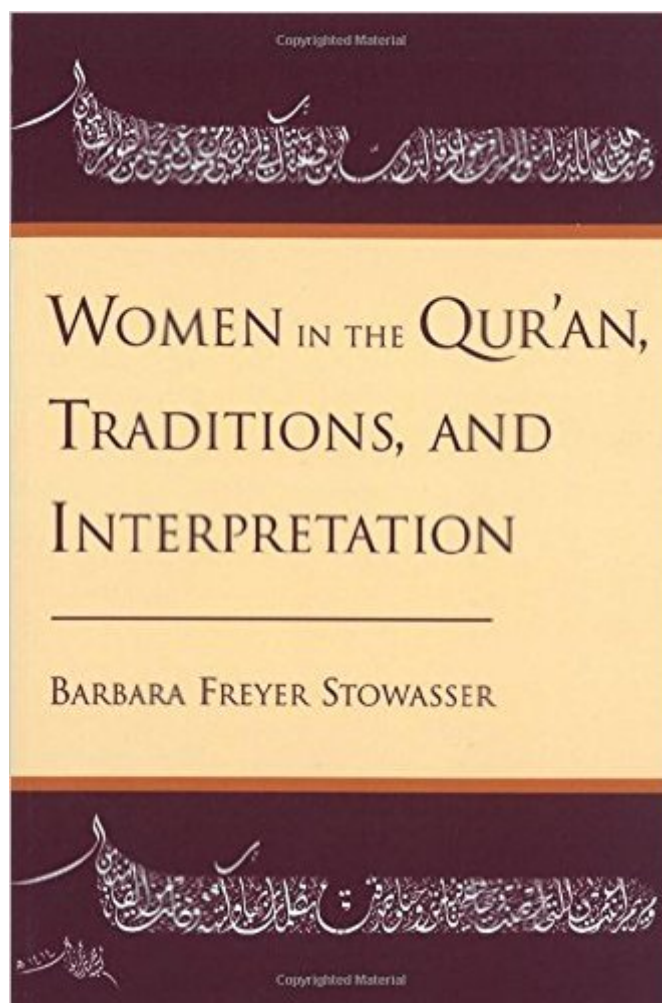


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Women In The Qur'an, Traditions, And Interpretation



Synopsis

Islamic ideas about women and their role in society spark considerable debate both in the Western world and in the Islamic world itself. Despite the popular attention surrounding Middle Eastern attitudes toward women, there has been little systematic study of the statements regarding women in the Qur'an. Stowasser fills the void with this study on the women of Islamic sacred history. By telling their stories in Qur'an and interpretation, she introduces Islamic doctrine and its past and present socio-economic and political applications. Stowasser establishes the link between the female figure as cultural symbol, and Islamic self-perceptions from the beginning to the present time.

Book Information

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press; Revised edition (August 22, 1996)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195111486

ISBN-13: 978-0195111484

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 0.6 x 6.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #632,730 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #146 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Women in Islam](#) #241 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Quran](#) #277 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Religious Studies > Islam](#)

Customer Reviews

I was looking for a work that talked about women in the Qur'an and the Hadiths, and also included cultural tales about notable women, such as the Prophet's wives, Hagar, Mary, etc.. Stowasser does a great job of providing this information. She guides us through the processes in which information about women is related in the Qur'an and then interpreted in various ways to reflect the traditions and cultures of the times in which the interpretations were made. She provides a thoughtful analysis of what the information means and has to say to modern women in Islam. Well documented.

To understand the complexity of women's role in Islam, Barbara Stowasser examines the various components that make up Islamic world view, from Qur'an, Hadith, and Surah, to prominent exegetic texts, and its cultural history. Focused through the lens of women in Islamic

traditions, this interdisciplinary exploration understands that religious ideas are linked with social reality in mutually affective relationships, shaping it and being shaped by it in turn. The cross-referential methodology throughout the text moves seamlessly along passages from the Qur'an, earlier tafsir, traditions of Hadith, as well as along adversaries in contemporary Islamic discourse: modernists, traditionalists, and fundamentalists. As consequence, the reader is exposed to a spectrum of responses to conceptions of individual women from the Qur'an, while knowing the ideological source of certain viewpoints. Stowasser's methodology offers critical analysis while also deciphering diverse elements of some internal Islamic debates.

Brilliant book! Continues to be essential reading for representation of women in Quran, Hadith, & interpretations. Very readable, very accessible.

What an amazing piece of work! So informative! Again it makes you look at the religious texts from a different angle!

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