

Contents

Foreword	ix
Preface	xi
Maps	xiii
1 Many Paths to One God: Establishing the Ideals	1
The Quran	1
The Quran and Other Scriptures	7
Themes of the Quran	12
The Exemplary Life of Muhammad, Prophet of Islam:	
The Sunna	21
The Early Muslim Community and the Pillars of Islam	24
The Successors (“Caliphs”)	27
Early Communal Disputes	29
Conclusion	31
2 The Pursuit of Knowledge in the Service of God and Humanity: The Golden Age	34
Institutions	35
Law	36
Political Structure	43
Cultural Achievements	45
Spirituality and the Mystical Tradition: Sufism	54
Conclusion	68
3 Division and Reorganization	71
The Crusades and Other Disasters	71
The Decline of the Abbasids and Rise of the Ottomans	77
Persia: The Safavid Empire	84

India and the Rise of the Mughals	87
Understanding Developments in Islamic History	95
Conclusion	99
4 Colonialism and Reform	101
Colonialism	101
The Outcome of World War I	110
The Effects of Colonialism and Themes of Islamic Reform	117
Modern Iterations of Islamic Reform and New Challenges	125
Islamist Approaches to Reform	129
Conclusion: Mainstream Islamists and Radicals	135
5 Contemporary Islam: The Challenges of Democratization and Complications of Global Politics	139
Turkey	141
Iran	144
Pakistan, Afghanistan, and al-Qaeda	154
Indonesia	166
Tunisia and the Arab Spring	168
What about Terrorism? ISIS, Boko Haram, Islamic Jihad, Hamas, and Hezbollah	173
Conclusion: Asking the Right Questions	185
Further Reading	195
Index	199