Islam and Muslims
In America

A Selection of Books in English

Islamic Center in Dearborn, Michigan
This bibliography contains books suitable for a small- to medium-sized collection and will appeal to general readers; the titles marked with asterisks are available in e-book format. Although many of the books contain introductions to the beliefs of Muslims, the first two books by John L. Esposito are recommended as general introductions to Islam. The other books deal with the experiences of Muslim Americans as a whole as well as those coming from different racial, social and cultural backgrounds.


Structured in an FAQ format, this book answers the vast majority of questions non-Muslims might have about Islam. Written by one of the foremost American scholars on Islam, this is an excellent starting point for anyone looking to learn more about Islam in a balanced and nuanced way.


In depth research including analysis of more than 50,000 interviews representing 1.3 billion Muslims. Those interviewed reside in more than 35 nations that are predomi-
nantly Muslim or have sizable Muslim populations. This book is an excellent source for a discussion of what Muslims believe and dispels many stereotypes that non-Muslims might hold about Muslim beliefs.


Memoir by the head of the largest Islamic Center of America--in Dearborn, Michigan--about his journey from Iraq to Kuwait to Iran and ultimately to the U.S. In it, Qazwini details his experiences as an imam before 9/11 (building ties to different communities) and after (working to break down stereotypes).


This exploration of contemporary Muslim communities covers controversial and divisive issues such as race relations, ideology, feminism and political beliefs. Barrett provides insights into the realities of balancing Islamic devotion and values with life in America.


By looking at the two largest Muslim populations in America (South Asian Muslim immigrants and African American Muslims) in Atlanta and Chicago, Karim shows how the two communities intersect and interact within the *ummah*, or united Muslim community, and how the women
in those communities come to terms with the ways race, class, gender and Islam affect their lives. Based on the author's own life and the lives of women she interviewed.


This history of African Muslims during colonization in the Caribbean and Latin America, and into 19th century North America deals with how Islam was adopted by African Americans in the 20th century including major figures like Elijah Muhammad and Malcolm X.


Collection of essays by three specialists on Islam in the U.S. explores the history and continued negotiation and placement of Islamic schools in America. This book breaks down stereotypes of Islamic schools as places fomenting radicalism in America, and also explores how Muslims have been educating non-Muslims about Islam.


An excellent addition to any library’s reference collection, this encyclopedia contains over 200 entries on different aspects of Muslim-American history, such as mosques, rituals and important people, from the perspective of different sects.

This collection of stories on the lives of seven young Arab Muslims in New York City is a gripping account of lives changed after 9/11 and how these young people are balancing their Arab, Muslim and American identities.


An interesting examination of African-American adoption and adaptation of Islam. Discusses the question of whether or not African-American Islam is a uniquely American religion that developed as the result of the Black Nationalist movement and its fight against racism. The book also documents the changes in African-American Islam after foreign-born Muslims began coming in very large numbers to the U.S. after 1965 and dominated the ways in which Islam is observed and interpreted.


Introductory book on Islam and the experiences of American Muslims, detailing how they balance Islamic values with American culture, the prejudices and stereotypes that affect Muslims, and internal conflicts in Muslim communities.

An ethnographic study of Sunni Muslims in Chicago in the schools and student associations that serve young Muslims as well as the social, religious, and political organizations serving adults. The book excellently illustrates the diversity that exists within the community, exploring race and demographics as well as gender and class structures.

*Making Muslim Space in North America and Europe.*

Offers a comparative perspective of creating and negotiating Muslim spaces in America and in Europe. Although dated, this is an interesting historical perspective of creating diverse Muslim spaces before 9/11.


An easy-to-read ethnographic study of the lives of Muslims throughout the US, this book portrays Muslim's lives through home, school, mosques and other institutions. It also explores how Muslims feel about themselves and their communities after 9/11 including their fears and desires for the future.


Muslim women in the U.S. and Canada tell about their work in Muslim and non-Muslim communities. A variety of fields included, e.g. social services, marital counseling
and politics. The women are diverse including converts, immigrants and native-born.


This book not only illustrates the diversity of Muslim communities in America breaking down stereotypes on Islam and the place of women but it also looks at the continued evolution of Islam in America through women’s perspectives. It addresses the impact of the events of 9/11 and explains why this date is possibly a turning point for Muslim women in the US.


Details the long history of Muslims in America, starting with the evidence for Muslim contact with the Americas prior to Columbus and moving through the collective and individual stories of 19th century Muslims in America.


This collection of 16 essays about Muslim communities in the U.S. and Canada serves as a valuable source of information on the lives of Muslim Americans before 9/11. It covers topics such as political activism, self-image, Muslims in American prisons, perception of Islam by non-Muslims, and the impact of American foreign policy on Muslims in the US.

This guide contains demographic statistics and basic information on Islam in general and North-American Muslim populations, religious structures, education, and communities; it includes contact information for many organizations serving Muslim communities.


A fascinating and well-researched book on the lives and religious practices of Muslims brought from Africa to the U.S. during the Atlantic slave trade, American slavery and how the Muslims practices influenced African-American culture.

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Ethnic Services Round Table
New York Library Association, 2010

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