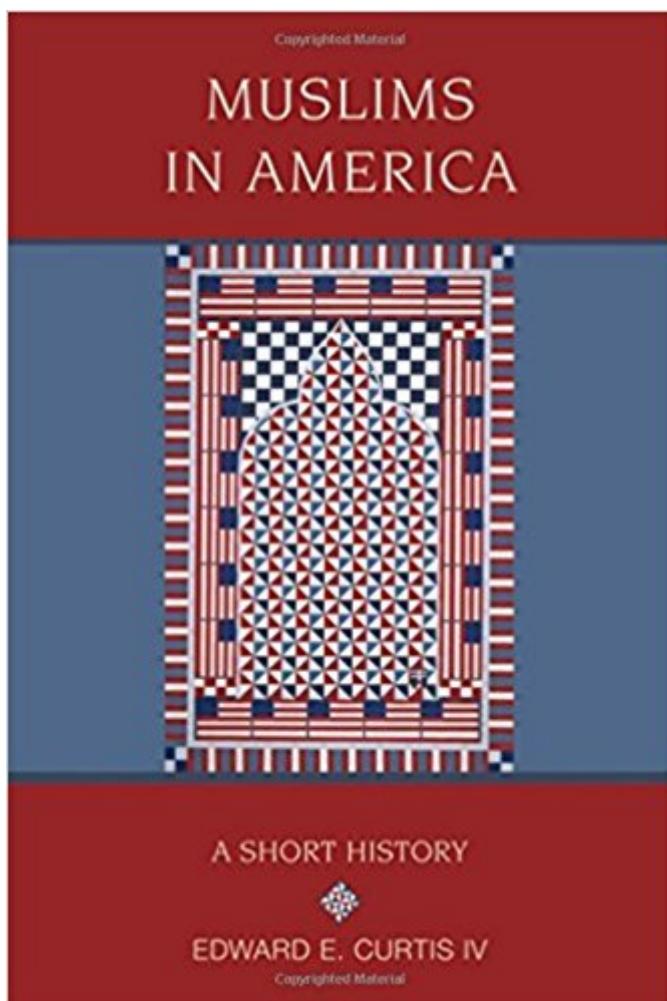


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# Muslims In America: A Short History (Religion In American Life)



## **Synopsis**

Muslims are neither new nor foreign to the United States. They have been a vital presence in North America since the 16th century. Muslims in America unearths their history, documenting the lives of African, Middle Eastern, South Asian, European, black, white, Hispanic and other Americans who have been followers of Islam. The book begins with the tale of Job Ben Solomon, a 18th century African American Muslim slave, and goes on to chart the stories of sodbusters in North Dakota, African American converts to Islam in the 1920s, Muslim barkeepers in Toledo, the post-1965 wave of professional immigrants from Asia and Africa, and Muslim Americans after 9/11. The book reveals the richness of Sunni, Shi'a, Sufi and other forms of Islamic theology, ethics, and rituals in the United States by illustrating the way Islamic faith has been imagined and practiced in the everyday lives of individuals. Muslims in America recovers the place of Muslims in the larger American story, too. Showing how Muslim American men and women participated in each era of U.S. history, the book explores how they have both shaped and have been shaped by larger historical trends such as the abolition movement, Gilded Age immigration, the Great Migration of African Americans, urbanization, religious revivalism, the feminist movement, and the current war on terror. It also shows how, from the very beginning of American history, Muslim Americans have been at once a part of their local communities, their nation, and the worldwide community of Muslims. The first single-author history of Muslims in America from colonial times to the present, this book fills a huge gap and provides invaluable background on one of the most poorly understood groups in the United States. Religion in American Life explores the evolution, character, and dynamic of organized religion in America from 1500 to the present day. Written by distinguished historians of religion, these books weave together the varying stories that compose the religious fabric of the United States, from Puritanism to alternative religious practices. Primary source material coupled with handsome illustrations and lucid text make these books essential in any exploration of America's diverse nature. Each book includes a chronology, suggestions for further reading, and an index.

## **Book Information**

Series: Religion in American Life

Paperback: 168 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; 1 edition (October 1, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195367561

ISBN-13: 978-0195367560

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.6 x 5.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 12 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #192,006 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > History > World > Religious > Ethnic & Tribal #87 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Islam #499 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam

## Customer Reviews

**Starred Review.** Curtis, a religious studies professor and authority on Islam in America, has authored a fine and succinct history that spans centuries. He hits all the major chronological points and historical details of Muslims living in North America, including notable tales of African slaves who maintained their religion despite great hardship. Curtis has literally combed through every record imaginable, including, for example, a 1939 Works Progress Administration-funded interview of Mrs. Mary Juma, a Syrian homesteader in North Dakota, in assembling this very readable history. Unmatched for its breadth of sources, this is also one of the few books in the field to cover both immigrant and indigenous (African-American) American Muslims. One of the strongest sections chronicles American Muslim condemnation of terrorism after 9/11, a condemnation largely unnoticed by the greater American community. Although geared toward non-Muslims, American Muslims would also learn a great deal from reading about their own history. Photographs, chronology, edited selections from chosen narratives, and a Further Reading Section provide useful jumping-off points for the reader, who will undoubtedly be intrigued by Curtis's compelling little read.

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"An accessible, succinct, and informative survey . . . useful, enjoyable, and ultimately engaging. It will be of great value . . . as a popular work [and] a general resource." --American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences"[Curtis] has authored a fine and succinct history that spans centuries...Unmatched for its breadth of sources, this is also one of the few books in the field to cover both immigrant and indigenous (African-American) American Muslims...Photographs, chronology, edited selections from chosen narratives, and a Further Reading Section provide useful jumping-off points for the reader, who will undoubtedly be intrigued by Curtis's compelling little read." --Publishers Weekly"Muslims in America provide[s] an interesting and diverse sampling of

Islamic theological reflection in the United States today." --Foreign Affairs "This concise account of US Muslims is cohesive and approachable for readers unfamiliar with the subject, does not bog down in protracted explanations of beliefs, practices, and complex historical or political events, yet remains scholarly. The author's use of intimate profiles of individuals and families to illustrate common experiences of the larger group also draws readers in and increases the power of his descriptions...Highly recommended." --Choice Reviews "Curtis achieves his objective...a model of clarity on the details of the Muslim experience in America." --Wilson Quarterly "Curtis' book is a refreshing look at an important aspect of American history and culture." --Foreword Magazine "This book offers a new perspective on the role Muslims have played in America and a deeper perspective on the nature of Islam." --Indianapolis Star "Gives voice to a population in the United States that traditional history books tend to overlook or unknowingly misrepresent." --Middle East Journal

I've been troubled by political statements that accuse Muslims of seeking to undermine American life. Some people I respect have told me they think it is an evil religion that has a goal of eliminating all other forms of religious expression. Against this backdrop, this book was helpful, though it did not answer all my questions. It is, as the subtitle says, a short history of Muslims in America. It talks about the whats, but says little about the whys and hows.

This book is really a short solid history about Islam in this country. If more people read books like this they would understand Islam has been woven into the fabric of this country. From our fathers, two of them owned, read their Holy Qurans. To the slaves and free men who brought Islam to our shores. A very diverse peaceful religion with people from every race.

This book was required for college classes. has the best prices for textbooks and other required reading for college.

Very informative

Excellent summary statement about followers of this major religion as they made their home in the United States. Well done and highly readable.

Curtis' info regarding the so called immigrant Muslim Bilali is well researched. But once again I think

Curtis seems to believe the MST began 1925-26 and reached its zenith 1929. But I staunchly believe it originated as the Canaanite Temple in 1913, and evolved into the MST of America. Curtis mentions the use of Turkish Fezzes but in actuality the fezzes worn by the MST were Egyptian or Moroccan not Turkish. He also insists on relating MST dress to "Black Shriners" instead of the true Moors which dressed exactly like this in the past. He also recycles Arthur Faust's account of MST from get this "one" meeting. He gives decent info on James Lomax/Muhammad Ezaldeen former mst member turned orthodox. The biographies throughout the book were a pretty nice change. The rest of the book is pretty basic info nothing really new.

good price..fast deliver

A well-written concise introduction to the topic. Curtis does a good job of providing enough context to appreciate the significance of developments. Includes a useful timeline of key events. Could be useful for book clubs and short courses.

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