

Selected ISLAMIC and MUSLIM Resources

We understand that this resource is a work in process and hopefully one that will be shared with those with whom we live and work. This collection of Islamic resources includes spiritual, literary, cultural, political, and historical works that provide a deeper understanding of Islam and of Muslims. As an evolving document, we invite all our Franciscan family (sisters, brothers, associates/affiliates, benefactors, family members, friends, and colleagues) to add to our list by contacting Sister Terri Miklitsch, OSF (tam24@buffalo.edu) or any member of the committee. Thank you one and all!

Reviews of these writings are from Barnes and Noble, Amazon, personal accounts, and other sources; these are noted in the brackets.

Afzal-Khan, F., & El Saadawi, N. (2005). *Shattering the stereotypes: Muslim women speak out*. Northampton, MA: Interlink Publishing Group Inc.

[This book addresses the] profound efforts to humanize and contextualize the female Islamic American experience.Some essays are passionate, while others are more subdued, but all attempt to define female identity in the context of American and Muslim ties. As editor Abdul-Ghafur, a former chief executive of Azizah, a leading magazine for Muslim women, notes, this identity reflects the continuum of Muslim women in the West-evolving, spiritual, and unique. [Barnes & Noble review]

Ahmed, A. S. (2002). *Discovering Islam: Making sense of Muslim history and society (2nd ed)*.

This accessible work balances the image of Islam as aggressive and fanatical with an objective picture of the main features of Muslim history and the compulsions of Muslim society. [Barnes & Noble review]

Al-Faruqi, I. R. & Al-Faruqi, L. L. (1986). *The Cultural atlas of Islam*. New York: Simon & Schuster Adult Publishing and Prentice-Hall College Division.

This book covers the essential theology of Islam and is more focused on religion than politics. [Amazon review]

Al-Qazwini, S. M. (2015). *Shia Islam (3rd Edition)*. Costa Mesa, CA: Islamic Educational Center of Orange County California.

Syed Moustafa al-Qazwini's intentions in this third edition is again to "clarify the misconceptions surrounding Shia Islam through simplicity and providing substantial proof from the Sunni resources... [his] intention was to bring both Shias and Sunnis together on a common stage of understanding and respect...." [IEC Review]

Armstrong, K. (2002). *Islam: A short history*. New York: Random House Publishing Group.

I strongly recommend this book as a beginner text for understanding the historical, geographical, and political forces that influenced the genesis of Islam and its roots in the African, European, and Asian cultures. Karen Armstrong provides a glossary of terms, understanding about the rise of Islam and a timeline of the Prophet Muhammad's life. [Terri Miklitsch review]

Armstrong, K. (1993). *Muhammad: A biography of the prophet*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers.

This vivid and detailed biography strips away centuries of distortion and myth and presents a balanced view of the man whose religion continues to dramatically affect the course of history. [Barnes & Noble review] Reprint edition: August 2007 HarperOne Publishing.

Arshed, A. K. (2004). *The Bounty of Allah: Daily Reflections from the Qur'an and Islamic Tradition*. New York: Crossroad Publishing Company.

A meaningful, devotional gift for Muslims, this lovely volume also offers insight into Islamic spiritual life for people of all faiths. Daily readings include a short text from the Koran and one from Sufi or Hadith traditions. [Amazon review]

Dardes, G. (2006). *Do we worship the same God? Comparing the Bible and the Qur'an*. Cincinnati, OH: St. Anthony Messenger Press.

“George Dardes, a Christian expert on Islam, provides a wealth of information about teachings of both Christianity and Islam to help readers discern if Christians and Muslims worship the same God. He gives a brief introduction to the history of Islam, draws parallels between Jesus and the prophet Muhammad and compares what the Bible and the Qur'an (the holy book of Islam) teach about creation, Satan, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, prayer, the Jihad, judgment, heaven and hell, and more.”

Denari Duffner, J. (2017). *Finding Jesus among Muslims: How loving Islam makes me a better Catholic*. Collegeville, MN: Liturgical Press.

Jordan Denari Duffner is a leading Catholic voice on Muslim-Christian relations and an advocate for interreligious dialogue. Currently pursuing a PhD in Theological and Religious Studies at Georgetown University, she is also an associate at the Bridge Initiative, where she previously worked as a research fellow studying anti-Muslim prejudice.... [Jordan is a] former Fulbright researcher in Amman, Jordan.

Why should Christians engage in interfaith dialogue with Muslims? Does Islam have anything to offer Christians? What is Islamophobia, and what should we do about it? Duffner explains why all Christians are called to participate in a “dialogue of life” with Muslims. *Additionally:*

We are enriched in our own faiths, when we fully experience people in theirs. This is an elevating and personal read that challenges each of us to look deeper into others in order to learn more about ourselves. I appreciate Jordan's genuine friendship to the Muslim community, and her sincere desire to bring people of different faiths together.

Imam Omar Suleiman, President of Yaqeen Institute for Islamic Research [Amazon review]

Dodds, J. (Ed.) (1992). *Al-Andalus, the art of Islamic Spain*. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Modern Art.

Collection of Islamic art found in the Al-Andalus region of Spain. Many of these works represent the *Golden Age of Spain* ~ 1250-1500 C.E. The *Golden Age of Spain* was a unique historical time when Muslims-Christians-Jews lived in an age of tolerance and community for approximately 700-years. It was also considered an incredible period of art when Islamic-Jewish-Christian artistic influences blended with one another's culture. The Alhambra is one of many examples of the art of Islamic Spain. [Terri Miklitsch] To view the Alhambra go to: http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/The_Alhambra.html

Dwyer, D. & Hines, H. (2000). *Islam and Franciscanism: A dialogue. Spirit and Life: A Journal of Contemporary Franciscanism, 9.* St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute Publications.

From the time of Francis's meeting with Sultan, a tradition of dialogue between the Muslim and Christian traditions, as epitomized in the Franciscan movement, has endured. This volume offers a set of essays that deal with the relationship between Islam and Franciscanism as experienced in the past and as it is presently being lived. [*Franciscan Institute review*]

Ecker, H. (2004). *Caliphs and kings: The art and influence of Islamic Spain.* Washington, DC: Smithsonian - Arthur M. Sackler Gallery and the Freer Gallery of Art.

Al-Andalus (Islamic Spain), like no other region of the Islamic world evokes a nostalgic perception of a lost paradise: For many, it provides a model of medieval cultural and religious tolerance, intellectual endeavor, and artistic excellence. *Caliphs and Kings: The Art and Influence of Islamic Spain* explores the magnificent artistic achievements of al-Andalus from the seventh to fifteenth centuries, and its lasting influence on European Christendom and Jewry. [*Amazon review*]

Esposito, J. & Voll, J. O. (2001). *Makers of contemporary Islam.* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

Drawing on their decades of research across the breadth of the Muslim world. Esposito and Voll introduce the pivotal role played by activist intellectuals, and then present the lives and work of nine individuals chosen to provide a balanced picture of the enormous variety – both geographical and ideological – in the contemporary Muslim world. [This book] is an ideal companion piece to Esposito and Voll's *Islam and Democracy* and Esposito's *Voices of Resurgent Islam*. [*Tamara Sonn, The College of William & Mary –Amazon review*]

Esposito, J. (Ed.) (2000). *The Oxford History of Islam.* Oxford, U K: Oxford University Press. Dr. John Esposito is a University Professor and Founding Director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University.

In this text, Esposito has gathered together sixteen leading scholars, both Muslim and non-Muslim, to examine the origins and historical development of Islam - its faith, community, institutions, sciences, and arts.... chapters range from the story of Muhammad and his Companions, to the development of Islamic religion and culture and the empires that grew from it, to the influence of Islam on today's world. The book covers a wide array of subjects, casting light on topics such as the historical encounter of Islam and Christianity, the role of Islam in the Mughal and Ottoman empires, the growth of Islam in Southeast Asia, China, and Africa, the political, economic, and religious challenges of European imperialism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and Islamic communities in the modern Western world. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Esposito, J. (2002). *What everyone needs to know about Islam.* Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

In *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam*, Esposito presents in question-and-answer format the information that most people want to know. Esposito provides succinct, accessible, sensitive, and even-handed answers to questions that range from the general--"What do Muslims believe?" and "Who was Muhammad?"--to more specific issues like Is Islam compatible with modernization, capitalism and democracy? How do Muslims view Judaism and Christianity? Are women second-class citizens in Islam? What is jihad? Does the Quran

condone terrorism? What does Islam say about homosexuality, birth control, abortion, and slavery? [*Amazon review*]

Franciscan Institute. (2008). *Daring to embrace the other: Franciscans and Muslims in dialogue. Spirit and Life: A Journal of Contemporary Franciscanism, 12*. St. Bonaventure, NY: Franciscan Institute Publications.

The tragic events of September 11, 2001, are but one tumultuous signpost of an ongoing and troubled relationship between Islam and the Western World that has been one of the sad hallmarks of the last century. The Franciscan tradition has a uniquely privileged voice to add to this dialogue. The presence of Francis of Assisi and Illuminato at the siege of Damietta on August 20, 1219, and their encounter with the sultan, al-Kamil, the following September, stands as one of the most evocative images available to contemporary men and women who are striving to find common ground for dialog. In the summer of 2007, fifty-five men and women, most - but not all - members of the Franciscan Family, gathered in Colorado Springs, CO, for the Seventh Franciscan Forum to begin a serious exploration of the questions involved in using this paradigmatic image of Francis and Malik al-Kamil engaged in respectful conversation as a hopeful avenue for the way forward. This book includes the presentations made at this Forum and provide a ray of hope for our troubled and turbulent times.

Franzen, C. (2001). *Poems of Arab Andalusia*. San Francisco, CA: City Lights Books. [Paperback ed.]

These poems, from the astonishing 10th- through 13th-century civilization in Andalusia, are based on the codex of Ibn Sa'id, who wanted poems "whose idea is more subtle than the West Wind, and whose language is more beautiful than a fair face." Spanish readers have long been enchanted by their enduring appeal through the versions by Emilio Garcia Gomez. This poetry of Arab Andalusia made a profound impact on Spain's Generation of '27. Rafael Alberti says that it "was a revelation for me and had a great influence on my work, but above all influenced the work of Federico Garcia Lorca. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Haddawy, H. (2008). *The Arabian nights*. New York: Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc. [*New Deluxe Edition*]

Haddawy uses Muhsin Mahdi's widely accepted, recent, definitive edition, which is based on the 14th-century Syrian manuscript to form the first serious translation into English in more than a century. Full of mischief and valor, ribaldry and romance.... About a thousand years ago a vast number of stories in Arabic from various countries began to be brought together; only much later was the collection called The Arabian Nights or the Thousand and One Nights. All the stories are told by Shahrazad (Scheherazade), who entertains her husband, King Shahryar, whose custom it was to execute his wives after a single night. Shahrazad begins a story each night but withholds the ending until the following night, thus postponing her execution. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Hathout, H. (2007). *Reading the Muslim mind*. Oakbrook, IL: North American Trust Publications (7th ed.)

An Egyptian American physician, scientist, poet, ethicist, and scholar of Islam explains his version of the Muslim perspective on contemporary world issues and outlines the basic beliefs and practices of the faith. Written and priced for the general reader who may by now believe Arab terrorist is a single word. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Hemenway, P. (2003). *The little book of Eastern wisdom (Sufi, Tao, Zen)*. New York: Barnes & Noble Publishers.

In this beautifully illustrated book you will discover the insights of Eastern wisdom that inspire countless seekers to look within. You will meet the masters and mystics of Sufism, Tao, and Zen whose aim has always been to enlighten the heart, and you will delight in the rich art their truths inspire. The tales and teachings are based on the experiences of men and women who have journeyed within. The truths that they tell are eternal and peace they inspire belongs to us all Sufis speak to inspire from the heart, Tao preaches a practical wisdom based on the laws of nature, and Zen points to the immediacy of the present moment. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Irwin, R. (2000). *Night and horses and the desert: An anthology of classic Arabic literature*. Woodstock, NY: The Overlook Press, Peter Mayer Publishers, Inc.

Night and Horses and the Desert reveals the authentic greatness of Classical Arabic literature. Selecting a wide range of Arabic poetry and prose in translation, from the most important and typical texts to the very obscure, Robert Irwin provides an invaluable introduction to the subject. Spanning the fifth century to the sixteenth, from Afghanistan to Spain, this anthology includes translated excerpts from all the major classics.... Although much of the world's great poetry and prose is in Arabic, it is not nearly as well known as it deserves to be. [*Barnes & Noble review*]

Kadi, J. (1994). *Food for Our Grandmothers: Writings by Arab-American and Arab-Canadian Feminists*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press

This text is a rich combination of literary stories that are grounded in the recipes from each of these women's histories. Their mothers and grandmothers' recipes are woven into stories of culture and spirit and the prejudice these women have experienced in our culture. I recommend that you not only read these brief histories but that you literally create these recipes in your own kitchen and add your ancestors' recipes to this cultural cookbook. [*Terri Miklitsch*]

Kritzeck, J. (1975). *Anthology of Islamic literature*. New York: Penguin Group.

Anthology of Islamic Literature presents a representative and rich sampling of some thirteen centuries of great Islamic literature, spanning the period from the rise of Mohammed and the Age of Caliphs to the Mughal poetry of India and Ottoman poetry at the end of the eighteenth century. It encompasses the writings of mystics, poets, storytellers, biographers, visionaries, spinners of tales and proverbs. [*Barnes & noble review*]

Liepert, D. (2010). *Muslim, Christian and Jew: Finding a path to peace our faiths can share*. Toronto, ON: Faith of Life Publishing.

This timely and provocative work challenges the stereotypes and misconceptions that fuel these conflicts to answer the question that lies at the nexus of faith, religion, politics, history, and current events: Can those of different faiths live together in peace? Drawing on personal experience, history, and scripture, this carefully researched book exposes both the differences and similarities between Christianity, Judaism, and Islam and reveals the surprising truth about what they really teach at their core. Dr. David Liepert recounts his own journey from Christianity to become a convert of Islam and what he learned in the process.

Lipka, M. & Hackett, C. (April 6, 2017). *Why Muslims are the world's fastest-growing religious group*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center.

In the next half century or so, Christianity's long reign as the world's largest religion may come to an end, according to a just-released report that builds on Pew Research Center's original population growth projections for religious groups. Indeed, Muslims will grow more than twice as fast as the overall world population between 2015 and 2060 and, in the second half of this century, will likely surpass Christians as the world's largest religious group.

Retrieved March 2, 2018: http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/06/why-muslims-are-the-worlds-fastest-growing-religious-group/?utm_content=bufferabe0e&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer
[Pew Center web site]

Lowney, C. (2005). *A vanished world: Medieval Spain's golden age of enlightenment*. New York: Free Press.

In a world troubled by religious strife and division, Chris Lowney's vividly written new book offers a hopeful historical reminder: Muslims, Christians, and Jews once lived together in Spain, creating a centuries-long flowering of commerce, culture, art, and architecture.... Spaniards introduced Europeans to paper manufacture and to the Hindu-Arabic numerals that supplanted the Roman numeral system. Spanish scholars translated what stood for centuries as Europe's standard medical handbook. Spain's farmers adopted irrigation technology from the Near East to nurture Europe's first crops of citrus and cotton.... Spain's religious scholars authored works that still profoundly influence their respective faiths, from the masterpiece of the Jewish kabbalah to the meditations of Sufism's "greatest master" to the eloquent arguments of Maimonides that humans can successfully marry religious faith and reasoned philosophical inquiry. *A Vanished World* chronicles this impossibly panoramic sweep of human history and achievement, encompassing both the agony of jihad, Crusades, and Inquisition, and the glory of a multireligious, multicultural civilization that forever changed the West. [Barnes & Noble review]

Menocal, M. R. (2003). *The ornament of the world: How Muslims, Jews, and Christian created a culture of tolerance in Medieval Spain*. Boston: Bay Back Books.

Professor Menocal is the R. Selden Rose Professor of Spanish and Portuguese, and Director of the Whitney Humanities Center at Yale University.

A portrait of the vibrant civilization of medieval Spain, *The Ornament of the World* is the story of an extraordinary place and time. Both history and literature often depict the Middle Ages as a dark and barbaric period, characterized by intellectual backwardness and religious persecution. Now Maria Rosa Menocal brings us an altogether different vision of medieval Europe, where tolerance was often the rule and literature, science, and art flourished in a climate of cultural openness. [Barnes & Noble review]

Nyang, S. (1999). *Islam in the United States of America*. Chicago: ABS International, Inc. and Kazi Publications, Inc.

Working on the assumption that American Muslims are still unknown to most Americans, the author addresses several issues which are relevant to the whole discussion of religious plurality and multiculturalism in American society. [Barnes & Noble review] Dr. Nyang is a noted African-American historian, and diplomat and Islamic scholar who advocates non-violence. He continues to conduct research and address the Islamic experience within the United States. Dr. Nyang was an invited scholar to the Network of Religious Communities' conference on building community and creating dialogue among Muslims, Jews, and Christians. [Terri Miklitsch]

Quershi, E. & Sells, M. A. (Eds.). (2003). *New crusades: Constructing the Muslim enemy*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Not since the Crusades of the Middle Ages has Islam evoked the degree of fear, hostility, and ethnic and religious stereotyping that is evident throughout Western culture today.... *The New Crusades* takes head-on the idea of an emergent "Cold War" between Islam and the West. It explores the historical, political, and institutional forces that have raised the specter of a threatening and monolithic.... Bringing together twelve of the most influential thinkers in Middle Eastern and religious studies -including Edward Said, Roy Mottahedeh, and Fatema Mernissi -this timely collection confronts such depictions of the Arab-Islamic world, showing their inner workings and how they both empower and shield from scrutiny Islamic radicals who operate from similar paradigms of inevitable and absolute conflict. [*Barnes & Noble review*] A must read if you want to understand Islamic and Muslim stereotyping in our world. [*Terri Miklitsch*]

Rashid, Q. (2013). *The wrong kind of Muslim: An untold story of persecution and perseverance*. AyHa Publishing (Islam Ahmadiyya Publications).

The Wrong Kind of Muslim is a call to unite those of all faiths and of no faith in the struggle for universal freedom of conscience. Since 9/11, terrorists in Pakistan have killed over 40,000.... Often risking his life, Qasim Rashid journeys into the heart of that terrorism to unearth the untold story of those silenced by Taliban suicide bombings, secret police torture, and state sponsored religious persecution. Rashid exposes the horrifying truth about growing radicalism in Pakistan and its impact on Western security. Link: <http://www.patheos.com/blogs/islamahmadiyya/publications/#BIxda4jPBi7ZbCzk.99>

Sells, M. A. (2007). *Approaching the Qur'an: The early revelations (2nd ed.)*. Ashland, OR: White Cloud Press.

Approaching the Qur'an is a translation of the early suras-the short, hymnic chaptersthis book captures the complexity, power and poetry of the early suras and the majesty and intimacy of the distinctive Qur'anic voice. These early revelations to Muhammad involve little of the political and legal detail found in the suras of his later career. *Approaching the Qur'an* is also designed to be as accessible as possible, to offer the full lyric and literary experience to readers: Opposite each sura is a short commentary that explores some of the subtleties and context of the Qur'anic passages.... [*Barnes & noble review*]

Yazbeck-Haddad, Y. (2011). *Muslim women in America: The challenges of Islamic identity today*. London, UK: Oxford University Press.

The treatment and role of women is one of the most discussed and controversial aspects of Islam. In this volume, three respected scholars of Islam survey the situation of women in Islam, focusing on how Muslim views about and experiences of gender are changing in the Western diaspora. ...The volume then centers on the Muslim experience in America, examining Muslim American analyses of gender.... [and] specific issues as dress, marriage, child custody, and asylum are addressed. It also looks at the ways in which American Muslim women have tried to create new paradigms of Islamic womanhood and are reinterpreting the traditions apart from the males who control the mosque institutions. [*Amazon review*]

Yazbeck-Haddad, Y. & Esposito, J. (2000). *Muslims on the Americanization Path?* London, UK: Oxford University Press.

Islam is the fastest growing religion in the United States. There are more Muslims in America than in Kuwait, Qatar, and Libya together. Leaving aside immigration and conversion, birthrate alone ensures that in the first part of the twenty-first century Islam will replace Judaism as the nation's second largest religion.... Muslims must confront a host of difficult questions concerning faith and national identity. Can they become part of a pluralistic American society without sacrificing their identity?

Sample chapter: ***Chapter 7: American Women Choosing Islam:***

http://www.faculty.umb.edu/lawrence_blum/courses/CCT627_10/readings/anway_american_women_choosing_islam.pdf [*Recommended by Terri Miklitsch*]

Zirvi, K. (2009). *The holy prophet of Islam: Hadrat Muhammad Mustafa. (Peace and blessings of Allah be upon him)*. Fair Lawn, NJ: KZ Publications.

A biography of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. This text provides some biographical and historical contexts of the Prophet's life and religious journey (i.e., *The Beginning of Islam, Conveying the Message of Islam, Migration to Medina, Teachings of Islam*, sacred texts and more).