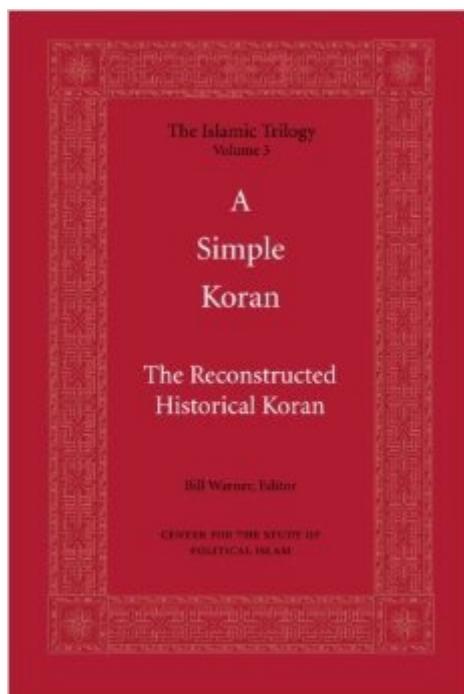


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A Simple Koran: Readable And Understandable (The Islamic Trilogy Series, Vol. 3)



Synopsis

The standard Koran is arranged by length of chapter. The longest chapter is at the beginning and the shortest chapters are at the end. This makes it confusing and hard to understand. Now you can read and understand A SIMPLE KORAN. The words of the Koran are woven back into the historical life of Mohammed. In actual fact, the Koran did unfold over the course of Mohammed's life. A SIMPLE KORAN recreates the historical order of the Koran of Mohammed's day. The first chapters start with Mohammed's first recitations and the last chapters are those he recited before he died. Mohammed's life gives the Koran clarity and meaning. It becomes a powerful, epic story. Read A SIMPLE KORAN. It will change the way you see the world's events.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Since 9/11, Americans have been trying to dope out the Islamic holy book, the Qur'an (or, more commonly, the Koran). However, unlike the holy books of the other great monotheistic religions (i.e., the Hebrew Bible and the Christian New Testament), the Koran can't be read as a "freestanding" tome. Reading the Koran is like walking into the middle of a very esoteric conversation between two people you've never even met. A cold reading of the Koran makes no sense to non-Muslims who have no familiarity with the two other complementary sacred texts of Islam: the Hadiths (Ahaditha in Arabic), which are the traditions of Mohammed, and the Sira, biographies of Mohammed. These latter works are considered semi-canonical by both Sunni and Sh'ia Muslims. The Koran is considered the verbatim word of Allah, engraved for all eternity in heavenly tablets. Thus, unlike the Holy Bible, which most Christians consider "inspired" by God, the Koran is considered by NORMATIVE Islam to be a literal transcription of Allah's final uncorrupted message to mankind

("humankind" would be somewhat inaccurate, and likely too PC a descriptive for most Muslims), transmitted by the Angel Gabriel himself directly to Mohammed, the "Seal of the Prophets" to all Muslims. The Koran is a very recondite, confusing, tedious and downright "weird" read for most Westerners. As far as substance goes, many non-Muslim critics --likely including Pope Benedict -- over the centuries have maintained it adds not a single ethical teaching to those previously proclaimed by the other two Abrahamic faiths, Judaism and Christianity.

The Center for Study of Political Islam (CSPI) has performed a great service by preparing an English translation of the Koran that uses clear language and faithfully reports the Koran's statements in a logical sequence. They provide context by using brief quotations from the "Sirat Rasul Allah" (Mohammed's biography), Sir William Muir's "The Life of Mohammed", "The History of al-Tabari", Bukhari's Hadith, and Muslim's Hadith. They have ordered the verses by topic within the chronology of revelation. This adds considerable clarity to the incredible jumble created when Uthman's (the 3rd Caliph after Mohammed) had the chapters ordered by size rather than chronology or topic. Reportedly Umar's (the 2nd Caliph after Mohammed) secretary Zayd had collected and written down the Koran in the order revealed, but Uthman had the order changed and all other compilations destroyed. My high score applies only to this translation and presentation by CSPI. If you are interested in learning about Islam, don't read the Koran first. Read a good biography of Mohammad followed by a collection of his sayings (hadiths). The CSPI offers "Mohammed and the Unbelievers" and "The Political Traditions of Mohammed" that cover the political aspect of these topics. As an example of the simplified sentence structure in "A Simple Koran" compare it with the same verse in 4 other translations: A Simple Koran (p.363); "9:29 Make war on those who have received the Scriptures [Jews and Christians] but do not believe in Allah or in the Last Day. They do not forbid what Allah and his Messenger have forbidden. The Christian and Jews do not follow the religion of truth until they submit and pay the poll tax [jizya], and they are humiliated.

A Simple Koran will be of interest to anyone who already has a pretty good idea of where Islam is today but now wants to know: ¢ Where Islam wants to be and ¢ What the only unimpeachable Islamic authority prescribes to get there. All Muslims, including your peaceful Muslim neighbours and radical and brutal Islamic terrorists, recite the same Shahada or profession of Islamic faith but the diverse and conflicting opinions within Islam are tearing it apart and causing horrendous collateral damage. Warner cuts through this confusion by directing his readers'™ attention to the only place in Islam where the buck stops being passed: the supreme, perfect and eternal Islamic authority ¢ "

the three core texts of which the Koran is one. Whether you love him or loathe him, with his book "A Simple Koran", Warner has achieved what others, including his critics, have so far failed to achieve. For all non-Arabic speaking people, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, Warner has provided the tools that any non-Arabic speaking student of Islam needs to make the Koran understandable. Around 1.6 billion inhabitants or about 23% of the population of planet Earth regard the Koran as one of the three perfect and unchanging core texts around which Islam revolves and on which it depends. As a contribution to a discussion and a debate that we need urgently to have, what Warner has written should be read. Regardless of whether you like what you read or not, the effort Warner has made to encourage discussion as a basis for a shared understanding should be applauded "even if what we share ultimately, is an understanding of our differences.

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