

The Arabs in History

Bernard Lewis

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Bernard Lewis : The Arabs in History before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Arabs in History:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ZestfulBy HH "The Arabs in History", according to Lewis's words in the Preface, is "not so much a history of the Arabs as an essay in interpretation...I have sought to isolate and examine...the place of the Arabs in human history, their achievement, and the salient characteristics of the several ages of their development." Lewis's interpretation is neither personal nor novel. Four-fifths of the book are devoted to the

four centuries of greatness before the Arab world, already in decline, passed under Seljuk rule in the 11th century A.D.; and the period from the Ottoman conquest in 1517 to the recent present is compressed into 18 pages. Within these limits Lewis has admirably achieved his object, notably bringing out broad economic trends. On the whole, Lewis follows the orthodox lines -- orthodox at the time he wrote it, at any rate -- in his interpretation, including the treatment of Muhammad and the rise of Islam, the caliphate and the Islamic empire, the Muslim civilization and its eclipse. The salient characteristics of the several ages of the development of the Arabs are emphasized but not their literary or scientific achievement. All in all, "The Arabs in History" is a readable and reliable work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Anil C. Great source for Middle East history 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Mary A. Alcorn Bernard Lewis is the expert in this field.

Now brought completely up to date, this classic study by one of the world's premier historians of the Middle East considers the achievement of the Arab peoples and their place in world history, from pre-Islamic times to the present-day. In a concise and readable account, Lewis examines the awakening that accompanied the advent of Islam and the political, religious, and social developments that transformed the Arab kingdom into an Islamic empire. He brings the edition up-to-the-minute with an account of recent events in the Middle East and analyzes the forces, internal and external, that have shaped the modern Arab world. Lewis shows how Western inventions and institutions have shattered the old structures and the traditional way of life, affecting every Arab, and causing a still unsatisfied demand for social, political, and cultural renewal. Incisive and intriguing, this highly regarded and timely work--previously translated into Arabic, as well as many other European, Asian, and Middle Eastern languages--is sure to advance a greater understanding of the Arab past and present.

" from previous edition clear, fascinating and valuable"--The Guardian "stimulating ... The continuous regard paid to the development of trade and economy deserves particular praise."--History "Professor Lewis has admirably achieved his object, notably bringing out broad economic trends"--International Affairs "... enormously influential history ... after reading 'Gibbon on Muhammad', it is tempting to speculate that Lewis's long-standing interest in the eighteenth-century historian may have influenced his own ambition to scan grand horizons, his taste for irony and his unmistakably elegant literary style."--Robert Irwin, Middle Eastern Studies About the Author Bernard Lewis is Cleveland E. Dodge Professor Emeritus of Near Eastern Studies, and Long-Term Member of the Institute for Advance Study, Princeton University. He has published numerous books on the Middle East, including, The Assassins, Race and Slavery in the Middle East: A Historical Enquiry, and The Middle East.