

Annotated Bibliography

Early Islamic Historiography

This section seeks to explore and understand further both modern historiography as well as that of the Early Islamic period. By examining the creation of historical sources in the first Arab centuries, the ways such sources have been used historically, as well as the way modern scholars have (re)-interpreted them will provide a good understanding of the creation of the Islamic world.

Bulliet, Richard W. *Islam, The View from the Edge*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. This work demonstrates the importance of understanding the Early Islamic period through the writings of non-Muslim contemporaries.

Donner, Fred McGraw. *Narratives of Islamic Origins: The Beginnings of Islamic Historical Writings*. Princeton NJ: Darwin Press, 1998. This book provides a useful summary of modern historiographical debates. Moreover, in light of these debates, Donner argued that early Islamic tradition of narratives and sources are useful materials for understanding the past. The claim is counterbalanced, though, that such use is valid only so long as the intentions behind the tradition's origins are kept in mind.

Duri, A. A. *The rise of historical writing among the Arabs*. Lawrence I. Conrad ed., trans. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, 1983. This book details the rise of historical consciousness in the Muslim world especially in Medina and Iraq.

El-Hibri, Tayeb. *Reinterpreting Islamic Historiography: Harun al-Rashid and the Narrative of the Abbasid Caliphate*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2000. Describes the reigns and personalities of Abbasid rulers with especial attention to how the sources for these narratives should be approached.

Hoyland, Robert G. *Seeing Islam as others saw it: A Survey and evaluation of Christian, Jewish and Zoroastrian writings on early Islam*. Princeton: Darwin Press, 1997. This work also examines the narrative sources for the origins of Islam. Unlike some skeptics, however, Hoyle argued that non-Muslim sources were often very supportive of the Islamic narrative.

Humphreys, R. Stephen. *Islamic History: A Framework for Inquiry*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1991. A good introduction to the sources and methods for doing Islamic history. Covers the seventh through the sixteenth Christian centuries.

Khalidi, Tarif. *Arabic Historical Thought in the Classical Period*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Examination of historiography extending into the fourteenth century. UGRL 909.0976710072 K526a 1994

Noth, Albrecht. *The Early Arabic Historical Tradition: A Source-critical Study*. Lawrence Conrad ed. Princeton, NJ: Darwin Press, 1994. Though this is a more recent addition, Noth's book sparked the historiographical debate over interpreting the origins of Islam.

Shaban, M.A. *Islamic History: A New Interpretation*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1971, 1976. Though dated, this volume is seminal for modern Early Islamic historians. Many ideas and themes of development during this period are attributed to Shaban.

Walker, Paul Ernest. *Exploring an Islamic Empire, Fatimid history and its sources*, London: I.B. Tauris, 2002. This volume deals with a later period than many others in this sections. Its unifying theme, however, is the examination of historical sources from the period and their use in crafting its history.

Economic History

By examining economic history, this section seeks to give historical impetus to events and transitions in the Islamic world from a source outside of the religious realm. While "traditional" economic sources have been used, an attempt has also been made to engage newer fields of inquiry including agriculture and the environment.

Abu-Lughod, Janet L. *Before European Hegemony: The World System A.D. 1250-1350*. New York, Oxford University Press, 1989. Examination of the economic and urban expansion and dominance of the Middle East during the medieval period.

Anderson, Ewan W. and W.B. Fisher. *The Middle East: Geography and Geopolitics*. London: Routledge, 2000. Examines how geography and climate have shaped the balance of power in the Middle East.

Ashtor, Eliyahu. *Social and Economic History of the Near East*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976. Again, a seminal, if dated, book. Ashtor examined historical change through socio-economic means especially in areas of agriculture and city life. Geographically, this book is relevant to studies of Iraq, the Mediterranean, and Mamluk Egypt.

Beaumont, Peter and K.S. McLachlan. *Agricultural Deveopment in the Middle East*. Chichester [Sussex] ; New York : Wiley, 1985. Examines agriculture as a developing and expanding force in Middle Eastern economics and geography.

Bulliet, Richard W. *The Camel and the Wheel*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1975. Bulliet's work describing transportation and economics remains vital to scholars of Early Islamic economics despite its age.

Crone, Patricia. *Meccan Trade and the Rise of Islam*, Princeton NJ.: Princeton University Press, 1987. Rather than focusing on religious motivations, this book seeks to contextualize the rise of Islam within an economic framework.

- Dixon, J.E. and A.H.F. Robertson. *The Geological evolution of the Eastern Mediterranean*. Bath, U.K.: Geological Society, 1996. This book discusses geological change in the Mediterranean as a historical force with especial attention to Middle Eastern regions. (Earth and Atmospheric lib 551 091822 G292 1996)
- Harvey, Alan. *Economic Expansion in the Byzantine Empire, 900-1200*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1989. This book shows that the Byzantine Empire remained vital and traces its economic development. Of particular interest, of course, will be demonstrations between Byzantium and its Muslim neighbors.
- Ibrahim, Mahmood. *Merchant Capital and Islam*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1990. Demonstrates a proto-capitalist approach in Muslim trading.
- Keyder, Çaglar and Faruk Tabak. *Landholding and Commercial Agriculture in the Middle East*. Albany State University of New York Press, 1991. A rare monograph on landholding and the economic consequences of agriculture.
- The Nile, sharing a scarce resource : a historical and technical review of water management and of economic and legal issues*. J. A. Allan and P.P. Howell eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1994. Examines the Nile as a climatic and economic force in Islamic history.
- Von Sievers, P. "Merchants and nomads: the social evolution of the Syrian cities and countryside, 789-969/164-358", *Der Islam*, lvi, 1979, 212-44. This article demonstrates an economic link between urban and rural economies and between social classes.
- Walmsley, A. "Production, Exchange, and regional trade in the Islamic East Mediterranean: old structures, new system?" in Hansen and Wickham (eds) *The long eighth century*, Leiden, 2000. Contextualizes the regional economies of the Middle East and their relationships to the rest of the Mediterranean during the eighth century.

Urbanism

Urbanism can be an important insight into various other methods of "doing" history. Many of the sources listed here have social implications to their arguments. Culture and politics, also receive their place. On the other hand, economic and physical histories are just as important in understanding the functioning of historical cities.

Abu-Lughod, "The Islamic City – Historic Myth, Islamic Essence and Contemporary Relevance." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* 19 (1987) 155-76. This article looks at Islamic ideas of the past in the creation of cities.

- Blair, Sheila and Jonathon Bloom, *The Art and Architecture of Islam 1250-1800*. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1994. Examines the connection between visual culture and building designs from the later Middle Ages to the Early Modern period.
- Bosworth, “The city of Tarsus and the Arab-Byzantine frontiers in early and middle Abbasid times”, *Orient*, xxxiii, 2668-86. Looks at Tarsus as a city with both Arab and Byzantine influences.
- Cresswell, K.A.C , and James W. Allan. *A Short Account of Early Muslim Architecture*. Rev. ed. Aldershot, England: Scolar, 1989. This is a good introductory work to Islamic architecture both in the Umayyad and Abbasid periods.
- Ettinghausen, Richard, Oleg Grabar, and Sheila Blair. *Islamic Art and Architecture 650-1250*. 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001.. This volume covers the Early Islamic and Early Medieval periods with reference to visual culture and building designs in the Muslim world.
- Kennedy, Hugh. “From polis to medina: Urban change in late antique and early Islamic Syria.” In *Past and Present* 106 (1985) 3-27. Seminal article using Medina as a model for urban studies during this period.
- Hamarneh, Sami. “The Ancient Monuments of Alexandria According to Accounts by Medieval Arab Authors (IX-XV Century)” in *Folia Orientalia* 12 (1971), 77-80. This is an interesting examination of how later medieval residents of Alexandria incorporated the physical remains of the Roman past into their contemporary consciousness.
- Lapidus, Ira M. *Muslim Cities in the Later Middle Ages*. Cambridge Mass, Harvard University Press, 1967. Important for understanding later medieval urbanism.
- Lassner, Jacob. “The Caliph's personal domain : the city plan of Baghdad re-examined” in *The Islamic City*. Albert Habib Hourani and S.M. Stern eds. Oxford: Cassirer, 1970. Though dated, this article expresses Lassner’s concepts of urban studies.
- Northedge, Alastair and C.M. Bennett. *Studies on Roman and Islamic Amman: The excavations of Mrs. C.M. Bennett and other investigations*. Oxford, Oxford University Press, 1992. This archeological study examines the citadel palace of Amman and examines the architectural transition from Roman to Islamic times.
- Raymond, Andre. *Cairo*. Willard Wood trans. Cambridge Mass: Harvard University Press, 2000. Considered a classic, this book argues for Cairo’s urbanism are important for urban studies throughout the Middle East.
- Robinson (ed.), *A Medieval Islamic city reconsidered: an interdisciplinary approach to Samarra*, Oxford: OSiA xiv, 2001. This is a good book for reviewing

historiographical discussions of urban architecture with its own additions to the field of Abbasid urbanism.

Saunders, Paula. *Ritual, politics and the city in Fatimid Cairo*, Albany, State University of New York Press, 1994. An interesting account of how the physical lay-out of Cairo and the practice of ritual were used for political ends.

Tabbaa, Yasser, *Constructions of Power and Piety in Medieval Aleppo*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1997. Looks at architecture as instrumental both in political and religious affairs.

Transformation and Frontiers

This section seeks to examine how the Early Islamic world rose in its historical and geopolitical contexts. Just as the medieval West was a series of successor states to Rome, so too, the Early Islamic state was a successor society to Rome and Persia. The transformation of this world, and its relations with its neighbors is the core of this investigation. Byzantium has been singled out, but other neighbors such as Armenia and India may be included if thought necessary.

Bligh-Abramski, "Evolution versus Revolution: Umayyad Elements in the Abbasid Regime 133/750-320/932", *Der Islam* 65 (1988) 226-43. This important article argued that the Abbasid change in dynasty was not such a dramatic change as usually thought, but rather continued many traditions carried over from Umayyad rule.

Bowerstock, G. W. *Roman Arabia*. Cambridge, Mass, Harvard University Press, 1982. This book is important for understanding the roots of the Islamic world and the milieu inherent in Arabia in the Late Antique period.

Bowerstock, G. W., Peter Brown, and Oleg Grabar eds. *Interpreting Late Antiquity: Essays on the postclassical world*. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2001. With essays from various experts on Late Antique and Early Islamic history, this volume is important for understanding the transition from a Roman and Persian Arabia to an Early Islamic successor state.

Fowden, Garth. *Empire to Commonwealth: Consequences of Monotheism in Late Antiquity*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1993. Examines the importance of monotheism in the transition to Arab rule.

Kaegi, Walter Emil. *Byzantium and the early Islamic conquest*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1992. Book length examination of the interactions between the Byzantine and Arab worlds during this phase of Islamic expansion.

Lambton, Ann K. S. *Continuity and Change in Medieval Persia: Aspects of Administrative Economic and Social History. 11th-14th Century*. Albany: Bibliotheca Persica, 1988. Argues for a continued transformation in the Persian

world during the later Middle Ages. While many books in this section look at earlier Islamic history, this book takes similar concepts with application to a slightly later period.

Lewis, Naphtali. *Life in Egypt under Roman Rule*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1983. A more localized study of how Roman rule affected a region of the Middle East.

Millar, Fergus. *The Roman Near East: 31 B.C. – 337 A.D.* Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1993. This study, set firmly in the “ancient” or “classical” period, sets the stage for the systems that would be transformed in the Late Antique and Early Islamic periods.

Education

Mohr, H. and W. Waade. *Byzanz und arabisches Kalifat: Darstellung für die Geschichtslehrer*. 1984.

Gellens, S. “Some remarks on Egypt's status as a Sunnī Muslim learning center in the 4th/10th C” *American Research Center in Egypt Newsletter*, no. 125, pp. 41-45, 1984

Brown, Peter. “Late antiquity and Islam: parallels and contrasts.” in *Moral conduct and authority: the place of adab in South Asian Islam* Barbara Daly Medcalf. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984.