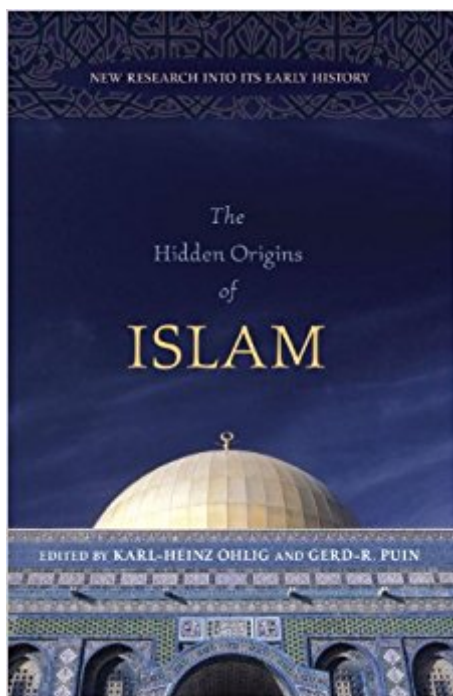


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The Hidden Origins Of Islam: New Research Into Its Early History



Synopsis

Despite Muhammad's exalted place in Islam, even today there is still surprisingly little actually known about this shadowy figure and the origins of the Qur'an because of an astounding lack of verifiable biographical material. Furthermore, most of the existing biographical traditions that can be used to substantiate the life of Muhammad date to nearly two centuries after his death, a time when a powerful, expansive, and idealized empire had become synonymous with his name and vision - thus resulting in an exaggerated and often artificial characterization of the prophetic figure coupled with many questionable interpretations of the holy book of Islam. On the basis of datable and localizable artifacts from the seventh and eighth centuries of the Christian era, many of the historical developments, misconceptions, and fallacies of Islam can now be seen in a different light. Excavated coins that predate Islam and the old inscription in the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem utilize symbols used in a documented Syrian Arabic theology - a theology with Christian roots. Interpreting traditional contexts of historical evidence and rereading passages of the Qur'an, the researchers in this thought-provoking volume unveil a surprising - and highly unconventional - picture of the very foundations of Islamic religious history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Karl-Heinz Ohlig is professor emeritus of Religious Studies and the History of Christianity at the University of the Saarland, chairman of the Inarah Institute for Research into the Early History of Islam and the Qur'an, and the author of many books including *Weltreligion Islam: Eine Einföhrung*

(Islam as World Religion: An Introduction). Gerd-R. Puin, a retired research associate at the University of the Saarland, is an expert on the historical orthography of the Qur'an.

Great scholastic reading . A must read for anyone who is very into scholastic Islamic investigation . Very top . Oleg Karl Ohlig . Great masterpiece for any investigator of Islam and early Islam and its roots .

I found this book very valuable one . I enjoyed reading it. Volker Popp's essay is very interesting , providing the theory of Jesus ' The Muhammad. ' connecting it with the last essay on Syriac Christianity by Ohlig and Luxenberg's essay on the Dome of the Rock inscription would make it more interesting. However my Criticism to Popp's essay is, it didn't deal with the materials that talks about Muhammad from non -Muslim sources. Yet The Theory provides important points that needs extra work and clarification in order for it to be more establish in the Scholarly world .The book, in conclusion, is extremely good , and it took the prospective that Muhammad didn't exist. but as I said , it need to answer some question before going further with the theory

This book tells of the Christian Background. Disclosure: I read this as part of a History MA, but this book is astounding. Coins from the period after Islam show Islamic symbols showed beside John the Baptist and Jesus, complete with Agnus Dei. Coins use the term Zion as a code as a Zionist only would. This book shows that the Qu'ran came to be written nearly 150 years after the death of Muhammad. It also shows a Christian background to early Qu'ranic beliefs.

This book is an A+ must read

It is a very interesting history of Islam and I learned a lot about the origins of the religion!

Excellent Product and Excellent Service. Thank You.

Powerful book. Thank you

Throughout history autocrats have recognized the value of religious ideas and feelings for promoting social cohesion and support for government. Accordingly, autocratically governed empires have promoted official religions and have styled themselves as protectors of their religions

and as agents their gods. In many cultures the origins of religious concepts are obscure. During the first two and a half centuries of Christianity the religion was independent of and often persecuted by the (Roman) government. Only under Constantine in 312 and following did the government identify with and exploit Christianity. (There is a nice essay on this theme by Shaye I.D. Cohen at [...].) The book "The Hidden Origins of Islam" deals among other things with the relationship between the Arian form of Christianity in vogue among the Arab aristocracies of southern Iran and eastern Iraq in the 7th century, the formation of the Arab empire in the power vacuum left in those regions following the Byzantine defeat of the Persians in 622 CE, the tangible evidence concerning religious ideas in the Arab empire in the 7th century, and the appearance of Islamic literary documents (other than the Qur'an) in Arabic in the 9th century. I found the first chapter by Popp and the 2nd chapter by Luxenberg particularly compelling. It will be interesting to see if any of the scholars who work within the framework of the traditional Islamic stories of Islamic origins can find any basic flaws in the marshalling and interpretation of objective evidence presented in this book and in related studies by scholars such as Kalisch.

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