



Muhammad: A Very Short Introduction

By Jonathan A.C. Brown

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As the founder of Islam, a religion with over one billion followers, Muhammad is beyond all doubt one of the most influential figures in world history. But learning about his life and understanding his importance has always proven difficult, as our only source of knowledge comes from the biography of him written by his followers, the reliability of which has been questioned by Western scholars. This *Very Short Introduction* provides a superb introduction to the major aspects of Muhammad's life and its importance, providing both Muslim and Western historical perspectives. It explains the prominent roles that Muhammad's persona has played in the Islamic world throughout history, from the medieval to the modern period. The book also sheds light on modern controversies such as the *Satanic Verses*, for which author Salman Rushdie was condemned for blasphemy, and the uproar over Danish cartoons of Muhammad, which triggered violent protests around the world. As these recent events show, whatever the truth about Muhammad's life, his persona still plays a crucial role in Muslim life and civilization.

About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, **Very Short Introductions** offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a masterful treatment informed by first rate scholarship yet engaging, accessible, and distinctively different from previous books on Muhammad."

--John L. Esposito, Georgetown University, and author of 'The Future of Islam'

About the Author

Jonathan A. C. Brown is Assistant Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle.

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