



The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims

By Richard Fletcher

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher

In this immensely readable history that couldn't be more timely, award-winning historian Richard Fletcher chronicles the relationship between Islam and Christianity from the time of Muhammad to the Reformation. With lucidity and sound scholarship, Fletcher demonstrates that though there were fruitful trading and cultural interactions between Muslims and Christians during the period when the Arabs controlled most of the Mediterranean world, each group viewed the other's religion from the beginning as fundamentally different and suspect. Eschewing moral judgments and easy generalizations, **The Cross and the Crescent** allows readers to draw their own conclusions and explore the implications for the present day.

 [Download The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story o ...pdf](#)

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims

By Richard Fletcher

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher

In this immensely readable history that couldn't be more timely, award-winning historian Richard Fletcher chronicles the relationship between Islam and Christianity from the time of Muhammad to the Reformation. With lucidity and sound scholarship, Fletcher demonstrates that though there were fruitful trading and cultural interactions between Muslims and Christians during the period when the Arabs controlled most of the Mediterranean world, each group viewed the other's religion from the beginning as fundamentally different and suspect. Eschewing moral judgments and easy generalizations, **The Cross and the Crescent** allows readers to draw their own conclusions and explore the implications for the present day.

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #550996 in Books
- Published on: 2005-02-01
- Released on: 2005-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.70" h x .57" w x 5.07" l, .38 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages



[Download The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story o ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Richard Fletcher reminds his readers that the scope of his book is limited, even though the story he is telling is not. An adept historian who writes with clarity and expertise, Fletcher sets for himself the nearly impossible task of relating the complex interrelations between the Islamic and Christian worlds from the 7th to the 16th centuries, focusing on the Mediterranean, but touching upon Northern Europe, Asia Minor, and even on the vast reach of the Mongol Empire. Fletcher describes the establishment of Islam in the 7th century and the subsequent rise of the Abbasid Empire a century later and describes the shift from an Islamic society defined by Arab ethnicity to a ruling power defined by religion and culture. Initially, Fletcher explains, Christians were tolerated (but disdained) in the fast-expanding Islamic world primarily because they provided a link to the ancient Greek and Roman learning their conquerors coveted. However, in less-receptive regions, such as North Africa, Church leaders fled to Sicily and southern France, weakening a Christian presence in those areas.

While Fletcher provides many examples of interaction between the two worlds--including diplomacy, pilgrimage, trade, and most obviously, war (the Crusades)--he maintains that these contacts were never solidified by an earnest attempt on the part of these diverse cultures to "blend." In the best of times there was coexistence. In the worst, there was outright persecution. The reversal of Islamic supremacy took many centuries. Fletcher cannot explain the complex reasons for this in great detail. However, he does provide some provocative insight. The Islamic world flourished when it was most open to ancient thought. Similarly, the groundwork for European hegemony was laid when 13th-century Christian thinkers began to absorb and expand on Islamic learning. By contrast, the Islamic world withdrew "from intellectual receptivity" at the height of its power. There is a lesson to be learned here. The exchange and integration of ideas can be mightier than the sword. --*Silvana Tropea*

From Publishers Weekly

This illuminating study of Christian-Muslim relations in the Middle Ages shows just how intractable the conflict between Islam and the West has always been. Historian Fletcher (Bloodfeud; Barbarian Conversion; etc.), covers the period from the first Muslim conquests in the seventh century to the 16th-century peak of the Ottoman Empire. The story is one of frequent military conflict, but also of trade, diplomacy, technological diffusion and intellectual exchange as the Muslim world absorbed and elaborated the science and philosophy of the Greeks and then retransmitted them to Europe. Despite these far-reaching economic and cultural interactions, Fletcher argues, Christians and Muslims lived in "a state of mutual religious aversion," even in border regions like Spain where substantial populations of both faiths lived side by side; Christians viewed Muslims as bloodthirsty heretics, while Muslims sneered at Christian trinitarianism as a self-contradictory polytheism superceded by Muhammad's revelations. Fletcher's stress on early modern Europe's growing (but unrequited) openness to and curiosity about Islam as the key to the evolution of the notion of religious pluralism--a development rooted ultimately, he feels, in the multiplicity and diversity of Christian theological traditions--is fairly conventional rise-of-the-West historiography. Still, he ably synthesizes a mass of historical material on the ways in which people both accommodated and resisted the influence of alien religions in their lives. The result is a readable, nuanced account that raises profound questions about the role of religion and ideology in shaping our worldview.

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

Rather than comparing Islam and Christianity, historian Fletcher surveys the first 900 years of relations between the realms of Christianity and Islam. Following Muhammad's death in 632, an Arab-led Islamic empire explosively expanded to Persia in the east and Spain, via North Africa, in the west and absorbed the previously Christian Levant. When the Crusades began in 1095, Seljuk Turks rather than Arabs or the Persians who succeeded them ran Islam's empire. After the Crusades petered out two centuries later, the Ottomans seized leadership. They lost Spain but rubbed out Byzantium, charged into the Balkans, and by 1529, besieged Vienna. All this time, trade in goods between Christian and Islamic lands flourished.

Exchange of ideas occurred mostly between Islamic Spain and Christendom, however, and finally Islam discouraged it altogether. The most striking common characteristic of Christendom and Islam for most of this period was denial of religious pluralism; indeed, no one of either faith formulated anything like it until modernity was at hand. An invaluable, nonpartisan review of some too-little-known history. *Ray Olson*

Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donna Wood:

The book The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You can utilize to make your capable much more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting stress or having big problem together with your subject. If you can make reading a book The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims to get your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own personal capable, increase your knowledge about several or all subjects. You can know everything if you like available and read a e-book The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims. Kinds of book are several. It means that, science publication or encyclopedia or other people. So , how do you think about this book?

Nick McAllister:

What do you concentrate on book? It is just for students because they're still students or this for all people in the world, the particular best subject for that? Merely you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has diverse personality and hobby for each and every other. Don't to be obligated someone or something that they don't desire do that. You must know how great and also important the book The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims. All type of book are you able to see on many sources. You can look for the internet solutions or other social media.

David Beall:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the water world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, and then why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition info. Even you love The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims, you may enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh can occur its mind hangout fellas. What? Still don't get it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

Frederica Dawkins:

In this particular era which is the greater man or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple way to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. One of the books in the top list in your reading list is The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Hillsides can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

Download and Read Online The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher #EFCSXKYQ359

Read The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher for online ebook

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher books to read online.

Online The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher ebook PDF download

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher Doc

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher MobiPocket

The Cross and The Crescent: The Dramatic Story of the Earliest Encounters Between Christians and Muslims By Richard Fletcher EPub