



God's Crucible: Islam and the Making of Europe, 570-1215: Islam and the Making of Europe - 570- 1215



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David Levering Lewis

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"A furiously complex age; a powerful narrative."--*New York Times Book Review*, Editor's Choice

At the beginning of the eighth century, the Arabs brought a momentous revolution in power, religion, and culture to Dark Ages Europe. David Levering Lewis's masterful history begins with the fall of the Persian and Roman empires, followed by the rise of the prophet Muhammad and the creation of Muslim Spain. Five centuries of engagement between the Muslim imperium and an emerging Europe followed, from the Muslim conquest of Visigoth Hispania in 711 to Latin Christendom's declaration of unconditional warfare on the Caliphate in 1215. Lewis's narrative, filled with accounts of some of the greatest battles in world history, reveals how cosmopolitan, Muslim al-Andalus flourished--a beacon of cooperation and tolerance between Islam, Judaism, and Christianity--while proto-Europe, defining itself in opposition to Islam, made virtues out of hereditary aristocracy, religious intolerance, perpetual war, and slavery. A cautionary tale, *God's Crucible* provides a new interpretation of world-altering events whose influence remains as current as today's headlines. Some images in the ebook are not displayed owing to permissions issues.

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Review

A wonderfully interesting contribution. -- Amartya Sen

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A magisterial work by one of America's greatest historians. --Reza Aslan, author of No god but God

A wonderfully interesting contribution. --Amartya Sen"

In God's Crucible, answers to many urgent questions, currently in the public discourse, can be deduced. -- Eric Ormsby"

Lewis's treatment...is lucid, and his command of detail is encyclopedic....The book is erudite. --James B. Reston Jr." Synopsis

A panoramic history of Islamic culture in early Europe traces five centuries of engagement between the Muslim imperium and an emerging Europe to describe key Islamic cultural contributions and the interplay of cooperation between disparate religions. About the Author

David Levering Lewis is a University Professor at New York University. Both volumes of his biography of W. E. B. Du Bois received the Pulitzer Prize. He lives in New York City.

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