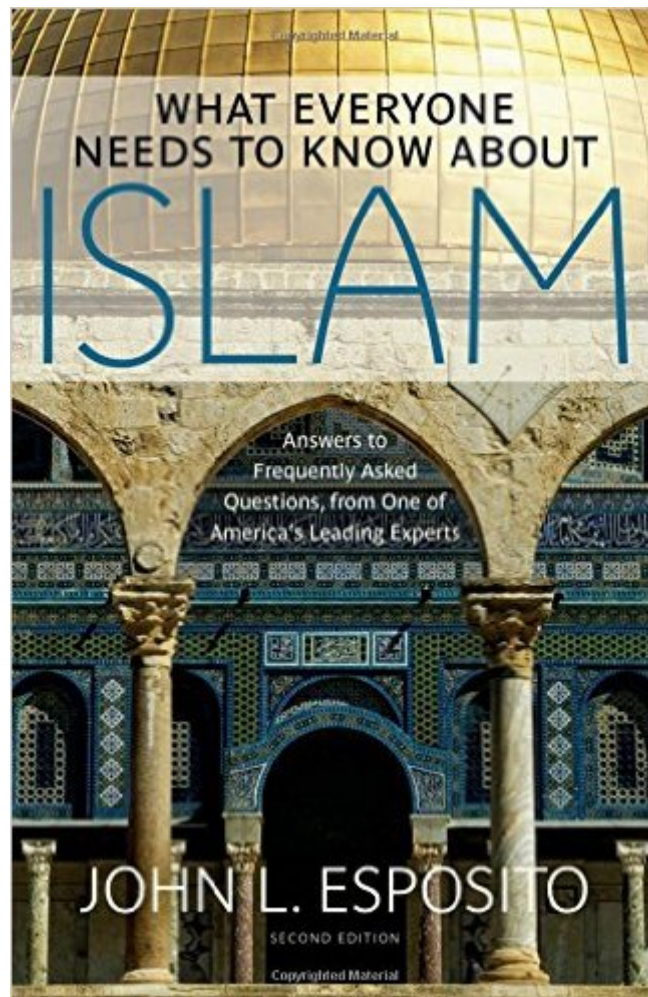


The book was found

What Everyone Needs To Know About Islam (What Everyone Needs To Know (Hardcover))



Synopsis

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11th, there has been an overwhelming demand for information about Islam, and recent events - the war in Iraq, terrorist attacks both failed and successful, debates throughout Europe over Islamic dress, and many others - have raised new questions in the minds of policymakers and the general public. This newly updated edition of *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* is the best single source for clearly presented, objective information about these new developments, and for answers to questions about the origin and traditions of Islam. Editor of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Modern Islam* and *The Oxford History of Islam*, and author of *The Future of Islam* and many other acclaimed works, John L. Esposito is one of America's leading authorities on Islam. This brief and readable book remains the first place to look for up-to-date information on the faith, customs, and political beliefs of the more than one billion people who call themselves Muslims.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The book's dust-jacket invited readers to skip to areas that interest them, (it mentions homosexuality, birth control, abortion and slavery) and other hot-button issues. Great. I'll make my first query, 53 year old Muhammad's marriage to Aisha when she was 6, and its consummation when she was 9 (one source says 10). I'm familiar with the extreme views (the man was a pedophile) - you need to understand Arab culture at the time) and I wanted to see where Mr Esposito sat on the issue. Nothing. Nada. If the author has an opinion, he's

keeping it to himself. The lady is mentioned; as an authority on history etc, and as stating that Muhammad never hit a servant or a woman. That's it. Not a good start for me. Next hot-button issue for me was apostasy. What is Islamic teaching about those who leave the faith?. At least here, the author is upfront. "Islamic law" prescribes the death penalty. The added information that "prominent Muslim scholars" (who are unnamed) maintain that the death penalty is not Quran based, seems an irrelevancy to me. If you are being executed for apostasy in any of the 9 countries (all Muslim) which make it a capital offence, the scriptural basis for the ruling probably won't interest you much. Hot-button issue No. 3. Women. Two quotes from the Quran 4:19 "O you who believe. You are forbidden to inherit women against their will. Nor should you treat them with harshness." 4:34 "Good women are obedient, guarding in secret that which God has guarded. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them, then banish them to beds apart and strike them."

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