



God and Logic in Islam: The Caliphate of Reason

By John Walbridge

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This book investigates the central role of reason in Islamic intellectual life. Despite widespread characterization of Islam as a system of belief based only on revelation, John Walbridge argues that rational methods, not fundamentalism, have characterized Islamic law, philosophy, and education since the medieval period. His research demonstrates that this medieval Islamic rational tradition was opposed by both modernists and fundamentalists, resulting in a general collapse of traditional Islamic intellectual life and its replacement by more modern but far shallower forms of thought. However, the resources of this Islamic scholarly tradition remain an integral part of the Islamic intellectual tradition and will prove vital to its revival. The future of Islam, Walbridge argues, will be marked by a return to rationalism.

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God and Logic in Islam: The Caliphate of Reason By John Walbridge Bibliography

- Rank: #4659287 in Books
- Brand: Walbridge John
- Published on: 2010-11-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .67" w x 5.98" l, .97 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 228 pages

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Review

"Walbridge's book is clearly the product of many years of study and reflection. Its tone is thoughtful, scholarly, and temperate. It is a fruitful source of insights for scholars of Islam, the Middle East, and international politics. Those who argue that Islam is inherently radical and irrational must take account of the argument he offers here, and the path he indicates for the modernization of Islam."

Luigi Bradizza, *The European Legacy*

About the Author

John Walbridge is a Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures at Indiana University. He is the author of nine books on Islam and Arabic culture, including four books on Islamic philosophy, including *The Wisdom of the Mystic East: Suhrawardi and Platonic Orientalism* (2001) and *Suhrawardi: The Philosophy of Illumination* (with Hossein Ziai, 1999).

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