again and again comes back to a simplified answer of what makes those guys tick. On page 101 the story is told of a Ms Lahaj who had been a folk singer in Greenwich Village in the 1970's and who rediscovered Islam. "Everything there had been the same for the last 1400 years." The Sharia, the traditional law, as it has been known for centuries has come into conflict with Western values. *Islam* makes this plain in an anecdote about a chance encounter between a man and the wife of a new Islamic family (page 18), in the chapter on women and the family, in the chapter on marriages between Christians and Muslims, and elsewhere. To this *Islam* adds (page 133) the note that in the 19th and 20th centuries when European powers practiced colonialization in Islamic countries, the new values introduced by the foreigners presented "profound difficulties" for Muslims.

It is a simplified answer, but that is what makes those guys tick.

17 of 17 people found the following review helpful.

Good stuff!

By Connie

I thought this book was very helpful. Not only did it address the actual Koranic beliefs of Islam, it also covered the traditions and societal roles of modern Muslims, as well as the history of the Islamic faith. Also, I found the Christian aspects of the commentary to be quite accurate and true to Biblical concepts. On the whole, this book is about as objectively informative as it gets, I imagine. It does not attempt to qualify either faith and appears to be a genuine effort to enlighten and encourage Christian readers in their interactions with Muslim individuals. On a side note, I am personally a Christian, but I have a great deal of respect for the Islamic way of life, as I have had many encounters with truly amazing people who embrace the faith in full. This book only bolstered my respect and admiration for the discipline, nobility, and integrity of devout Muslim people. A great insight into the true Islamic religion!

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful.

A Balanced Review of Islam

By A Customer

I am a Western educated Muslim reader and bought this book to try and actually understand how a Christian would see Islam and portray it to other Christians. I was pleasantly surprised to find this book written in a fairly objective manner, and even conciliatory at times. It shows a gentler and kinder side of how Christians may want to be; that is to have a more open, empathic, yet non-patronising approach to other religions, especially Islam--a religion that has been unfairly portrayed by the mass media. While this book may be a good introduction from a Christian perspective, I would also recommend another book for those wanting a quick and light overview of Islam, i.e. "Islam for Beginners" (A Writers and Readers Documentary Comic Book) by Nabil Ibrahim Matar, which is also appears to be written for non-Muslims. (This book is also carried by Amazon.)

See all 6 customer reviews...

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