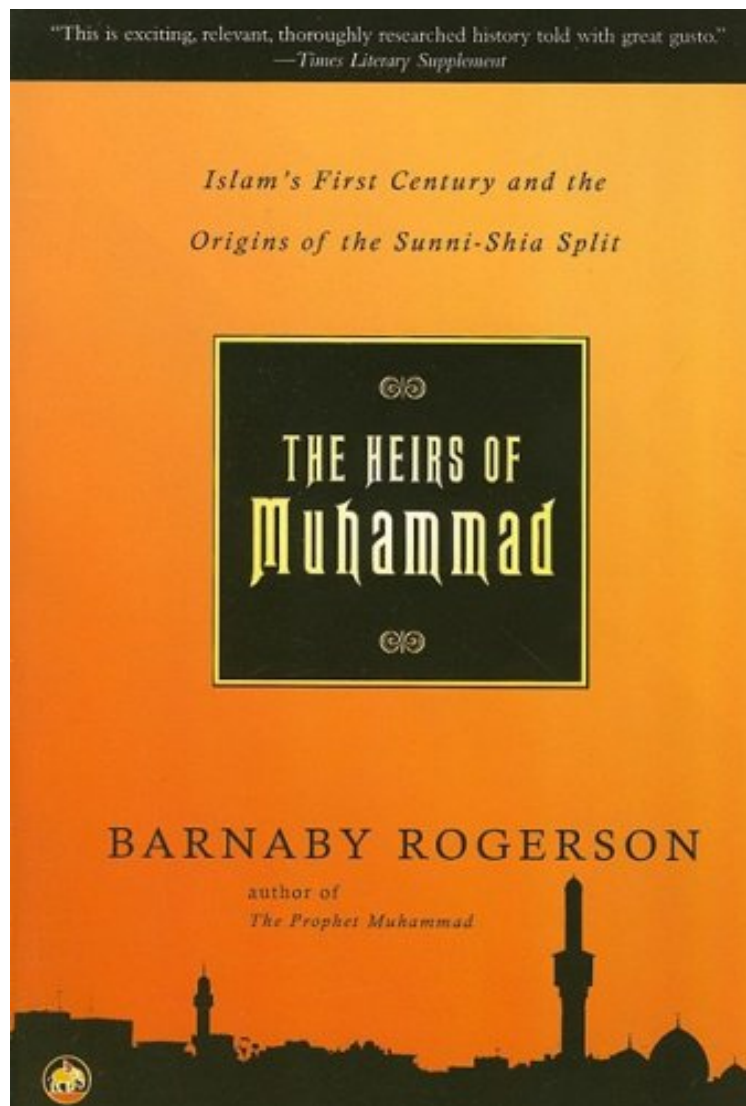


[E-BOOK] The Heirs of MuhammadIslam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Spl: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split

The Heirs of MuhammadIslam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Spl: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split

Barnaby Rogerson

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Barnaby Rogerson : The Heirs of MuhammadIslam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Spl: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Heirs of MuhammadIslam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Spl: Islam's First Century and the Origins of the Sunni-Shia Split:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great help understanding the Shia, Sunni DivideBy Patrick Oliver KelleyReads like a mystery. The geography, paganism, sectism, perversity, mercantialism- and not to forget treachery,blood and gore, make this book a great read. Connects the dots from heir to heir to the leadership of ancient Islam. identifies the Prophets wives and tells you enough to get to know them. Most importantly, I grew to understand why the Shias think they were so hard done by.The heirs seem to prefer age over 'ability,' not that anyone was obviously better than the next. The Shia- followers of Ali- were 'meritocratic'. I see why they think Ali paid his dues first, took great risks, was the first male convert e.g. while the elders, Abu Bakr, Omar and Uthman, seemed to inherit the leadership in chronological order. However each did a great job while CaliphGrowth of misogyny after the death of Mohammad evolved from subsequent leaders.Mohammad loved and respected women- he appears to have married about a dozen.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. The First Four CaliphsBy Frank J. KonopkaThis is an extremely well-written book that details the history of Islam during the 30 or so years after the death of the Prophet. Not knowing much about this religion, and particularly the reason for the animosity between Shia and Sunni, I was compelled to read and learn. I must admit that the author handles all of the history and the main characters quite well, and never denigrates their view of the faith. Having read this book, I'm really at a loss as to why there is this split in Islam, for the differences between the two sides appears to be extremely minor. Of course, Chirstianity has split over many more trivial items of doctrine, the most conspicuous of which is the use or non-use of "filioque" in the Creed. To learn about one of the world's great religions, and its early leaders, this book is an essentail read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy CustomerInformative and precise narrative.

The Prophet Muhammad brought his vision of the word of God to the Arabs, and within a generation of his death, his followers--as vivid a cast of heroic individuals as history has known--had exploded out of Arabia to confront the two great superpowers of the seventh century and establish Islam and with it a new civilization. The Heirs of Muhammad is a swaggering saga of ambition, achievement, self-sacrificing nobility and blood rivalry. In it, acclaimed historian Barnaby Rogerson recounts the lives of the handful of individuals--the first four Caliphs, the Prophet's widows and the conquering generals--who led and influenced Islam after the death of Muhammad. Within the fifty-year span of conquest and empire-building, Rogerson identifies the seeds of discord that destroyed the unity of Islam and traces the roots of the schism between Sunni and Shia Muslims to the rivalry of the two people who best knew and loved the Prophet: his cousin and son-in-law Ali and his wife Aisha. The Heirs of Muhammad is the best kind of history--the kind that brings a forgotten era back to life while simultaneously illuminating a neglected history that is vital to an enlightened understanding of our present world.

From Publishers WeeklyWhen the prophet Muhammad died in 632, a tempest of political intrigue and deceit blew over Islam, transforming it forever. In this fast-paced and compelling tale, travel writer Rogerson (The Prophet Mohammad) conducts us on a fascinating journey back to seventh-century Medina and the various schemes that led to the division of Islam into Shia and Sunni factions. The 50 years after Muhammad's death witnessed a succession of caliphs who attempted to carry the Prophet's message forward. Rogerson concentrates on the leaders who ruled in these years immediately after Muhammad's death and traces the split between Shiites and Sunnis to Ali, the Prophet's cousin and son-in-law, and Aisha, Muhammad's wife. Ali was assassinated in 661, after being passed over three times as a successor. For the Shia, the vision of Islam was compromised with Muhammad's death. The Sunnis, on the other hand, believe that the first four "Rightly Guided Caliphs" provided models of the ways that humankind should live. Rogerson provides portraits of all these leaders to illustrate their love of Muhammad and his message. Helpful tables of key characters in the Prophet's life and genealogies of Muhammad and the four caliphs round out Rogerson's charming and captivating chronicle. (Feb.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.From Booklist*Starred * "Dissensions," Muhammad presciently declared 10 days before his death, "come like waves of darkest night, the one following hard upon the other, each worse than the last." In this book, readers find sobering confirmation of the Prophet's words. Rogerson shows how deep disagreement sundered Islam into Shiite and Sunni factions almost at its birth. Probing the five decades after the Prophet's death, Rogerson limns a tale of military conquest undone by internal betrayal. Readers will marvel at the genius of the four caliphs who forcefully spread a small Arab religion across Africa and well into Asia. Through heroics on battlefields entirely unknown to Western readers, Muslim armies repeatedly defeat larger and better equipped Persian and Byzantine foes. But victories against external enemies do not prevent divisive intrigues. Among the principals in these intrigues, several striking figures emerge, including the generous nepotist Uthman and the versatile merchant Amr. But the tragedy that Rogerson unfolds centers on Muhammad's beloved young widow, Aisha, and his longtime confidant, Ali. Neither the caliphate nor a unified Muslim world can finally survive their prolonged dance of mutual enmity. Refreshingly accessible to nonspecialists, Rogerson's account of that tense dance will help American readers understand the passions on the streets of Baghdad. Bryce ChristensenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "An absorbing narrative that captures the epic quality of an era to which Muslims of all persuasions look for inspiration." -- The Sunday Times (London)"Rogerson recounts the tale with the love and artistry of a master

storyteller. This is an important book." -- The Guardian "Rogerson's *The Heirs of Muhammad* is not a call for reform but an attempt to foster empathy and understanding. He writes with verve and gusto, turning the life stories of the heroes of Islam's first century into an engaging epic." -- The Washington Post