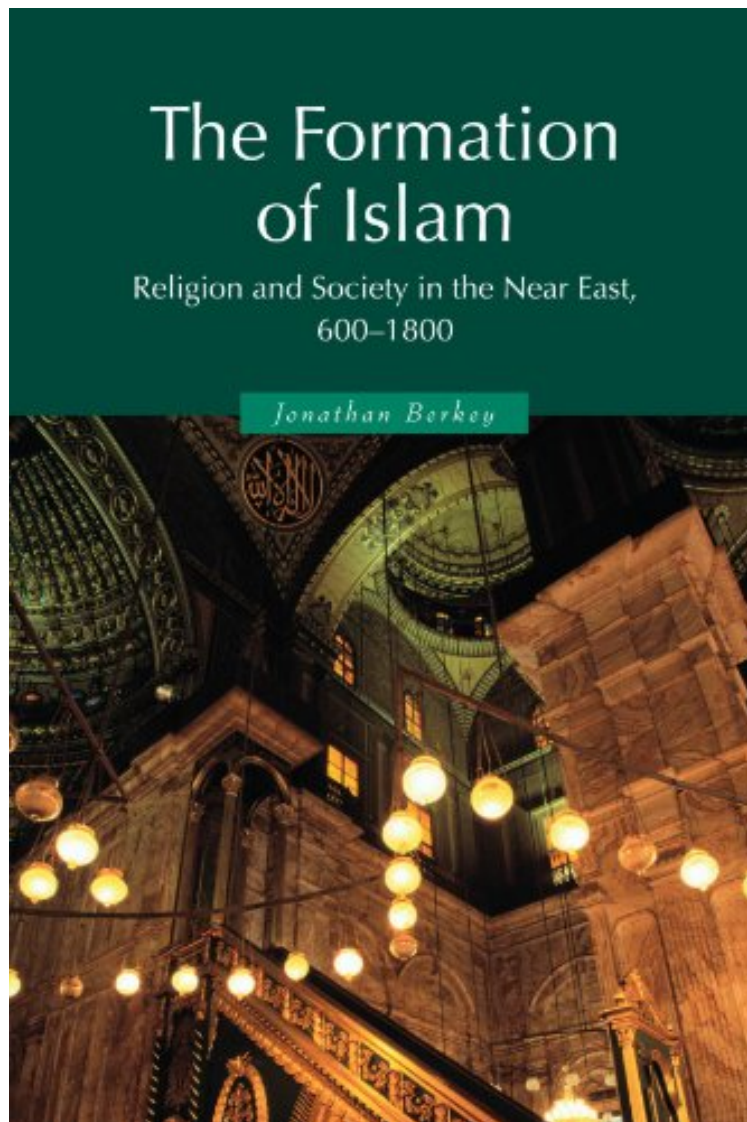


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The Formation of Islam: Religion and Society in the Near East, 600-1800 (Themes in Islamic History)

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Jonathan Berkey surveys the religious history of the peoples of the Near East from approximately 600 to 1800 c.e. After examining the religious scene in the Near East in late antiquity, he investigates Islam's first century, the "classical" period from the accession of the Abbasids to the rise of the Buyid amirs. He then traces the emergence of new forms of Islam in the middle period, deftly showing how Islam emerged slowly as part of a prolonged process.

"Berkey provides a well-synthesized basis for the understanding of Islamic history on a broad basis. He has drawn on a significant range of scholarship and has provided extensive footnotes which will help students in their research work in secondary sources." *Canadian Journal of History* "...a vital aid to academics and advanced students alike." *American Historical* "A well-written and insightful presentation of Islam's historical development...Highly recommended." *Choice*About the AuthorJonathan P. Berkey is Associate Professor of History at Davidson College. His publications include *Popular Preaching and Religious Authority in the Medieval Islamic Near East* (2001).