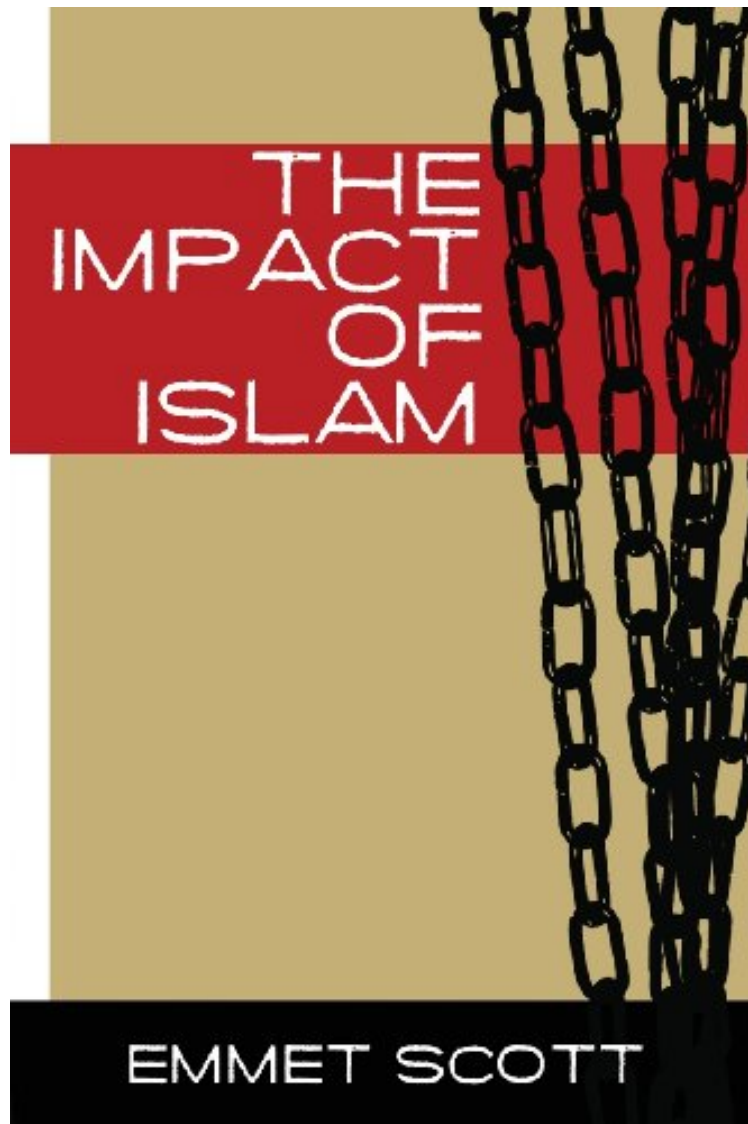


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The Impact of Islam

Emmet Scott

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Emmet Scott : The Impact of Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Impact of Islam:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Lessons to be learnt.By Per HarboFinally it's here: A comprehensive assessment of the devastating impact of Bedouin-based Islam on the civilizations of East and West in the wake of the proto- and full-fledged Islamic tsunami of violence, robbery, enslavement and destruction unleashed from the beginning of the seventh century A.D. If there are lessons to be learnt from history this is one of the most crucial for

non-Muslim societies and their - when it comes to historic knowledge - sadly ignorant politicians and "multicultural", halo-polishing intellectual "elites" to heed. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Important addition to scholarship by Barry Webb. An interesting, well researched book on the truth of Islam's influence, or the lack thereof, on the West. Fills an important gap. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars by S. R. Sottile. Strong denial of the absurd historical whitewashing of Islam.

According to Bernard Lewis, the doyen of Middle Eastern studies at Princeton University, during most of the Middle Ages, it was neither the older cultures of the Orient nor the newer cultures of the West that were the major centers of civilization and progress, but the world of Islam in the middle. It was there that old sciences were recovered and developed and new sciences created; there that new industries were born and manufacture and commerce expanded to a level previously without precedent. (Bernard Lewis, *What Went Wrong?* (2002), p. 156) Lewis' comments may be regarded as fairly representative of contemporary academic thought. Indeed, the civilized and progressive world of medieval Islam is often contrasted favorably with that of medieval Christianity, which is almost universally viewed as backward and hidebound by superstition. Yet it is questionable whether in any other field of study an opinion so diametrically opposed to the truth has ever gained such wide currency. At the dawn of the tenth century most of Europe was a rural backwater. All of the lands east of the Elbe (and almost all east of the Rhine) were barbarian-infested wastelands without a trace of literate civilization. Those to the west, in Gaul and Britain, and even in Italy, were not much better. Yet by 1492, when Columbus set out on his great voyage of discovery, Europe stood on the verge of world domination. The continent, from the Atlantic to the Urals, was full of towns and cities built partly of stone and brick, with dozens of universities and a thriving economy. The whole of Europe was crisscrossed with roads which conveyed an astonishing array of wealth and produce from one region to another. Printed books were everywhere, and literacy was extremely common, even among the relatively poor. In the Islamic world we see the same process in reverse. The House of Islam began the tenth century as possibly the most splendid civilization on the earth. It possessed great cities like Baghdad, Samarra, Damascus and Alexandria, some of which had about 500,000 souls. Its civilization at the time was suffused with the spirit of Sassanid Persia and Byzantine Syria and Egypt, whose wealth, learning and population it had inherited. Yet five centuries later the whole region was a declining relic, in some places a wasteland. The contrast with Europe could not be greater. In his new book *The Impact of Islam*, historian Emmet Scott explores the origin of the progressive Islam myth, and comes to some startling conclusions: It was Christianity, he finds, not Islam, which civilized barbarian Europe between the tenth and eleventh centuries. What Islam did bequeath to Europe at this time was war, piracy, and a massive revival of the slave trade just when Christianity had almost succeeded in killing it off. Even worse, by their example, the Muslims seem to have influenced the growth in Europe of several toxic ideas between the eleventh and fourteenth centuries, ideas which were to have far-reaching consequences. Amongst these were the concept of holy war (utterly alien to Christianity), the use of violence to suppress religious dissent, the judicial use of torture, and the acceptability of violence against the Jews. All of these things were found in Islam before they were found in Christianity. In addition to this, Scott finds that the Turkish conquests in Europe from the fourteenth century onwards severely stunted the development of those regions, and that the example of the Ottoman slave trade, which was massive, in all likelihood inspired the Spaniards and Portuguese to initiate the Atlantic slave trade during the sixteenth century.

When Islam comes to a land, what happens? In this sweeping and thorough historical overview, Emmet Scott answers that question definitively, illuminating the shockingly devastating effects of Islamic encroachment upon Europe during the Middle Ages. This is history with all the timeliness of today's headlines, and an urgent message that our governing authorities ignore at their and our own risk. Robert Spencer, author of the New York Times bestsellers *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Islam (and the Crusades)* and *The Truth About Muhammad* in this excellent follow up to *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited*, Emmet Scott demonstrates that the centuries-long struggle between the Christian world and the Muslim world during the Middle Ages left lasting effects on Christian thought and attitudes. The revival of slavery in the West after it was nearly extinguished is quite conclusively shown to be the direct result of prolonged contact with the vast Muslim slave-raiding and trading empire which took millions of slaves from Europe and Africa during the Middle Ages. More controversially, Scott also points to violent antisemitism, iconoclasm, vendetta, the toleration of torture, extreme religious intolerance and the idea of holy war as all having first developed in the Christian world in areas of prolonged contact and war with Islam, most notably in Spain. Scott further demonstrates that while Islam initially conquered the most advanced areas of the world, at a time when Medieval Christendom was a poor backwater, within five centuries the balance of power was completely reversed, with the Islamic world stagnant and deteriorating and the Christian world poised for global domination. This is no accident, but the inevitable result of the opposing world-views created by Islam and Christianity. Today, the Islamic revival once again threatens Western progress. It is imperative that our leaders become thoroughly acquainted with the history of earlier Islamic advances. *The Impact of Islam* is a factual, scholarly and unexaggerated look at a period of history more relevant today than ever before. Rebecca Bynum, author of *Allah is Dead: Why Islam is Not a Religion* --New English

About the Author Emmet Scott is a historian specializing in the ancient history of the Near East. Over the past fifteen years he has turned his attention to Late Antiquity and the Middle Ages, the rise of Christian Europe and the impact of the Islamic world, which he sees as one of the most crucial periods in the history of western civilization. He is also the author of *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy*. (New English Press, 2012)