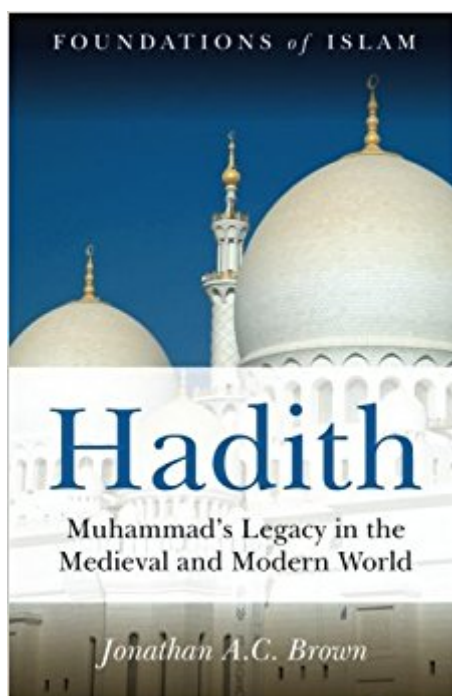


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Hadith: Muhammad's Legacy In The Medieval And Modern World (Foundations Of Islam)



Synopsis

Contrary to popular opinion, the bulk of Islamic law does not come from the Qur'ân but rather from hadith, first-hand reports of the prophet Muhammad's words and deeds, passed from generation to generation. However, with varying accounts often only committed to paper a century after the death of Muhammad, Islamic scholars, past and present, have been faced with complex questions of historical authenticity. Informative and accessible, this wide-ranging introduction provides a detailed exploration of the collection and criticism of hadith and examines the controversy surrounding its role in modern Islam. Complete with a glossary, extensive bibliography, and helpful diagrams, Hadith is perfectly suited to students, scholars, and the general reader interested in this critical element of Islam. Jonathan A.C. Brown is Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, University of Washington, Seattle. He is the author of *Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction*.

Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Oneworld Publications; 42740th edition (June 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1851686630

ISBN-13: 978-1851686636

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 0.9 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #224,185 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Hadith](#) #39 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Rituals & Practice](#) #44 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Theology](#)

Customer Reviews

"A must read and a great read. The combination of impeccable, critical scholarship with a story teller's style has produced an introductory volume that is both substantive and remarkably engaging." --John L. Esposito, Founding Director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University, and Editor of *The Oxford Dictionary of Islam*.

"A comprehensive study of the scholarship throughout Islamic history dealing with the Traditions of the Prophet. A synthesis of critical analysis and informed understanding that presents a significant

new perspective on a much-debated subject."

As a practicing Sunni Muslim and a high caliber Hadith scholar, who has tremendous respect for the roots of Hadith and scholars of the past, Prof. Brown managed to bring forth an unbiased and unparalleled work explaining not only Sunni Hadith tradition but also Shia understanding of this science. He also looks at the Hadith criticism from all possible and valid angles, such as traditional Sunni, Shia, Orientalist, modernist & revivalist Muslims, the "Only Qur'an" movement etc. While doing this, he is meticulous, impartial and thorough. I benefited a lot from this book and I recommend it highly..

Jonathan Brown does a phenomenal job of explaining the Hadith tradition. He begins by explaining its formation, the internal Muslim struggles that shaped Hadith discourse, and how the west has criticized the Hadith tradition. He ends his book by discussing the different Muslim movements in the modern age and how they've used the Hadith against western pressure.

This should be required reading for anyone studying the history of Islam. The author is one of the few westerners (including academics) who understands hadiths, their importance and limitations in the making of Islamic jurisprudence

Excellent book for understanding the legacy of the Prophet (SAW) and how his thoughts and actions were compiled by early Muslim community.

If you want a thorough but readable coverage of hadith--Islam's second scripture, considered by some to be of more practical importance to the legal tradition than the Qur'an--this is it. Brown's book covers the complex Muslim science of hadith criticism in an approachable way. It also gives the best short overview I have seen of Western criticism of the authenticity of hadith, covering not only the skeptics like Goldziher, but also Harald Motzki, who has argued that some hadith can be authenticated by standards that will satisfy non-believing Western scholars. The book also covers Shiite approaches to hadith and looks at ways in which hadith are approached within legal, theological, and mystical discourses. It closes with modern reassessments of hadith by Muslims. This book, for the first time, really, makes hadith accessible to non specialists. More importantly, it makes hadith much easier to teach. If you have come to this page and care enough to bother reading this review, get this book...yesterday!

Excellent book!

A very deep analysis of all possible issues related to Hadith. It is a must for people interested in Hadith.

Great study of science of Hadith

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