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## Studies in Early Islamic History (Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam, No. 4)

*Martin Hinds, Jere L. Bacharach, Editor, Patricia Crone, Lawrence I. Conrad*  
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**Martin Hinds, Jere L. Bacharach, Editor, Patricia Crone, Lawrence I. Conrad : Studies in Early Islamic History (Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam, No. 4)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Studies in Early Islamic History (Studies in Late Antiquity and Early Islam, No. 4):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. the 650s and the 750s By David Reid Ross This is a collection of nine works by Martin Hinds (d. 1988) on Islamic history. Six of them deal with the times from `Uthman up to the battle of Siffin. Two deal with the `Abbasids. One deals with the distinction between sira and maghazi, which you can use to study history in either period. There is no overall theme in these essays, other than the pure study of events in history. Hinds believed that Muslim history could be had through averaging out the hadith; in which attitude he presaged Wilferd Madelung's more coherent work on the fitna, a decade later. Two of those former six essays I mentioned (#5, #8) deal with Sayf b `Umar, a controversial early-`Abbasi historian with tribal bias whose work is mostly preserved in Tabari. The first essay takes Sayf at his word; the other checks Sayf against what is known of the conquest of Persia and... proves Sayf about the worst liar in Islamic historiography if not ever. (Further reading has turned up that Hinds #8 is not the first nor the last article to call shenanigans on Sayf.) That makes that earlier essay #5 on Sayf hard for me to swallow. The first four essays deal with Iraqi politics in the 650s, and dismiss Sayf. These, with #8 the second [anti]Sayf essay, are the book's standouts. Keep in mind that the article on the Siffin Arbitration has the text in Arabic

with no translation; fortunately, you can get that translation online or at least in Tabari now. I recommend this book to students of the 650s leading to that first fitna. I also recommend this book to those (Shi`ites and Jews) who are tired of Wahhabis citing "Tabari" - that is, Sayf - against them. One unhappy point: I bought this book when it was cheaper. I don't think it is worth \$400, which I am seeing now. My four-star mark reflects the price I originally paid for it.

These essays, plus an important contribution to the second edition of the Encyclopedia of Islam, by one of the foremost scholars and a leading historian of early Islamic times, have now been collected and republished for the benefit of a wider audience. The nine studies here reprinted deal with several important themes: the first Civil War and the social and political tensions underlying it, early Islamic historiography, the early Arab conquests, relations between Muslims and non-Muslims during the period, and the mihna ("inquisition") in early 'Abbasid times. To all of these themes, Hinds brought not only a philologist's expertise and a historian's appreciation for the methodological problems that arise in dealing with ancient texts, but also the skills to distill from complex material coherent historical reconstructions. An Introduction by G.R. Hawting, also a specialist in early Islamic history, places Hinds' work in perspective and indicates paths to future research.

"Martin Hinds was one of the finest scholars of this generation. His death in 1988, at age 47, ended his career prematurely. He published only eight journal articles, which are collected in this volume along with one article from The Encyclopedia of Islam, second edition. ... Hinds was very much a historian who tried to understand human events and their causes, but he was also a superb Arabist, completely fluent in the literary and spoken versions of the language. ... The original pagination of each article is provided in the margin. The physical production of the book is satisfying to the eye and hand: Darwin Press is to be congratulated and thanked, as are the editors. An introduction by G.R. Hawting summarizes Hinds' career and publications, including a couple of paragraphs on each article in this book. Hinds' articles are essential reading for any specialist in early Islamic history." --Journal of the American Oriental Society  
About the Author Martin Hinds was Lecturer in Arabic at Cambridge University.