

Saudi Arabia Reading List

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia • David E. Long

HISTORY • 1998 • PAPER • 192 PAGES

A comprehensive look at modern Saudi Arabia and the complex issues facing the nation. Drawing from extensive research and Long's personal experiences as a Foreign Services officer, this book surveys the land, politics, religion and people of the region. It includes chapters on the Hadj, oil and the Saudi economy. (\$19.95)



Arabian Sands • Wilfred Thesiger • Rory Stewart

EXPLORATION • 2007 • PAPER • 400 PAGES • **FAVORITE**

The last of the great British traveler-explorers, Wilfred Thesiger (1910-2003) journeyed among the nomadic camel-breeding peoples of Southern Arabia in the late 1940s, falling in love with the desert and ways of life of the Bedouin. This eloquent book, a Longitude favorite, is his tribute to vanished traditions. (\$16.00)



One Thousand Roads to Mecca, Ten Centuries of Writing about the Pilgrimage to Mecca • Michael Wolfe

TRAVEL NARRATIVE • 1999 • PAPER • 620 PAGES

An American convert to Islam, Wolfe combed the large volume of literature of the Hadj to compile this diverse and fascinating anthology of writings over the centuries. The result is an excellent introduction to the culture, religion, people and philosophy of Islam. Wolfe also wrote an account of his own journey entitled "The Hadj, an American's Pilgrimage to Mecca." (\$20.00)



Personal Narrative of a Pilgrimage to Al-Madinah & Mecca • Richard Francis Burton

TRAVEL NARRATIVE • 1993 • PAPER • 436 PAGES

Disguised as a Muslim, Burton enters Islam's holiest sites, participating in all the rituals of the Hadj in Mecca. A fascinating tale of adventure, Burton was an astute observer and resourceful traveling companion. This book provides insight into the mind of the famous Victorian explorer as well as Arabian society near the turn of the century. Volume one of the 1893 memorial edition with a preface by Isabel Burton. (\$16.95)



Arabia Map • Geoprojects

Saudi Arabia and the Arabian Peninsula at a scale of 1:3,500,000. Two Sides. 26x31 inches. (\$21.95)



Also recommended

- ❖ **A History of the Arab Peoples** • Albert Hourani • HISTORY • A grand history of the Arab world by the distinguished Oxford historian Albert Hourani, this is a readable and much acclaimed survey that ranges over 13 centuries, chronicling the political, spiritual, religious and cultural traditions of the Arab peoples in 26 lucidly written chapters. (\$16.99)
- ❖ **Al-Qur'an: A Contemporary Translation** • Ali Jamale Ahmed • RELIGION • A handsome bilingual edition of the Holy Book of Islam as elegantly translated by the Pakistani novelist, critic and diplomat Ahmed Ali. (ISL02, \$19.95)
- ❖ **In the Shadow of the Prophet, The Struggle for the Soul of Islam** • Milton Viorst • HISTORY • A wideranging analysis based on interviews with key figures in Iran and the Arab world. (\$17.50)
- ❖ **Islam and the West** • Bernard Lewis • RELIGION • In this illuminating collection of essays, one of the great authorities on the Middle East explores the common ground shared by Islam and the West. (\$19.99)

- ❖ **Islam, A Short History** • [Karen Armstrong](#) • RELIGION • Armstrong brings authority and experience to this vivid, clear-headed survey of the history and impact of Islam from the birth of Muhammad to present-day challenges. A Modern Library Chronicles book. (\$14.95)
- ❖ **Islam in Saudi Arabia** • [David Commins](#) • RELIGION • In his scholarly treatment of the influence of Islam in Saudi Arabia, David Commins details how puritanical Islam (Wahhabism) dictates the country's societal norms, placing the right-wing movement in the wider context of Islamic history. Cornell University Press. (\$19.95)
- ❖ **Islam, The Straight Path** • [John L. Esposito](#) • RELIGION • A well-written survey of the faith, practice and beliefs of Islam. It's a balanced tome intended for an undergraduate audience, yet it also functions as an excellent overview for the general reader. (\$39.95)
- ❖ **Nine Parts of Desire, The Hidden World of Islamic Women** • [Geraldine Brooks](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • A highly readable overview of the role of women in Islamic society, drawn from the author's many interviews with women throughout the Arab World. (\$14.95)
- ❖ **Politics in an Arabian Oasis: The Rashidis of Saudi Arabia** • [Madawi Al Rasheed](#) • HISTORY • A study of the Rashidi rulers of 19th-century Central Asia. (\$39.00)
- ❖ **Saudi Arabia, Guarding the Desert Kingdom** • [Anthony Cordesman](#) • CULTURAL PORTRAIT • Saudi Arabia and its national security since the Gulf War. (\$50.00)
- ❖ **The Arab World, Forty Years of Change** • [Elizabeth Warnock and Rob Fernea](#) • [Thomas Hartwell](#) • HISTORY • An award-winning look at life in the Middle East, updated in the 1990s. The authors revisit towns and cities, paying close attention to how changes such as the Gulf War and Arab-Israeli peace negotiations have impacted daily life. (\$17.95)
- ❖ **The Arab World: Society, Culture and State** • [Halim Barakat](#) • HISTORY • A scholarly study of Arab culture, thought and literature. (\$27.95)
- ❖ **The Hajj Today, A Survey of the Contemporary Makkah Pilgrimage** • [David E. Long](#) • HISTORY • (\$29.50)
- ❖ **The Islamic Threat: Myth or Reality?** • [John L. Esposito](#) • RELIGION • An insightful survey of Islam, its history and contemporary politics. (\$19.99)
- ❖ **The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money and Power** • [Daniel Yergin](#) • HISTORY • Master storyteller Yergin conjures a large and fascinating cast of tycoons, sheiks and politicians in this monumental and thoroughly researched history examining the story of petroleum and the West's dependence on the oil-rich Middle East. (\$22.00)
- ❖ **Thicker Than Oil, America's Uneasy Partnership With Saudi Arabia** • [Rachel Bronson](#) • HISTORY • In this chronicle of America's relationship with Saudi Arabia over the decades, Bronson reveals how shared interests have sowed the seeds of Islamic radicalism in the region. (\$15.95)
- ❖ **Understanding Islam: An Introduction to the Muslim World** • [Thomas W. Lippman](#) • RELIGION • A concise introduction to the Muslim world and Islamic faith. (\$14.00)
- ❖ **At the Drop of a Veil** • [Marianne Alireza](#) • BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR • In this highly readable memoir, Alireza recounts her experience as an American woman living in Saudi Arabia as the wife of a Saudi. (\$15.00)
- ❖ **Sandstorms, Days and Nights in Arabia** • [Peter Theroux](#) • BIOGRAPHY/MEMOIR • As a journalist in Saudi Arabia, Peter Theroux (Paul's brother) learned the language and immersed himself in the realities of day-to-day life. This book is a memoir of his experiences, both a revealing collection of anecdotes and a humorous portrait of a place. (\$21.00)

- ❖ **Mecca, The Sacred City** • [Ziauddin Sardar](#) • TRAVEL NARRATIVE • Sardar revered Mecca as a child and kept the city as a moral and geographical compass point throughout his life. His book is a mixture of history, research and reportage held together by stories of his own travels to the pilgrimage site that draws some three million Muslims each year. (\$21.00)
- ❖ **The Hadj, An American's Journey to Mecca** • [Michael Wolfe](#) • TRAVEL NARRATIVE • Wolfe's mesmerizing account of his journey from Morocco to Mecca. (\$16.00)
- ❖ **How to Read Islamic Carpets** • [Walter Denny](#) • INSTRUCTIVE GUIDE • A handy guide to judging the quality, origin and level of craftsmanship of Persian rugs, useful for travelers and collectors alike. Fifty-five examples of Islamic carpets are illustrated with photographs and revealing details. (\$25.00)
- ❖ **Girls of Riyadh** • [Rajaa Al Sanea](#) • LITERATURE • The tale of four young women at a university in Riyadh, striving to live according to the traditions of Saudi society. This first novel by 24-year-old Al Sanea created a stir upon publication in Arabic. (\$24.95)
- ❖ **The Arabian Nights** • [Husain Haddawy](#) • LITERATURE • Translator Husain Haddawy grew up hearing his grandmothers' friends re-tell these tales on winter nights in Baghdad. A wonderful introduction to Islamic Andalusia, the tales, translated from the oldest remaining Arabic version; bring to life the culture and society of the Islamic world at its height. (\$17.95)
- ❖ **Wolves of the Crescent Moon, A Novel** • [Yusuf Muhaymid](#) • LITERATURE • The short, poetic tale of three misfits -- and the power of storyselling, set in Riyadh. (\$14.00)
- ❖ **Saudi Arabia Exposed: Inside a Kingdom in Crisis** ~ John R. Bradley