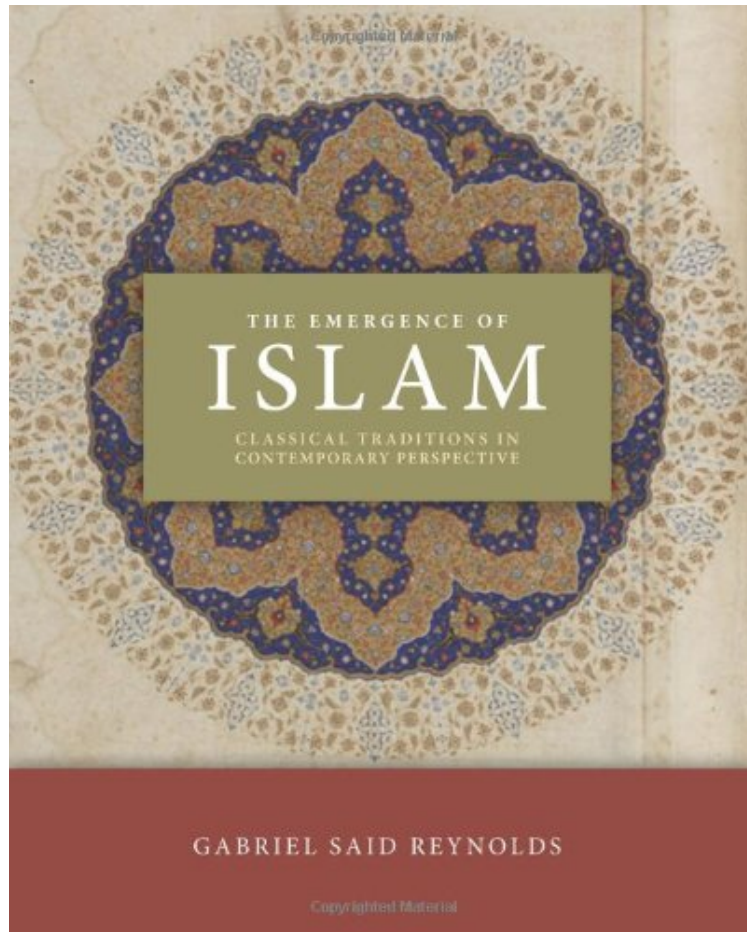


# The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective

*Gabriel Said Reynolds*  
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**Gabriel Said Reynolds : The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emergence of Islam: Classical Traditions in Contemporary Perspective:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Very informative book on Islam and its historyBy Bethany (bnyeyore)I purchased this book as required reading for a course I was taking on Islamic history. I found the book to be a very interesting read and it kept me engaged while I was reading it. The writer explains very well the development of the Islamic religion and the history of Muhammad and his family. Te book also covers the changes that happened over the years in the practices of Islam and the ways different groups separated because of there differing beliefs on Islam and who should lead it. I found the book to be a very enjoyable read and it taught me a lot about a subject I was not familiar with.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A book for truth-seekersBy MariannaDefinitely a very good book: interesting, revisionist, full of information and well-written. I've read several

books on Islam before, yet I learned many new things from this one. The author - in a fair, respectful and scientific way - offers much needed critical outlook on the beginnings of Islam. Too many Western historians uncritically accept the official Islamic version, which is based only on apocryphs and legends invented many generations after the actual events. Gabriel Said Reynolds is evaluating this version and trying to find the historical truth. His arguments are convincing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Really good University-Level Introductory Textbook about the emergence of Islam By Z. G Zinzel This is a very good University-Level intro textbook about the 'emergence' of Islam, {as the title states}. It is a very slight white-wash, but not too much. If you are a 'real' scholar of Islam, then you probably don't need this book. If you are below that level, then it is impossible to imagine that you won't learn quite a bit from reading it. It is generally an easy read, and far better organized than most books I have on Islam. If you are interested in studying Islam, this book should be required reading, and is pretty affordable.

This brief survey text tells the story of Islam. Gabriel Said Reynolds organizes his study in three parts, beginning with Muhammad's early life and rise to power, showing the origins and development of the Qur'an with a distinctive, if unique, juxtaposition between the Qur'an and biblical literature, and concluding with an overview of modern and fundamentalist narratives of Islam's origin, which reveals how those who represent Islam's future begin by shaping its past. Reynolds's narrative of Islam's founding traces Muhammad's life in Mecca and Medina as well as the first four caliphs whose history illustrates the differences between Sunni and Shi'ite views of Islam. His fascinating look at the structure and meaning of the Qur'an and its use of biblical language helps to illustrate and clarify its religious meaning. The book yields a rich understanding of diverse interpretations of Islam's emergence, suggesting that its emergence is itself ever-developing. The book provides a variety of helpful pedagogy, including chapter summaries, questions for review and discussion, photos, maps, suggested readings, glossary, and timeline.

"Reynolds' book is a lucidly written and unique contribution to the study of Islam. By highlighting scholarly perspectives on Muhammad and the Qur'an in an accessible and well-researched manner, Reynolds has provided students and general readers with a remarkable resource. The extension of his insights to the implications of the material for Muslim discussions about their faith in contemporary times provides a stimulating introduction to the relevance of history to today's world." --Andrew Rippin, University of Victoria  
From the Author  
Some reviewers have expressed concerns about the binding. I have accordingly worked with the publisher on this and the binding quality has been substantially improved. We have also improved the image quality of the maps. Thanks! gsr  
About the Author  
Gabriel Said Reynolds is Tisch Family Associate Professor of Theology and Islamic Studies at the University of Notre Dame. He has hosted international conferences on the Qur'an and is the editor of *The Qur'an in Its Historical Context* (2007).