



## Islam: The Straight Path

By John L. Esposito

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This exceptionally successful survey text introduces the teachings and practice of Islam from its earliest origins up to its contemporary practice. John L. Esposito, an internationally renowned expert on Islam, traces the development of Islam and its impact on world history and politics.

Lucidly written and expansive in scope, *Islam: The Straight Path*, Updated Fifth Edition, provides keen insight into one of the world's least understood religions. It is ideally suited for use in courses on Islam, world religions, comparative religions, and Middle East history and culture.

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## **Islam: The Straight Path** By John L. Esposito Bibliography

- Rank: #31788 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2016-04-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 6.40" h x 1.00" w x 9.10" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 368 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### From Library Journal

Esposito, a well-respected scholar and prolific writer on things Islamic, is the founding director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University and, most recently, general editor of the four-volume Oxford Encyclopedia of the Modern Islamic World (LJ 3/15/95). Here we have the third edition of a book first published in 1988 (LJ 9/15/88) outlining Muslim origins, history, doctrine, and culture?generally in a Middle Eastern context. This edition, which contains a useful bibliography and thorough index, incorporates recent developments in the Middle East and adds material on Pakistan and on the growth of Islam in America. Free of any evident anti-Muslim or anti-Christian bias, Esposito's scholarly prose is both straightforward and highly readable, with technical terms always clearly defined. Nevertheless, this is a work for serious students. Recommended for academic libraries and public libraries with substantial collections in religion.?James F. DeRoche, Alexandria, VA

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#### Review

"This is the answer to every teacher's prayer for an informed and balanced introductory book. It is elegantly written, beautifully synthesized, and helpful."--Leila Fawaz, *Tufts University*

"*Islam: The Straight Path* is a remarkable testament to the author's breadth of scholarship and descriptive and explanatory economy."--Peter Matthews Wright, *The Colorado College*

"Esposito's work in modern Islam gives him a rich perspective for introducing readers to the main modern strands of reform and revivalism, moderation, and extremism that shape the Islamic worldview in the twenty-first century."--Seth Ward, *University of Wyoming*

### About the Author

**John L. Esposito** is University Professor of Religion and International Affairs, Professor of Islamic Studies, Founding Director of the Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, and Director of The Bridge: Protecting Pluralism--Ending Islamophobia at Georgetown University. Editor-in-Chief of Oxford Islamic Studies Online and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Islam*, he is the author of *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*, Second Edition (2011), *The Future of Islam* (2010), and *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam* (2002), and coauthor of *Islam and Democracy after the Arab Spring* (2015), all published by Oxford University Press.

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