



# The Lives of Muhammad

By Kecia Ali

Download now

Read Online →

## The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali

Recent outbursts sparked by a viral video and controversial cartoons powerfully illustrate the passions and sensitivities that continue to surround the depiction of the seventh-century founder of Islam. *The Lives of Muhammad* delves into the many ways the Prophet's life story has been told from the earliest days of Islam to the present, by both Muslims and non-Muslims. Emphasizing the major transformations since the nineteenth century, Kecia Ali shows that far from being mutually opposed, these various perspectives have become increasingly interdependent.

Since the nineteenth century, two separate streams of writing, one hagiographic and the other polemical, have merged into a single, contentious story about the life of Muhammad. Protestant missionaries, European Orientalists, Indian and Egyptian modernists, and American voices across the spectrum, including preachers, scholars, Islamophobes, journalists, academics, and new-age gurus, debated Muhammad's character and the facts of his life. In the process, texts written symbolically came to be read literally. Muhammad's accomplishments as a religious and political leader, his military encounters with Meccans and Medinan Jews, and a subject of perennial interest his relationships with women, including his young wife Aisha, are among the key subjects writers engaged, repurposing early materials for new circumstances.

Many of the ideas about Muhammad that Muslims embrace today—Muhammad the social reformer, Muhammad the consummate leader, Muhammad the ideal husband—arose in tandem and in tension with Western depictions. These were in turn shaped by new ideas about religion, sexuality, and human accomplishments.

↓ [Download The Lives of Muhammad ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online The Lives of Muhammad ...pdf](#)

# The Lives of Muhammad

By Kecia Ali

## The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali

Recent outbursts sparked by a viral video and controversial cartoons powerfully illustrate the passions and sensitivities that continue to surround the depiction of the seventh-century founder of Islam. *The Lives of Muhammad* delves into the many ways the Prophet's life story has been told from the earliest days of Islam to the present, by both Muslims and non-Muslims. Emphasizing the major transformations since the nineteenth century, Kecia Ali shows that far from being mutually opposed, these various perspectives have become increasingly interdependent.

Since the nineteenth century, two separate streams of writing, one hagiographic and the other polemical, have merged into a single, contentious story about the life of Muhammad. Protestant missionaries, European Orientalists, Indian and Egyptian modernists, and American voices across the spectrum, including preachers, scholars, Islamophobes, journalists, academics, and new-age gurus, debated Muhammad's character and the facts of his life. In the process, texts written symbolically came to be read literally. Muhammad's accomplishments as a religious and political leader, his military encounters with Meccans and Medinan Jews, and—a subject of perennial interest—his relationships with women, including his young wife Aisha, are among the key subjects writers engaged, repurposing early materials for new circumstances.

Many of the ideas about Muhammad that Muslims embrace today—Muhammad the social reformer, Muhammad the consummate leader, Muhammad the ideal husband—arose in tandem and in tension with Western depictions. These were in turn shaped by new ideas about religion, sexuality, and human accomplishments.

## The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #941925 in Books
- Published on: 2014-10-07
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.75" h x 6.00" w x 1.25" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 352 pages

 [Download The Lives of Muhammad ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Lives of Muhammad ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

### Review

[Ali] examines Muhammad biographies as a genre to which both Muslim and non-Muslim authors have contributed... The modern telling of Muhammad's biography appears in Ali's work as a collaboration between Muslims and non-Muslims, revivalists and reformists, sympathetic outsiders and antagonistic critics who drew not only from a more or less stable outline of Muhammad's life, but also from worldwide notions of great men and from certain controversies... For Ali, the development of Muhammad's biography serves to undermine the famed clash-of-civilizations thesis, in which the West and the Muslim world exist as separate and self-contained wholes. In her view, the mutual influence between Muslim and non-Muslim writers presents a world of shared values and assumptions about what constitutes authoritative evidence, in which writers who aim to defend Muhammad and those who seek to discredit him together produce a body of literature that is neither East nor West... Ali's coverage of historical shifts among Muhammad's followers and opponents alike challenges our ideas about universal norms... *The Lives of Muhammad* leads its reader to rethink assumptions about history, biography and the imagined East–West divide... [It] serves to skillfully complicate modern debates over Muhammad's life and character, and his relevance for modern Muslims. (Michael Muhammad Knight *Washington Post* 2014-12-15)

Ali offers a controversial thesis: Biographies of Muhammad have taken a Protestant turn. She focuses on Muhammad not as a source of metaphysical truth or personal piety but as a historical person with his own life story. Just as depictions of the historical Jesus are ever-changing, refashioned to fit new circumstances, so is the quest for the historical Muhammad... No one can finish Ali's book without a renewed curiosity about reading, interpretation, and authority. (Bruce R. Lawrence *Chronicle of Higher Education* 2014-10-06)

*The Lives of Muhammad* is not merely a biography, but a biography of biographies. It's a book devoted to unraveling the story of the Muslim prophet over the last 1,500 years and a serious contribution to the debate over what is real, what is apocryphal and what is myth... *The Lives of Muhammad* has set the bar high and it is [Ali's] best work to date. It is exhaustive, well-researched and an amazing contribution to the humanities. (Shyam K. Sriram *PopMatters* 2014-11-11)

Ali takes an innovative approach to a biography of Muhammad, comparing the various accounts of his life in what is probably the only book to do so comprehensively. She concludes that, as sensibilities evolved in the time since Muhammad's life, the biographies of the prophet expanded or even altered in keeping with prevailing mores. (*Publishers Weekly* 2014-10-06)

An extraordinarily insightful and illuminating book?well-written and highly readable. Henceforth it will be essential reading alongside any biography of Muhammad. (Leila Ahmed, Harvard University)

**Kecia Ali** has written an engaging and accessible book for anyone wishing to understand a wide variety of historical and current perspectives on Muhammad's life. (Mona Siddiqui, University of Edinburgh)

This book explores the stories around not just Prophet Muhammad, but also those close to him. The primary focus is to uncover the motivations behind these stories, and trace the shifting emphasis that evolved as these narratives were told and retold. These stories were tailored and pressed into service by both opponents and proponents of Muslims from the advent of Islam to contemporary times. (Muhammed Hassanali *Booklist* 2014-10-15)

**Ali** attempts to uncover not only the stories of the Prophet Muhammad and those close to him but also the motivations behind recording or retelling these stories... Ali traces the shifting emphasis on the narratives through time and across several authors who crafted these stories and deployed them either to legitimize or discredit Muhammad's prophethood. (Muhammed Hassanali *Library Journal* 2014-09-05)

Muhammad presents two violently incompatible faces to the historian. For devout Muslims, relying both on the Quran and the vast corpus of sacred traditions, the hadith, he serves as the unimpeachable model for human behavior, not only in matters of faith and ritual but in the most humdrum aspects of daily life, from marital and business relations to personal hygiene, including even the proper use of the toothpick. For non-Muslims, drawing on the same sources, he has been viewed from the earliest times as lustful and barbarous, as a raving impostor aping the ancient prophets; nowadays he is further charged with misogyny and pedophilia. The contrast is so stark as to appear irreconcilable. Instead of attempting to skirt this divergence, **Ali** uses it to structure her inquiry. (Eric Ormsby *Wall Street Journal* 2015-01-09)

About the Author

Kecia Ali is Associate Professor of Religion at Boston University.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Starr Place:**

The particular book *The Lives of Muhammad* will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to spell out the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to study, this book very suitable to you. The book *The Lives of Muhammad* is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can easier to read the book.

**Michael Johnson:**

The e-book untitled *The Lives of Muhammad* is the e-book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the guide content that will be shown to you actually. The language that writer use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article author was did a lot of analysis when write the book, so the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also can get the e-book of *The Lives of Muhammad* from the publisher to make you a lot more enjoy free time.

**Allen Schlemmer:**

In this era which is the greater individual or who has ability in doing something more are more important than other. Do you want to become certainly one of it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you should do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. On the list of books in the top record in your reading list will be *The Lives of Muhammad*. This book and that is qualified as *The Hungry Slopes* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking way up and review this reserve you can get many advantages.

**Tia Sargent:**

A lot of publication has printed but it is unique. You can get it by world wide web on social media. You can choose the most effective book for you, science, amusing, novel, or whatever simply by searching from it. It is called of book The Lives of Muhammad. You'll be able to your knowledge by it. Without making the printed book, it could add your knowledge and make a person happier to read. It is most important that, you must aware about reserve. It can bring you from one destination to other place.

**Download and Read Online The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali  
#OGMBN7ZWSAU**

## **Read The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali for online ebook**

The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali 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 Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali books to read online.

### **Online The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali ebook PDF download**

**The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali Doc**

**The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali Mobipocket**

**The Lives of Muhammad By Kecia Ali EPub**