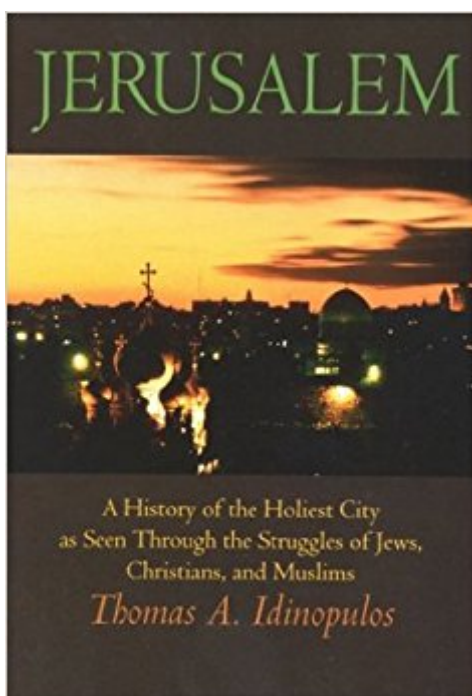


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Jerusalem: A History Of The Holiest City As Seen Through The Struggles Of Jews, Christians, And Muslims



Synopsis

This majestic history of Jerusalem is the first to bring together in a single volume the experiences of the three great religions in the holy city from their ancient beginnings to the present. It is history in the grand manner, an absorbing saga of prophets, priests, and pilgrims, kings and conquerors; the story of a city besieged, defended, conquered, damaged or destroyed, and rebuilt forty times in thirty centuries—always in the name of God. Mr. Idinopulos's narrative is as rich, intricate, and spectacular as a religious tapestry. "A massive and impressive work ... sublime, thrilling, and anguished history."—R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, Hebrew University of Jerusalem. "A splendidly told tale, which succeeds against great odds in providing a clear, balanced, and lively history of one of the most complicated cities in the world."—Kirkus Reviews. "A prodigious and imposing work."—Booklist. "Intelligent and compassionate."—New York Times Book Review. "A brilliantly balanced and comprehensive introduction to the Holy City—in history, tradition, and politics."—Middle East Journal.

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A splendidly told tale and a lively history. (Kirkus) Attractive, compellingly readable...a brilliantly balanced and comprehensive introduction to the Holy City. (Ronald Brownrigg Middle East Journal) A prodigious and imposing work. (Booklist) A massive and impressive work...sublime, thrilling, and anguished history. (R. J. Zwi Werblowsky Hebrew University Of Jerusalem) Intelligent and compassionate. (The New York Times)

Thomas A. Idinopulos, who teaches religion at Miami University in Ohio, is also the author of the widely praised *Weathered by Miracles*.

It must be a daunting task to have to squeeze about 3000 years worth of history into a 300 page book, but I thought the author did well in mapping the important events out and kept the book interesting throughout. Greeks, Romans, Persians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Turks, Brits..a large number of empires have held sway over Jerusalem which makes for a fascinating, if tragic and bloody, history. The story of the city is told from Jewish, Christian and Muslim perspectives in separate chapters which is a great approach. The only thing I thought was brushed over towards the end was the war of 1967, which I would have been interested to read more about to give context to the politics of modern-day Jerusalem. Other than that, I thought this book was a great introduction to the history of the city.

This writer attempts to portray 4 thousand years of history using broad generalizations. Serious subject matter and topics are generalized for the most part, with little or poor references. He also writes with a very strong bias, without much respect for genuine religious history, and writes strictly from a "materialist and secular" viewpoint. Many of his conclusions would be seriously challenged by any scholar in the various fields he attempts to enter. The style of writing is not bad, but unfortunately, he needs to get many of his "facts" straight. He is so off base on many of his conclusions, that it puts in question anything that he writes. It is a lousy piece of work.

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