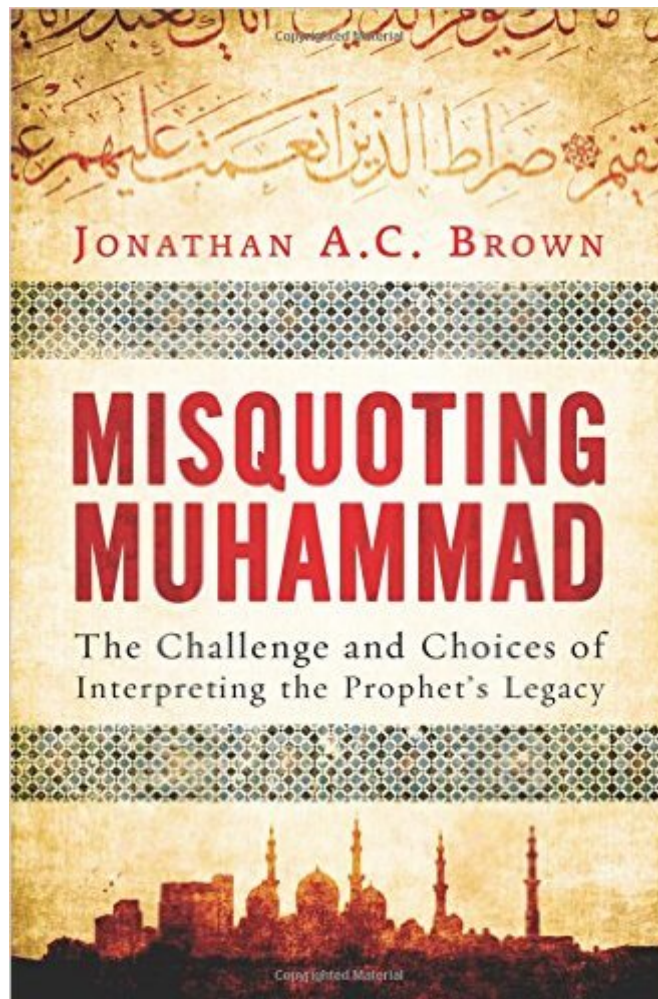


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Misquoting Muhammad: The Challenge And Choices Of Interpreting The Prophet's Legacy



Synopsis

"Brown possesses formidable knowledge of premodern Muslim scholars who sought to preserve accounts of Muhammad's teachings and practices"; MISQUOTING MUHAMMAD sheds light on the considerable dynamism and sophistication within the Sunni tradition. • - The Washington Post Few things provoke controversy in the modern world like the religion brought by Muhammad. There is alarm over jihad, underage marriage and the threat of amputation or stoning under Shariah law. Sometimes rumor, sometimes based in fact and often misunderstood, the tenets of Islamic law and dogma were not set in the religion's founding moments. They were developed over centuries by the clerical class of Muslim scholars. MISQUOTING MUHAMMAD takes the reader back in time through Islamic civilization and traces how and why such controversies developed, offering an inside view into how key and controversial aspects of Islam took shape. From the protests of the Arab Spring to Istanbul at the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and from the ochre red walls of Delhi's great mosques to the trade routes of Islam's Indian Ocean world, Misquoting Muhammad lays out how Muslim intellectuals have sought to balance reason and revelation, weigh science and religion, and negotiate the truths of scripture amid shifting values.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great book and a must read. Some sections might be difficult to understand without significant background in Islamic studies. Covers very relevant topics. The sections on family law, domestic violence and gender issues were excellent. The comparative approach to Canon along with historical and philosophical issues in the three Abrahamic faith is also a unique feature. The section

on weak hadith was the weakest part of the book. The arguments of the of the other side was not presented fairly. Some obvious points not discussed are that Ibn Jawzi himself used very weak and forged hadith in his books and that grading of ahadith that have resulted in differences of opinion among more traditional ulama and reformers is due to differences of opinion regarding grading of narrators and interpretation of agreed upon sahih hadith.

I rarely recommend books, but this one left a deep impression, and I felt others could benefit from it. This book sheds a fascinating light on a whole host of Islamic issues that are controversial in the modern secular world. The author is a Muslim American Professor, specializing in Hadith, educated in both Western Orientalism and Eastern Tradition (Azhar). As such, this book is unique. It isn't a Salafi "this is how it is, whether you like it not" thesis, nor is it modernist unprecedented reinterpretation to fit Islam to current norms. It is not an apologist tract that oversimplifies the controversies dealing with them superficially, nor a traditionalist work that dwells on the past while ignoring modern issues in the hope they will just go away. It deals with everything in a very academic, thoughtful manner, with eclectic surveys of the diversity of opinions and schools of thought within classical and contemporary Islam, a deep understanding of every school, and a cogent analysis of the feelings and motivations underneath the controversies. It will take you to the root of the argument, stripping the layers of cultural accretion, ancient and modern, and lay it bare before you. I must say this is the first book that, ironically coming from a modern scholarly framework, instilled in me a deep respect for the Islamic tradition. It allowed me to see that it can be simultaneously flexible, intellectual with good faith commitment to the text. Yet, it is a very human tradition, with ups and downs, and a beautiful one with much to be proud of.

I am a Muslim, but I think it would be a great read for anyone who would like to learn more about some of the most complex and interesting aspects of Islam and Islamic law and the sources that are used by Muslims in the practice of Islam every day. Muslims and Islamic Scholars have long had a complicated relationship with hadith, yet it is such a vital part of our tradition. For me, it really did want me to learn so much more. This book is no more than an introduction to the subject, but a great one.

Started reading it and in progress; however so far it has been a treat. I have always wanted to know the roots/basics of some of the fundamentals and this book hits the nail on the head. Very simple to read and understand. I would highly recommend this to anyone who wants to understand the core

fundamentals.

I'm a Muslim American woman, and I have read a number of books and essays about various parts of Islamic history. But, I've always been left with a fragmented sense of the history of Islamic thought. This book does an excellent job creating a narrative and progression, tying all the different pieces together, in an easy accessible manner. I am still in the middle of reading it, but I'm finding I can't put it down.

This is one book every Muslim of this time and age must read to better understand the scripture and its true context. This also opens a window for knowledge seekers to look into the science of hadith collection (Prophet's sayings, traditions and actions) early Islamic scholars had developed which is unprecedented. This is also a great academic research for non-Muslims to know the common misconception about certain verses of Quran or hadith and how it was originally understood by companions (disciples) and immediate scholars that followed them.

This is an amazing work of scholarship and a must-read for anyone that is serious about having a real intellectual understanding of the history of Islam, Islamic Law, and how Hadith fits into the picture.

Excellent excellent read. Dr. Brown has a very thorough understanding of the religion from a traditional and contemporary perspective. I would recommend every Muslim in America to read this.

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