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Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes

By *Tamim Ansary*



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Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes By Tamim Ansary

We in the west share a common narrative of world history. But our story largely omits a whole civilization whose citizens shared an entirely different narrative for a thousand years.

In *Destiny Disrupted*, Tamim Ansary tells the rich story of world history as the Islamic world saw it, from the time of Mohammed to the fall of the Ottoman Empire and beyond. He clarifies why our civilizations grew up oblivious to each other, what happened when they intersected, and how the Islamic world was affected by its slow recognition that Europe—a place it long perceived as primitive and disorganized—had somehow hijacked destiny.



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Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World Through Islamic Eyes By Tamim Ansary Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #12512 in Books
- Brand: PublicAffairs
- Published on: 2010-04-27
- Released on: 2010-04-27
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.50" h x 1.25" w x 5.75" l, .97 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 416 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

Dave Eggers, TheRumpus.net

"I'm in the middle of Tamim Ansary's *Destiny Disrupted: A History of the World through Islamic Eyes*, and it's incredibly illuminating. Ansary pretty much covers the entire history of Islam in an incredibly readable and lucid way. I've been recommending this book to everyone I know. Especially when people are looking for a comprehensive-but-approachable way to look at world history through the lens of Islam, there's no better book."

San Francisco Chronicle

"A must-read for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of the Islamic world. But the book is more than just a litany of past events. It is also an indispensable guide to understanding the political debates and conflicts of today, from 9/11 to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, from the Somali pirates to the Palestinian/Israeli conflict. As Ansary writes in his conclusion, 'The conflict wracking the modern world is not, I think, best understood as a 'clash of civilizations.' ... It's better understood as the friction generated by two mismatched world histories intersecting.'"

Portland Oregonian

Baptist Standard

"Reading [Tom] Friedman, I was motivated to learn more about the Muslim view of world history. I found a remarkable guide in Tamim Ansary's *Destiny Disrupted*."

General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC (Ret)

"Tamim Ansary has written a truly superb history of the Islamic world. His excellent analysis provides the reader with an insightful understanding of how that world and its people were shaped by events. This is a must read for all those who want to understand the evolution of a significant global society and how it has interacted with the rest of the world."

Khaled Hosseini, author of *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

"Ansary has written an informative and thoroughly engaging look at the past, present and future of Islam. With his seamless and charming prose, he challenges conventional wisdom and appeals for a fuller understanding of how Islam and the world at large have shaped each other. And that makes this book, in this uneasy, contentious post 9/11 world, a must-read."

"Never apologist in tone, meticulously researched and balanced, often amusing but never glib, *Destiny Disrupted* is ultimately a gripping drama that pulls the reader into great, seminal events of world history, a book which offers a wealth of knowledge and insight to any reader who wants to understand the movements and events behind the modern-day hostilities wracking Western and Islamic societies."

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

"If you want to put today's headlines about jihadist suicide bombings into the much larger context of history,

you'd be well advised to settle in with *Destiny Disrupted*. It's the story of a civilization that suddenly found itself upended by strangers and now wants to put itself right. And if author Ansary stops short of calling the result a clash of civilizations, he feels free to call it two one-sided views of world history. His book is a valuable tool for opening up a view of the other side."

Shelf Awareness

"A lively, thorough and accessible survey of the history of Islam (both the religion and its political dimension) that explores many of the disconnects between Islam and the West."

DAWN.com (Pakistan), August 15, 2010

About the Author

Tamim Ansary is the author of the memoir *West of Kabul, East of New York*, co-author with Farah Ahmadi of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Other Side of the Sky*, and has been a major contributing writer to several secondary school history textbooks. Ansary is director of the San Francisco Writers Workshop.

From [AudioFile](#)

This is the audiobook about Islam you've been waiting for. Ansary's presentation of Islamic history, ideas, and values, explained from an American point of view, makes clear material that can seem opaque in a lengthy textbook or lecture series. Ansary's strong, warm voice adds enormously to his powerful discourse. His matter-of-fact tone prevents the listener from being overwhelmed by his apparently effortless authority regarding the early Khalifa, Mongol dynasties, Liebnitz, and 9/11. His slight Afghan accent makes his presentation more personal. Only the numerous, and absolutely necessary, Arabic words can be a challenge for the listener. F.C. © AudioFile 2009, Portland, Maine

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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