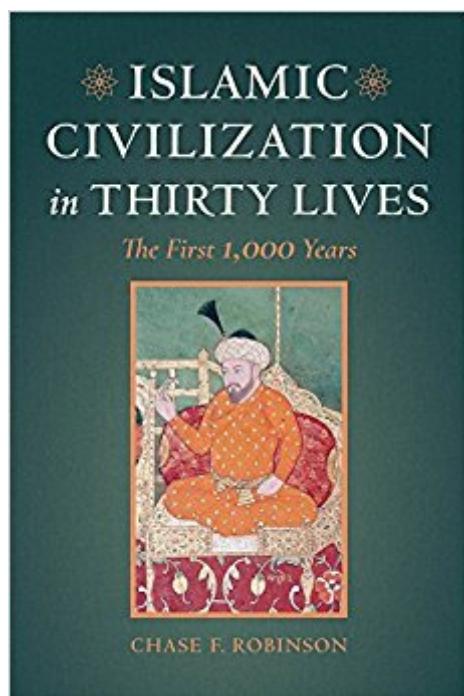


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# Islamic Civilization In Thirty Lives: The First 1,000 Years



## Synopsis

Religious thinkers, political leaders, lawmakers, writers, and philosophers have shaped the 1,400-year-long development of the world's second-largest religion. But who were these people? What do we know of their lives and the ways in which they influenced their societies? In *Islamic Civilization in Thirty Lives*, the distinguished historian of Islam Chase F. Robinson draws on the long tradition in Muslim scholarship of commemorating in writing the biographies of notable figures, but he weaves these ambitious lives together to create a rich narrative of Islamic civilization, from the Prophet Muhammad in the seventh century to the era of the world conquerer Timur and the Ottoman Sultan Mehmed II in the fifteenth. Beginning in Islam's heartland, Mecca, and ranging from North Africa and Iberia in the west to Central and East Asia, Robinson not only traces the rise and fall of Islamic states through the biographies of political and military leaders who worked to secure peace or expand their power, but also discusses those who developed Islamic law, scientific thought, and literature. What emerges is a fascinating portrait of rich and diverse Islamic societies. Alongside the famous characters who colored this landscape—including Muhammad's cousin Ali; the Crusader-era hero Saladin; and the poet Rumi—are less well-known figures, such as Ibn Fadlan, whose travels in Eurasia brought fascinating first-hand accounts of the Volga Vikings to the Abbasid Caliph; the eleventh-century Karima al-Marwaziyya, a woman scholar of Prophetic traditions; and Abu al-Qasim Ramisht, a twelfth-century merchant millionaire. An illuminating read for anyone interested in learning more about this often-misunderstood civilization, this book creates a vivid picture of life in all arenas of the pre-modern Muslim world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"...an elegant digest of the many colourful, creative and technologically innovative manifestations that the Prophet Muhammad inspired from his seventh-century oases in the Arabian peninsula." (The Economist 2016-12-05)"Robinson delivers a fascinating snapshot of Islamic history through 30 brief biographies. By including a mixture of the usual suspects (Muhammad, Ali, Saladin) and the unexpected (Ibn Hazm, Ibn Muqla, Abu al-Qasim), the author offers readers a rich variety of lives in pre-Islamic history." (CHOICE 2017-04-01)

Chase F. Robinson was Lecturer and Professor of Islamic History in the Faculty of Oriental Studies and Fellow of Wolfson College at the University of Oxford from 1993 until 2008, when he was appointed Distinguished Professor of History and Provost of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, where he now serves as President. His extensive publications on Islamic history include *Islamic Historiography, Empire and Elites after the Muslim Conquest*, and *The New Cambridge History of Islam, Volume 1*.

A great book. I love how it shows real people w their ups and downs making a significant impact on a great civilization. This is a lot more effective than idealizing all the characters.

The pages are very thick with quality pictures. My only problem with the book is it was too short. Also, I don't think it needed to be in hardcover; this only boosted the price. If you know nothing of Islam this book will be too much, if you have already studied Islam a bit (i.e. me) then the book is good for insights. Some of the people he writes about are a bit much.

An important book for people who are interested in the development of major political and cultural mosaic of early Islam. Easy to read and can provide motives for deeper research regarding various topics depending on the perceived interest. Very amiable and attractive style that enhances the readers' attention. The author seems to have an interesting but positive criteria for choosing the thirty lives. I was impressed by his choice of Ibn al Muqaffa', and rightly so as a prime mover during that era, as I have published in English and other languages all of his works. I strongly recommend this book. Dr. Saleh S Jallad

Hard to read but I got through it. It requires a dictionary or a Kindle. Very informative. If you have a great vocabulary you will have no trouble and it is really worth the read.

The book gave me a understanding for the history of Islam.

Looks like an excellent book. I'm exceeded to read it

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