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# From Babel To Dragomans

*For many centuries,  
Islam was the world's  
greatest, most open,  
most enlightened, most  
creative, most powerful  
civilisation. And then  
everything changed, as  
the previously despised*

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*West won victory after victory, first on the battlefield and in the marketplace, then in almost every aspect of public and even private life. Bernard Lewis examines the anguished reaction of the Islamic world as it tried to understand why things had changed, and he provides a fascinating portrait of a culture in*

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*turmoil. Some Middle Easterners asked not 'who did this to us?' but 'where did we go wrong?'; while others fastened blame on a series of scapegoats, both internal and external - and the results are very much with us today.*

*What does jihad really mean? What is the Muslim conception of*

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*law? What is Islam's stance toward unbelievers? Probing literary and historical sources, Bernard Lewis traces the development of Islamic political language from the time of the Prophet to the present. His analysis of documents written in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish illuminates differences between*

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*Muslim political thinking and Western political theory, and clarifies the perception, discussion, and practices of politics in the Islamic world.*

*"Lewis's own style, combining erudition with a simple elegance and subtle humor, continues to inspire. In an era of specialization and narrowing*

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*academic vision, he stands alone as one who deserves, without qualification, the title of historian of Islam.*"—Martin Kramer, *Middle East Review* "A superb effort at synthesis that presents all the relevant facts of Middle Eastern history in an eminently lucid form. . . . It is a book that should prove both

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*rewarding and congenial to the Muslim reader."*—S. Parvez Manzor, *Muslim World Book Review* "By bringing his thoughts together in this clear, concise and readable account, [Lewis] has placed in his debt scholars and all who seek to understand the Muslim world."—Ann K. S. Lambton, *Bulletin of*

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*the School of Oriental  
and African Studies*

*"[Lewis] constructs a  
fascinating account of  
the ways in which  
Muslims have conceived  
of the relations between  
ruler and ruled, rights  
and duties, legitimacy  
and illegitimacy,  
obedience and rebellion,  
justice and oppression.  
And he shows how  
changes in political*



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*attitudes and concepts  
can be traced through  
changes in the political  
vocabulary."—Shaul  
Bakhash, New York  
Review of Books  
CHBiographies  
For Muslims politics  
and religion are  
inseparable, whereas  
European states with  
their Christian  
democracies consider  
this separation as one of*

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*their prime principles.  
Therefore, how can  
there be an acceptable  
way of integrating  
Muslims?*

*For many centuries, the  
world of Islam was in  
the forefront of human  
achievement--the  
foremost military and  
economic power in the  
world, the leader in the  
arts and sciences of  
civilization. Christian*

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*Europe, a remote land beyond its northwestern frontier, was seen as an outer darkness of barbarism and unbelief from which there was nothing to learn or to fear. And then everything changed, as the previously despised West won victory after victory, first in the battlefield and the marketplace, then in*

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*almost every aspect of public and even private life. In this intriguing volume, Bernard Lewis examines the anguished reaction of the Islamic world as it tried to understand why things had changed--how they had been overtaken, overshadowed, and to an increasing extent dominated by the West. Lewis provides a*

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*fascinating portrait of a culture in turmoil. He shows how the Middle East turned its attention to understanding European weaponry and military tactics, commerce and industry, government and diplomacy, education and culture. Lewis highlights the striking differences between the Western and Middle*

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*Eastern cultures from the 18th to the 20th centuries through thought-provoking comparisons of such things as Christianity and Islam, music and the arts, the position of women, secularism and the civil society, the clock and the calendar. Hailed in The New York Times Book Review as "the doyen of Middle*

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*Eastern studies,"*  
*Bernard Lewis is one of*  
*the West's foremost*  
*authorities on Islamic*  
*history and culture. In*  
*this striking volume, he*  
*offers an incisive look at*  
*the historical*  
*relationship between the*  
*Middle East and*  
*Europe.*

*First published in 1970,*  
*The Cambridge History*  
*of Islam is the most*

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*comprehensive and ambitious collaborative survey of Islamic history and civilization yet to appear in English. On publication it was welcomed as a work useful both for reference and reading, for the general reader, student and specialist alike. It has now been reprinted, with corrections, and for ease of handling the*



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*original two hardcover volumes have each been divided into two separate paperbacks. This book brings together eleven essays on Islamic political thought by Bernard Lewis, the acknowledged doyen of middle eastern studies. Few historians have garnered such a broad audience as Lewis,*

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*whose works are widely read by scholars, politicians, journalists, and the general public. This latest collection of essays is replete with the incisive historical insight for which Lewis, the world's foremost scholar of the Middle East, is known. With erudition, eloquence and wit, Lewis provides a focused treatment of*

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*fundamental Islamic political terms that is at once thoughtful and provocative. The essays provide the background that is essential to understanding Islamic civilization, and consequently, the troubled history of its relations with the West.*

[Ideas, People, and Events in the Middle East](#)

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*Race and Slavery in the  
Middle East*

*The Emergence of  
Modern Turkey*

*Race and Color in Islam*

*Interpreting the Middle  
East*

*Population and Revenue  
in the Towns of*

*Palestine in the*

*Sixteenth Century*

*The Shaping of the  
Modern Middle East*

*2000 Years of History*

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*from the Rise of  
Christianity to the  
Present Day  
From Babel to  
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Muslims in Europe  
Christians, Muslims,  
and Jews in the Age of  
Discovery*

Hailed in The New  
York Times Book  
Review as "the  
doyen of Middle

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Eastern studies," Bernard Lewis has been for half a century one of the West's foremost scholars of Islamic history and culture, the author of over two dozen books, most notably *The Arabs in History*, *The Emergence of Modern Turkey*, *The*

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Political Language of Islam, and The Muslim Discovery of Europe. Eminent French historian Robert Mantran has written of Lewis's work: "How could one resist being attracted to the books of an author who opens for you the doors of an

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unknown or  
misunderstood  
universe, who leads  
you within to its  
innermost domains:  
religion, ways of  
thinking,  
conceptions of  
power, culture--an  
author who upsets  
notions too often  
fixed, fallacious, or  
partisan." In Islam



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and the West,  
Bernard Lewis  
brings together in  
one volume eleven  
essays that indeed  
open doors to the  
innermost domains  
of Islam. Lewis  
ranges far and wide  
in these essays. He  
includes long  
pieces, such as his  
capsule history of

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the interaction--in  
war and peace, in  
commerce and  
culture--between  
Europe and its  
Islamic neighbors,  
and shorter ones,  
such as his deft  
study of the Arabic  
word watan and  
what its linguistic  
history reveals  
about the

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introduction of the  
idea of patriotism  
from the West.

Lewis offers a  
revealing look at  
Edward Gibbon's  
portrait of  
Muhammad in  
Decline and Fall of  
the Roman Empire  
(unlike previous  
writers, Gibbon saw  
the rise of Islam not

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as something separate and isolated, nor as a regrettable aberration from the onward march of the church, but simply as a part of human history); he offers a devastating critique of Edward Said's controversial book, *Orientalism*; and he

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gives an account of the impediments to translating from classic Arabic to other languages (the old dictionaries, for one, are packed with scribal errors, misreadings, false analogies, and etymological deductions that pay little attention to the

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evolution of the language). And he concludes with an astute commentary on the Islamic world today, examining revivalism, fundamentalism, the role of the Shi'a, and the larger question of religious co-existence between Muslims, Christians,

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and Jews. A  
matchless guide to  
the background of  
Middle East conflicts  
today, Islam and the  
West presents the  
seasoned  
reflections of an  
eminent authority on  
one of the most  
intriguing and little  
understood regions  
in the world.

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Bernard Lewis looks at the new era in the Middle East. With the departure of imperial powers, the region must now, on its own, resolve the political, economic, cultural, and societal problems that prevent it from accomplishing the next stage in the



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advance of  
civilization. There is  
enough in the  
traditional culture of  
Islam on the one  
hand and the  
modern experience  
of the Muslim  
peoples on the  
other, he explains,  
to provide the basis  
for an advance  
toward freedom in

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the true sense of  
that word.

From the time of  
Moses up to the  
1960s, slavery was  
a fact of life in the  
Middle East. But if  
the Middle East was  
the last region to  
renounce slavery,  
how do we account  
for its -- and  
especially Islam's --

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image of racial  
harmony? This book  
explores these  
questions. The  
research presented  
in this book was first  
undertaken as part  
of a group project  
on tolerance and  
intolerance in  
human societies.  
The group project  
was never

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completed but the material gathered for the project on Islam stimulated the book's study of race and slavery in the Middle East, a subject that appears to have so far encouraged scant study. -- Publisher description.

Surveying the

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population and  
revenue of six  
Palestinian  
cities—Jerusalem,  
Hebron, Gaza,  
Ramie, Nabulus,  
and Safed—in the  
sixteenth-century,  
Amnon Cohen and  
Bernard Lewis  
consider the  
numbers,  
composition, and

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distribution of the Muslim, Christian, and Jewish population, and discuss the different headings of revenue, the manner of assessment and collection, the yield, and the destination of the money collected. This

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monograph traces these developments, in detail, over an extended period and for a significant area of the Ottoman Empire. Based on the Tapu registers in Istanbul and Ankara, this book provides to the academic world a

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collection and  
analysis of  
documents  
previously  
unavailable and  
unreadable except  
to a very small  
number of people.  
Translations and  
annotations of these  
texts illuminate and  
explain the terms  
and institutions



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found in Ottoman  
surveys of  
population and  
taxation. Professors  
Cohen and Lewis  
establish the fact  
that in the cities of  
Palestine,  
population and  
revenue showed a  
rather spectacular  
parallel  
development

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towards the middle of the sixteenth-century when the disruptive conditions of the conquest had disappeared and Ottoman administration had been well established. Then, in the latter half of the century, they find a recession

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offers a definitive  
and now more-  
timely-than-ever  
history of Western-  
Middle Eastern  
relations from the  
late seventeenth  
century to the  
present day. Fully  
revised to cover the  
volatile  
developments of the  
last three decades,

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The Shaping of the Modern Middle East sheds light on the climax and sudden end of the cold war, the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the Arab-Israeli wars, the formation and activities of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, the

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Egyptian-Israeli  
peace treaty, the  
Persian Gulf War,  
and the Iranian  
revolution.

Illuminating the  
region's geography,  
culture, history,  
language, and  
religion, Lewis  
explores the  
complex and often  
confusing issues of



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Arab nationalism,  
Islamic  
fundamentalism,  
and responses and  
reactions in the  
Middle East to  
centuries of  
Western influence,  
revealing the  
subtlety and  
sophistication of this  
dynamic civilization  
as no other scholar

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can.

From secular-minded autocrats like Saddam Hussein to religious fundamentalists like Osama bin Laden, powerful voices in the Islamic world have been united by a fierce hatred of the West. If we want to know why they

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think the way they do, we have to understand the history of Islam and its continuous interactions with the West. This masterly collection of essays by a leading expert on Islam and the Middle East ranges over the whole sweep of Islamic

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history and Western  
attempts to  
comprehend it.

6th ed. originally  
published in 1993.

Includes  
bibliographical  
references and  
index.

[Reflections of a  
Middle East  
Historian](#)

[The Jews of Islam](#)

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in the Middle East](#)

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[The world of Islam](#)

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Thirteen respected authorities provide a comprehensive exposition of all aspects of Islamic history and culture  
Tune up your knowledge of the Arab and Muslim worlds with this

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easy to read text. The Arab-American Handbook contains useful reference material and comment by a wide variety of participants and observers. The book includes: a thumbnail history; the essentials of Islam; social insights & cultural

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norms. The perfect tool for : teachers, employers, travelers, law enforcement. Government workers and the general public will find that they can quickly penetrate the stereotypes and misconceptions to appreciate the tenor and nuance of Arab



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and Muslim life.

Without a better grasp of this subject, the citizens of liberal democracies are unsafe at home and at a disadvantage in the global competition for hearts and minds.

A brilliant survey of the history and civilisations of the

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Middle East by one of the world's greatest authorities on the subject In this immensely readable and wide-ranging book, Bernard Lewis charts the successive transformations of the Middle East, beginning with the two great empires,

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the Roman and the Persian, and covering the growth of Christianity, the rise and spread of Islam, the waves of invaders from the east, the Mongol hordes of Jengiz Khan, the rise of the Ottoman Turks, and the changing balance of power between the Muslim

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and Christian worlds. 'This book is a masterpiece' Sir Anthony Parsons, Daily Telegraph  
Written by renowned scholar Bernard Lewis, The Emergence of Modern Turkey has established itself as the preferred one-volume history of modern Turkey. It

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covers the emergence of Turkey over two centuries, from the decline and collapse of the Ottoman Empire up to the present day. In a new chapter, Lewis discusses the origins of his book in the Cold War era and the events that have taken place

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inclusion in NATO and application to the European Union, and its involvement with the politics of the Middle East. Authoritative and insightful, The Emergence of Modern Turkey remains the classic text on the history of modern Turkey. "Reflects on events

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that have transformed the Middle East between World War II and the Arab Spring, offering insight into the ""clash of civilizations"" that led to current hostilities and how world leaders can appropriately respond. By the best-selling author of



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of Western thought.  
15,000 first printing.  
Bernard Lewis is  
recognized around  
the globe as one of  
the leading  
authorities on Islam.  
Hailed as "the  
world's foremost  
Islamic scholar"  
(Wall Street Journal  
) , as "a towering  
figure among  
experts on the

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culture and religion of the Muslim world" (Baltimore Sun ), and as "the doyen of Middle Eastern studies" (New York Times ), Lewis is nothing less than a national treasure, a trusted voice that politicians, journalists, historians, and the general public have

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all turned to for insight into the Middle East. Now, Lewis has brought together writings on religion and government in the Middle East, so different than in the Western world. The collection includes previously unpublished writings, English

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originals of articles  
published before  
only in foreign  
languages, and an  
introduction to the  
book by Lewis.

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Went Wrong? A New  
York Times

Bestseller "Replete  
with the exceptional  
historical insight  
that one has come  
to expect from the

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world's foremost  
Islamic scholar."

--Karen Elliott

House, Wall Street

Journal Lewis has

done us all--Muslim

and non-Muslim

alike--a remarkable

service.... The

book's great

strength, and its

claim upon our

attention, [is that] it

offers a long view in

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the midst of so much short-term and confusing punditry on television, in the op-ed pages, on campuses and in strategic studies think tanks." --Paul Kennedy, The New York Times Book Review Acclaim for From Babel to Dragomans "Lewis

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has long been considered the West's leading interpreter of Mideast culture and history, and this collection only solidifies his reputation."--National Review "For more than four decades, Lewis has been one of the most respected scholars



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and prolific writers on the history and politics of the Middle East. In this compilation of more than 50 journal articles and essays, he displays the full range of his eloquence, knowledge, and insight regarding this pivotal and volatile

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region."--Booklist

[The Cambridge  
History of Islam:  
Volume 1A, The  
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Lands from Pre-  
Islamic Times to the  
First World War  
The Religion and the  
People \(paperback\)  
Fragments of Life,  
Letters, and History  
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Society and  
Civilisation  
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: 490 illustrations,  
160 in colour, 330  
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drawings and maps  
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[An Historical  
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Religion and Politics  
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First published in  
1970, The Cambridge  
History of Islam is the  
most comprehensive

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and ambitious  
collaborative survey of  
Islamic history and  
civilization yet to  
appear in English. On  
publication it was  
welcomed as a work  
useful for both  
reference and reading,  
for the general reader,  
student and specialist  
alike. It has now been  
reprinted, with

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corrections, and for ease of handling the original two hardcover volumes have each been divided into two separate paperbacks. A collection of the most important essays on past and current history by the Western world's foremost Islamic scholar Bernard Lewis has

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charted the great centuries of Islamic power and civilisation but also, in his recent books **WHAT WENT WRONG?** and **THE CRISIS OF ISLAM**, Islam's calamitous and bitter decline. This book collects together his most interesting and significant essays, papers, reviews and

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lectures. They range from historical subjects such as religion and politics in Islam and Judaism, the culture and people of Iran, the great mosques of Istanbul, Middle Eastern food and feasts, the Mughals and the Ottomans, the rise and fall of British power in



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the Middle East and  
North Africa, Islam  
and racism - to current  
history such as the  
significance of  
Saddam Hussein and  
Osama bin Laden.  
Includes discussion of  
the problems of  
Western historians  
dealing with the  
Islamic world.  
Hailed as "the doyen

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of Middle Eastern studies" in The New York Times Book Review, Bernard Lewis stands at the height of his field. "To read Mr. Lewis," wrote Fouad Ajami in The Wall Street Journal, "is to be taken through a treacherous terrain by the coolest and most reassuring of

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guides. You are in the hands of the Islamic world's foremost living historian." Now this sure-handed guide takes us through treacherous terrain indeed--the events of 1492, a year laden with epic events and riven by political debate. With elegance and erudition, Lewis

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explores that climactic year as a clash of civilizations--a clash not only of the New World and the Old, but also of Christendom and Islam, of Europe and the rest. In the same year that Columbus set sail across the Atlantic, he reminds us, the Spanish

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monarchy captured  
Granada, the last  
Muslim stronghold on  
the peninsula, and also  
expelled the Jews.  
Lewis uses these three  
epochal events to  
explore the nature of  
the European-Islamic  
conflict, placing the  
voyages of discovery  
in a striking new  
context. He traces

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Christian Europe's path from being a primitive backwater on the edges of the vast, cosmopolitan Caliphate, through the heightening rivalry of the two religions, to the triumph of the West over Islam, examining the factors behind their changing fortunes and cultural

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qualities. Balanced and insightful, this far-reaching discussion of the encounters between Islam, the West, and the globe provides a new understanding of the distant events that gave shape to the modern world.

The history of a rich cultural exchange

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between Islam and the West covers this often tumultuous relationship, from the first Arab embassy to the Vikings to the Taliban on the internet. 15,000 first printing.

Administration, society and intellectual life of the Turkish Empire during the two



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centuries that followed  
the capture of  
Constantinople in  
1453.

Using  
journals, letters, diaries  
& despatches, many  
newly translated, the  
author reveals the  
impact of the Muslim  
civilisation on  
primitive Europe &  
explores the subtle

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ways in which the two cultures influenced each other

The once-neglected study of counter-insurgency operations has recently emerged as an area of central concern for Western governments and their military organizations. While counter-

insurgency represents

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a hugely challenging form of contemporary warfare, there exists a considerable body of experience that offers assistance in the form of examples of both good and bad practice. The main aim of this book is to present these examples and the lessons that can be drawn from them.

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Such lessons can be of considerable benefit to today's policy-makers and military practitioners. The book also considers how these lessons can actually fit into the contemporary framework – as defined by military, political and institutional logic –

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that shapes and bounds  
today's counter-  
insurgency warfare.

Dimensions of  
Counter-Insurgency  
explores a number of  
key themes including:  
the experience of  
counter-insurgency in  
the Middle East; the  
contribution of  
maritime and air  
forces; the challenges

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posed in adapting Western armed forces to their new tasks; and the responses made – in light of the perceived need for international action against insurgencies – by multilateral institutions such as NATO and the European Union. This book features a broad

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range of contributions from academics and military thinkers on both sides of the Atlantic. This was previously published as a special issue of Contemporary Security Policy.

[A Brief History of the Last 2,000 Years Faith and Power](#)  
[The Assassins](#)

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[The Multiple Identities](#)



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[of the Middle East](#)

Assassin came  
to the West  
around the time  
of the Crusades,  
when it was the  
name of an  
Islamic sect  
feared by  
Crusaders and  
the Muslim  
establishment

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alike. This study traces the origins of the Assassin sect and chronicles both their doctrines and the life of their enigmatic founder.

The Middle East is the birthplace

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of ancient civilizations, but most of the modern states that occupy its territory today are of recent origin, as are many key concepts of communal and individual

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identity and  
loyalty that the  
peoples of the  
region now  
confront. In *The  
Multiple  
Identities of the  
Middle East*,  
eminent Middle  
East historian  
Bernard Lewis  
elucidates the

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critical role of  
identity in the  
domestic,  
regional, and  
international  
tensions and  
conflicts of the  
Middle East  
today.

Examining  
religion, race  
and language,

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country, nation, and state, Lewis traces the rapid evolution of the identities of the Middle Eastern peoples, from the collapse of the centuries-old Ottoman Empire in 1918 to today's clash of

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old and new allegiances. He shows how, during the twentieth century, imported Western ideas such as liberalism, fascism, socialism,

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patriotism, and  
nationalism  
have  
transformed  
Middle  
Easterners'  
ancient notions  
of community,  
their self-  
perceptions, and  
their aspirations.  
To this



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fascinating  
historical  
portrait, Lewis  
brings an  
understanding  
of the region  
and its peoples,  
as well as a  
profound  
sympathy for  
the plight that  
the modern

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world has  
imposed on  
them. The result  
is an invaluable  
tool in our  
understanding  
of an area that  
is of increasing  
global  
importance and  
concern today.  
Examines the

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Judaeo-Islamic tradition, traces the history of Islam, and describes the reasons for the breakdown in relations between the Jews and the Islamic world  
This is the

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eBook version of the printed book. If the print book includes a CD-ROM, this content is not included within the eBook version. Praise for Bernard Lewis "For newcomers to

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the subject  
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