



# Islam Today: A Short Introduction to the Muslim World (Introductions to Religion)

By Akbar S. Ahmed

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Although there are over one billion Muslims in the world, and over ten million in the West, most discussions of Islam are based on clichés or outright prejudice. This lively and compelling book sets out to bridge the gulf of misunderstanding. Islam, argues Akbar Ahmed, does not mean the subordination of women, contempt for other religions, opposition to the modern world, or barbaric punishments for petty crimes. One cannot fully come to terms with modern Islam without understanding its sources and traditions.

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### **Editorial Review**

From Library Journal

Islam is the fastest-growing world religion, with over ten million Muslims in the West. As their number increases, so do the misunderstandings and conflicts between Muslims and non-Muslims. Anthropologist Ahmed accurately explains the conflicting cultural values and ignorance of East and West and does an excellent job explaining the differences between the Shi'ite and Sunni branches of Islam, women in Islam, and Muslim minorities. Unfortunately, owing to space constraints, Nigeria and Indonesia are not covered. Ahmed is a visiting professor at Princeton and Harvard; his *Discovering Islam: Making Sense of Muslim History and Society* (Routledge, 1989, reprint) was highly praised. An essentially identical hardcover version of this book was published in the U.K. in 1993 under the title *Living Islam: From Samarkand to Stornoway* (BBC). Highly recommended for all libraries as a companion to John Bowker's *What Muslims Believe* (Element, 1999). AMichael W. Ellis, Ellenville P.L., NY  
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Review

""Get a true picture of the religion distorted by Osama bin Laden in this Oprah recommended guide to the Muslim world."" --*Guardian*

About the Author

**Akbars Ahmed** is fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge, UK, and has been a visiting professor at Princeton and Harvard Universities.

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