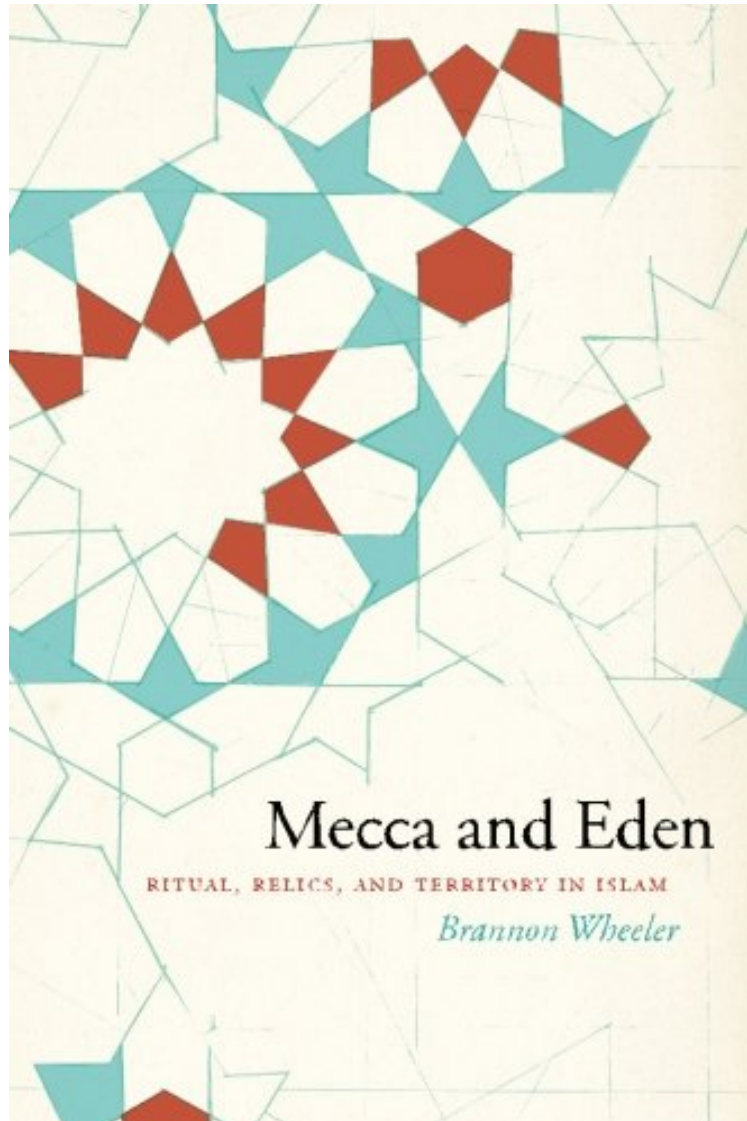


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Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory in Islam

Brannon Wheeler

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Brannon Wheeler : Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory in Islam before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mecca and Eden: Ritual, Relics, and Territory in Islam:

Nineteenth-century philologist and Biblical critic William Robertson Smith famously concluded that the sacred status of holy places derives not from their intrinsic nature but from their social character. Building upon this insight, Mecca and Eden uses Islamic exegetical and legal texts to analyze the rituals and objects associated with the sanctuary at

Mecca. Integrating Islamic examples into the comparative study of religion, Brannon Wheeler shows how the treatment of rituals, relics, and territory is related to the more general mythological depiction of the origins of Islamic civilization. Along the way, Wheeler considers the contrast between Mecca and Eden in Muslim rituals, the dispersal and collection of relics of the prophet Muhammad, their relationship to the sanctuary at Mecca, and long tombs associated with the gigantic size of certain prophets mentioned in the Quran. Mecca and Eden succeeds, as few books have done, in making Islamic sources available to the broader study of religion.

"Mecca and Eden is absorbing from the first paragraph of the introduction to the final footnote in the concluding chapter. It is a completely original work of scholarship and an exceptionally good comparative study." - Richard D. Hecht, University of California, Santa Barbara"About the AuthorBrannon Wheeler is director of the Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies and Visiting Distinguished Professor of History and Politics at the United States Naval Academy.