



Ideals and Realities of Islam

By Seyyed Hossein Nasr

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This is the first of very few English books to treat Islam from its own point of view, from within the tradition. It is written for the Western reader interested in Islam, and also for the Western-educated Muslim. Here, the author seeks to answer from the Islamic standpoint, many of the criticisms brought against the Islamic tradition by the modern West. This book explains, in contemporary language, the truths of Islam as revealed in the Quran, and as followed by generations of devout Muslims. The major aspects of the Islamic tradition are discussed in detail, whilst the traditional Islamic doctrines and beliefs are explained in response to criticisms of modern thought, with frequent comparisons to other world religions. This revised edition of Seyyed Hossein Nasr's seminal work includes an updated, extensive, annotated bibliography for each chapter by both Muslim and Western scholars as well as a Preface by Titus Burckhardt and a Foreword by Huston Smith. This classical book has been rendered into numerous languages including Indonesian, translated by the present President of Indonesia.

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- Sales Rank: #623954 in Books
- Brand: Brand: ABC International Group, Inc.
- Published on: 2000-09-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .70" h x 5.40" w x 8.50" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 215 pages

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Review

'Seyyed Hossein Nasr dominates his subject ... he unites in his person an Islamic structure which encompassed two points of view: that of religious law and contemplation, and a supreme knowledge of modern scientific methods.' From the Preface by Titus Burckhardt. --Titus Burckhardt

About the Author

Seyyed Hossein Nasr was born in Tehran to a family of traditional scholars and physicians. After receiving his early education in Iran he went to America where he studied physics, and the history of science and philosophy at M.I.T. and Harvard, where he received his doctorate. Nasr was Professor at Tehran University and founder and first president of the Iranian Academy of Philosophy. He is currently Professor of Islamic Studies at George Washington University and author of numerous books including: 'Islam and the Plight of Modern Man', 'A Young Muslim's Guide to the Modern World' and 'Science and Civilization in Islam', all published by the Islamic Texts Society.

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