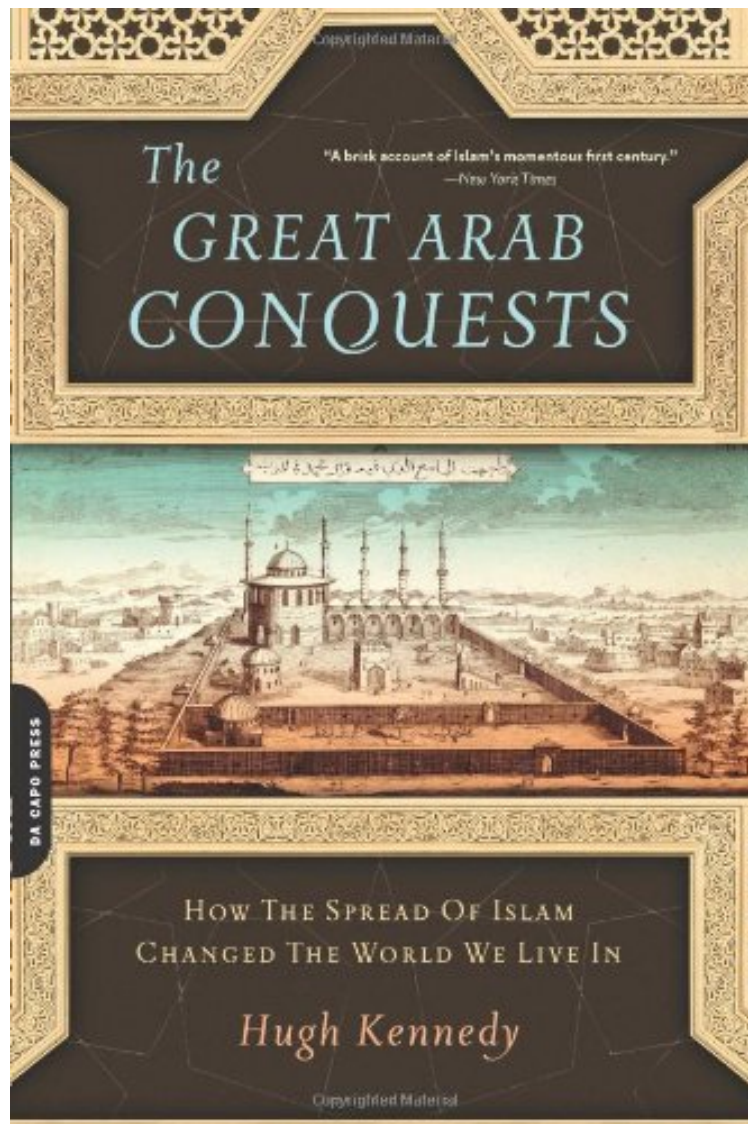


(Read and download) The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In

# The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In

*Hugh Kennedy*

*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#482865 in Books Hugh Kennedy 2008-12-09 2008-12-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x 1.25 x 5.501, 1.00 #File Name: 0306817403464 pages The Great Arab Conquests How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In | File size: 19.Mb

**Hugh Kennedy : The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Arab Conquests: How the Spread of Islam Changed the World We Live In:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Hugh Kennedy is one of my favorite historians. His prose is

extremely readable

By D. CARDENASHugh Kennedy is one of my favorite historians. His prose is extremely readable, to the point it really doesn't feel like a History book. His voice offers continuous insight, which turns the reader into an analyst of its own, considering the value of different sources for what they are worth (remarkable concept, his study of "collective memory" of muslims). The internal structure of the book is very clean, with robust yet not too overwhelming chapters for each of the geographical areas of conquest. If you are looking for an entry point into the Arab early conquests, I strongly suggest this book. In other books he's also covered the Khalifat al-Rashidun, the four first caliphs of Islam, the life of the Prophet himself and the splendour of the Abbasid court in Baghdad. Truly remarkable historian.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Great Arab Conquests by H. Kennedy is a fair and a balanced review of the Arab conquests. Finding authentic documents describing what happened during that period in history that turned the two Great empires at the time into the realm of Muslim rule proved to be a challenge. H. Kennedy was able to balance between the opinions of Muslim historians who documented that period in details by measuring their documents against any documents he could find that are written by historians from the conquered nations. This book provides the casual reader with an easy to follow history of a period that changed the world.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great history!

By Jeremy D. PikeI am not going to give a long, in-depth review of this book, mostly because the subject of early Islamic conquests is still relatively new to me. However, I do want to comment on one concept of other reviewers and then move on to my own struggle with this book's content.

1. The use of the plural "conquests" instead of one long "conquest". Though I do agree that this initial outpouring of Muslims from Arabia who systematically brought the surrounding nations under its control, whether militarily or peacefully, was part of one long conquest, I also believe the author was dividing the conquest into its various geographical regions, describing the conquest of what we call Iraq, Iran, Egypt, etc. Furthermore, this is kind of a weak point because it doesn't really discredit the book's content.

2. The major issue I ran into is one of geography. When it comes to the Middle East, Europe, and North Africa, I am fairly knowledgeable compared to most Americans -- but when it comes to the Persian/Sassanid empire (modern-day Iran) and the Central Asian steppe I have relatively little knowledge outside of the nations which exist there today. Though he does draw some geographical links to modern times (e.g., this river is in modern day Uzbekistan/Kazakhstan, etc.) it probably would have helped if he had done this more often. Before reaching the "Crossing the Oxus" chapter, be sure to stare at a map of the Iranian plateau and Central Asia for a while, as well as getting a general idea of where "Khurasan" was in the early 7th century. I am giving it five stars because it was a well-researched book, all the proper historiographical disclaimers were mentioned in the Introduction, and the author made the most of the limited knowledge available to modern scholars.

In this engaging history, world-renowned historian Hugh Kennedy deftly sews together the stories of the people, armies, and events that conquered an area from Spain to China in just over 100 years.

From BooklistIn forthrightly popular style, Kennedy fascinatingly chronicles the expansion of Islam from the death of the Prophet Mohammed in 632 to the beginning of the Abbasid Caliphate in 750 (the latter the subject of Kennedy's *When Baghdad Ruled the Muslim World*, 2005). Relating the story, however, requires care since most sources date, as Kennedy cautions, from 150 to 250 years after the conquests they purport to describe. Kennedy's warnings engage interest as he provides the contexts of late antiquity, which lent advantage to the new religion sweeping out of Arabia. Crucially, Near East populations had been devastated by plague and by a war between Islam's political enemies: the Byzantine Empire and the Sasanian Empire of Persia. Kennedy's attention to these factors deepens his interpretations of the Islamic chronicles, which he describes as frustratingly vague on details of battles but strangely attentive to the division of booty. Explaining the lance that propelled Islam so far, so fast, and so permanently, Kennedy vividly introduces the formative establishment of Islam. Taylor, Gilbert Saudi Aramco World A lively tour d'horizon of the Muslim world circa 750 Each section's tight geographical focus and ample bibliography make this a helpful guide. Claremont of Books, Fall 2008 Comprehensive and scholarly [Kennedy] is a real historian, doing what a historian ought to do Kennedy has a good eye for a colorful story.