

**Series:**  
Studies in Late Antiquity  
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# 27

**Andreas Görke and Gregor Schoeler**

### THE EARLIEST WRITINGS ON THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD THE 'URWA CORPUS AND THE NON-MUSLIM SOURCES

The main part of this book consists of a compilation and evaluation of the corpus of traditions about the life of Muhammad attributed to the early scholar 'Urwa ibn al-Zubayr (c. 643-c. 712). 'Urwa was the nephew of the Prophet's wife 'Ā'īša, who was also his most important informant. The authenticity of a large part of these traditions is certain, since they were handed down independently from each other by two or more tradents of 'Urwa. They are thus the oldest authentic Muslim reports about the Prophet. The authors argue that 'Urwa's reports by and large correctly reflect the basic features of the historical events described.

Somewhat older than 'Urwa's traditions about Muhammad is only a report in a non-Islamic Armenian source attributed to the chronicler Sebeos (wrote around 660). This and other external evidence partly agree with the Islamic sources, sometimes providing new perspectives on the life of the Prophet. But there are also contradictions. The authors can show that in such cases the 'Urwa transmission is preferable.

The crux of the much-discussed so-called Hagarism hypothesis, which proposes an alternative narrative of the origins of Islam (Muhammad, after having established a community which comprised both Arabs and Jews, set off with these allies to conquer Palestine) is demonstrably based on a misreading of a Sebeos passage.

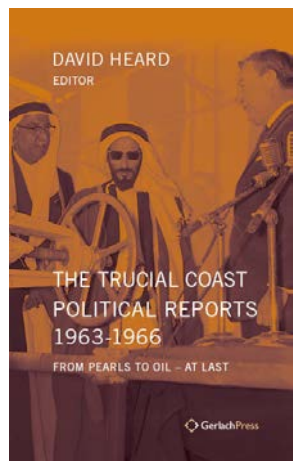
ISBN 9783959941266  
  
9 783959 941266  
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145 EUR  
135 GBP  
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HC c. 300 pages  
ISBN Hardcover 9783959941266  
ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941273  
ISBN eBook (ePUB)  
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**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

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University of Edinburgh

Gregor Schoeler, Emeritus  
University of Basel



**Series:**  
Gulf Studies

**David Heard (ed.)**

### THE TRUCIAL COAST POLITICAL REPORTS 1963-1966 From Pearls to Oil - at Last

The Trucial Coast Political Reports are a unique record of events, commented on by a small group of British men living in Sharjah and Dubai. This was in the years leading up to the commencement of oil exports from the desert of Abu Dhabi.

These men regularly met to discuss and negotiate with the Rulers of the Trucial States - sometimes in a state of mutual incomprehension - the conditions under which the Company (Petroleum Development/ Trucial Coast or PD/TC) would operate in their various territories. Boundaries and frontiers marked out in the desert were as much a novelty to the Bedouin as the notions of royalties and depreciation were to the Rulers. Men such as Bird, Codrai and Henderson learnt to understand, to some extent, the language and ways of the people of the Trucial Coast. They in turn had to contend with the ways of the legal, financial and business executives in London who tended to see affairs very differently.

It is thanks to these Company Representatives living on the Trucial Coast that the bulk of the Diaries was saved. It is due to the efforts of the London executives that much other material was lost in the name of economy of storage space.

These Reports record important events as well as the writer's observations. The editor has included some additional material from the PD/TC company files to present a more complete account.

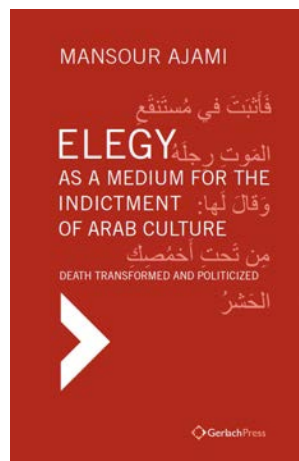
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HC c. 400 pages  
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ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941730  
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David Heard CBE studied physics and geology before joining Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in 1963. Working for more than a decade as a petroleum engineer he participated in the discovery of oil in the Abu Dhabi desert. Thereafter he was for more than two decades the Representative of the same company in Abu Dhabi.



**Series:**  
Literature and Poetry

**Mansour Ajami**

### ELEGY AS A MEDIUM FOR THE INDICTMENT OF ARAB CULTURE DEATH TRANSFORMED AND POLITICIZED A Reading-Translation of Medieval and Modern Arabic Elegies

The book consists of a critical introduction and six chapters on two famous great medieval poems by Ibn al-Anbari and Abu Tammam, and three unique and remarkable poems by Khalil Hawi, Nizar Qabbani, and Badr Shakir al-Sayyab.

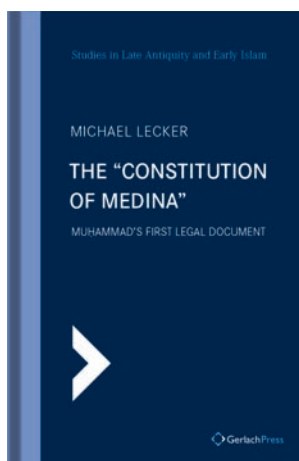
The author applies a deconstructive critical interpretation (analysis) to the two medieval poems and a reading translation of the modern ones. The introduction contains new ideas on translation from Arabic into English and a new reading of the rhyme in medieval and modern Arabic poetry.

  
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HC c. 160 pages  
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Mansour Ajami is a writer and translator of books on Arabic poetry. PhD in Arabic Literature from Columbia University.  
He taught at Princeton, Columbia, Berkeley and other universities.



**Series:**  
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# 23

**Michael Lecker**

### THE "CONSTITUTION OF MEDINA" MUHAMMAD'S FIRST LEGAL DOCUMENT

This book focuses on a single legal document from the time of the Prophet, commonly known as the 'Constitution of Madina'. Probably it is the first legal document of Muhammad and dates back to the first year after his hijra (622 CE), or "emigration", which brought him from his hometown Mecca to the cluster of towns known as Yathrib or Medina in the Hijāz (northern Arabia) and marked the beginning of the Islamic era.

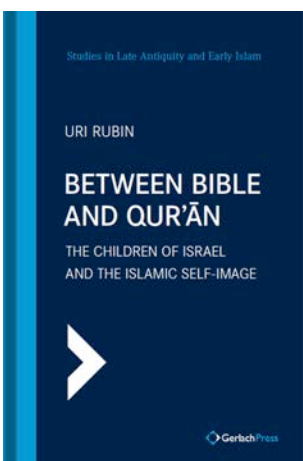
Muslim historians and jurists have been familiar with this important document for centuries, and aware of its legal and theological implications for Islamic law. It was first brought to the attention of scholars in the West at the end of the 19th century by Wellhausen, who accepted it as an authentic document from the time of the Prophet. Since then, such leading orientlists as Goldziher, Gil, Serjeant, Goto, U. Rubin and J. B. Simonsen have studied various aspects of it.

  
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HC 240 pages  
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ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941259  
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Michael Lecker, Emeritus Professor of Arabic Language and Literature,  
The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



**Series:**  
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# 17

**Uri Rubin**

**BETWEEN BIBLE AND QUR'AN:  
THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL AND THE ISLAMIC SELF-IMAGE**

This book investigates the literary role played by the Bible in Islamic sources. It focuses on the tension between Biblical and Qur'anic models as revealed in Islamic texts describing contacts between the Muslims and the "Children of Israel", as Jews and Christians are usually called in the context of world history.

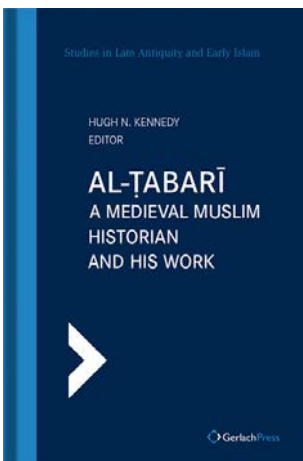
By adopting the method of his earlier work on the image of the Prophet Muhammad, The Eye of the Beholder: The Life of Muhammad as Viewed by the Early Muslims, Rubin examines hadith reports of the first three Islamic centuries that draw on Qura'nic and biblical material. Each of the work's three parts reflects a particular historical attitude toward the Jews and definition of the relationship between Jews and Muslims.

This book will be of interest to students of the history and interpretation of the Qur'an and of early Islamic tradition and dogma and early Islamic history, as well as to all those interested in comparative religion and intercultural relations between Muslims and non-Muslims.

  
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**2024/01** NYP  
**125 EUR**  
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*plus shipping  
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**HC xiii, 318 pages**  
**ISBN Hardcover 9783959941143**  
**ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941150**  
**ISBN eBook (ePUB)**  
**Bibliographic record:**

**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

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Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies  
University of Tel Aviv



**Series:**  
Studies in Late Antiquity  
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# 15

**Hugh N. Kennedy (ed.)**

**AL-TABARĪ  
A MEDIEVAL MUSLIM HISTORIAN AND HIS WORK  
WITH A NEW FOREWORD BY THE EDITOR**

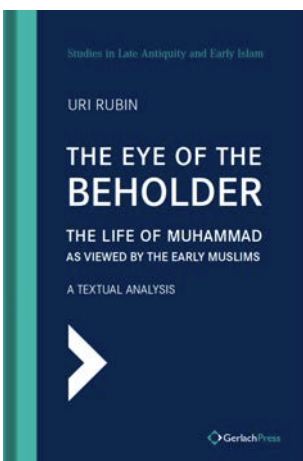
This volume provides a discussion of the works of al-Ṭabarī (d. 932 CE) the greatest historian of the early Islamic world. An international team of well-known scholars examine the life of the man, his work, the sources he used and his intellectual legacy. The Historian of Islam at Work is a volume in honor of Hugh N. Kennedy. It offers thirty contributions by three generations of prominent scholars in the field of pre-modern Middle Eastern studies, covering the many areas of Islamic historical inquiry in which Hugh Kennedy has been active throughout his career. Grouped around four major themes - Caliphate and power, economy and society, Abbasids, and frontiers and the others - the contributions deal with the history, archaeology, architecture and literature of the Middle East, North Africa and beyond, from the time of the Prophet until the fifteenth century.

Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari d. 923 was the towering figure among the historians of early Islam. Living in Baghdad when the city was at the height of its position as a cultural centre, he was in a perfect position to collect and edit the early histories of Islam and produce his magnificent synthesis. His great History of the Prophets and Kings was the crowning achievement of early Islamic historiography. Running to 39 volumes in the new English translation, he told the story of the Muslim world, beginning with the biblical and old Persians traditions and continued the story down to his own time. He also produced one of the fullest and most respected commentaries of the Qur'an. Yet the man himself remains something of a mystery. He almost never intrudes into the narrative. It is difficult to say whether we should treat him as an author or as an editor, repackaging earlier works, all fully acknowledged. What were his biases and prejudices? Was he a propagandist for the reigning Abbasid dynasty or simply a passer on of the traditions he found? This volume, bringing together some of the most eminent scholars of early Arabic historiography is the first attempt to answer some of these questions and it will be of fundamental importance to anyone interested in the early Islamic world or in comparative historiography

  
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**HC c.400 pages**  
**ISBN Hardcover 9783959941129**  
**ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941136**  
**ISBN eBook (ePUB)**  
**Bibliographic record:**

**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

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**Uri Rubin**

**THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER  
THE LIFE OF MUHAMMAD AS VIEWED BY THE EARLY MUSLIMS  
A Textual Analysis**

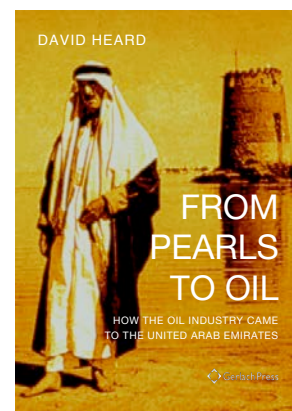
Detailed examination of traditions about Muhammad which illustrate particular themes thought to be part of the biblical prophetic paradigm: attestation, preparation, the experience of revelation, persecution, and "salvation," this last meaning the hijra. The author analyzes the ways in which Muhammad's early biographers sought to shape the Prophet's biography through biblically based, and later Qur'anic, modes of authentication.

The author has abandoned the quest for the historical Muhammad because of the impossibility of separating the "real" Muhammad from legends about him. He challenges the notion that earlier traditions about Muhammad are more authentic than later ones, arguing that the molding of accounts of Muhammad's life according to what were perceived as standard criteria of prophethood began at the outset, as Muslims sought to prove themselves worthy successors to the civilizations of the Jews and the Christians.

  
9 783959 940986  
**2024/01** NYP  
**125 EUR**  
**115 GBP**  
*plus shipping  
& VAT (if applicable only)*  
**HC ix, 288 pages**  
**ISBN Hardcover 9783959940986**  
**ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959940993**  
**ISBN eBook (ePUB)**  
**Bibliographic record:**

**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

Uri Rubin, Emeritus (1944-2021)  
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**Series:**  
Gulf Studies


**David Heard**

**FROM PEARLS TO OIL  
How the Oil Industry Came to the United Arab Emirates**

From Pearls to Oil is a testament of the challenges contended by extraordinary men who initiated the search for oil in the United Arab Emirates in the years between the two World Wars.

This book features never-before-published copies of letters, notes and reports complementing the research, which stems from the archives of the Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company (ADPC) and other literature recorded by British Government officials.

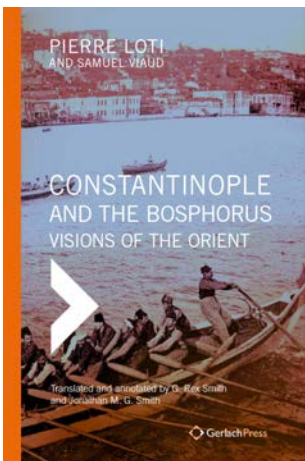
With rare photographs and maps alongside the author's in-depth narrative, this book is a great asset for scholars, residents and visitors interested in the history of the United Arab Emirates.

  
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**ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941150**  
**ISBN eBook (ePUB)**  
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David Heard CBE studied physics and geology before joining Abu Dhabi Petroleum Company in 1963. Working for more than a decade as a petroleum engineer he participated in the discovery of oil in the Abu Dhabi desert. Thereafter he was for more than two decades the Representative of the same company in Abu Dhabi.





**Series:**  
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**Pierre Loti and Samuel Viaud**  
**CONSTANTINOPLE AND THE BOSPHORUS**  
**VISIONS OF THE ORIENT**

**Translated from the French and Annotated by G. Rex Smith and Jonathan M. G. Smith**

This is the first translation of three accounts by Pierre Loti (1850-1923) of his visits to Constantinople: a description of his brief visit in 1890; of his stay in 1910 in order to visit the tomb of his lover; and the account of his visit in 1913, invited as he then was by the Turkish authorities as their thank-you for all his support of their cause on the international scene after the Balkan Wars.

Pierre Loti (1850-1923) was born Louis-Marie-Julien Viaud into a Protestant family in Rochefort in Saintonge, South-West France (now Charente Maritime). He was an officer of the French Navy and a prolific author of considerable note in 19th-/early-20th-century France, publishing many novels and numerous accounts of his travels around the world. He was a member of the French Academy.

Loti's volume was published in 1921, by which time he was ill and unable to continue. Publication was completed by his son, Samuel Viaud (1889-1969), who appears on the title page.

Loti was a photographer of note and the volume is greatly enhanced by the reproduction of some of his photographs taken in and around Constantinople at the time of his visits.



**2024/01** NYP  
75 EUR  
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& VAT (if applicable only)*

HC c. 200 pages

ISBN Hardcover 9783959941686

ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941693

ISBN eBook (ePUB)

**Bibliographic record:**

**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

Pierre Loti (1850-1923), Officer of the French Navy,  
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Samuel Viaud, son of Pierre Loti (1889-1969)

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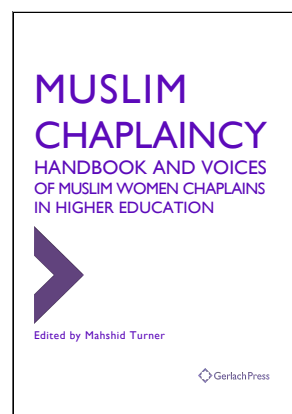
ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941716

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**Bibliographic record:**

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Mahshid Turner,  
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**Fethi Benslama**  
**THE SUPER-MUSLIM: A FURIOUS DESIRE FOR SACRIFICE**  
**First English Translation of Le Surmusulman by Maria Constanza Garrido Sierralta**

How can we think about the sacrificial desire that has seized so many young people in the name of Islam? This essay proposes an interpretation whose centre of gravity is what I call the super-Muslim. Whether it takes the form of a trend or is embodied, it is a figure produced by almost a century of Islamism. I have detected it in its discourses and prescriptions, but also from my clinical experience.

Psychoanalysis is not just about 'treating' people from the shelter of a practice. Its clinical teaching allows us to explore the individual and collective forces of anticivilisation at the heart of civilised man and his morality. Therefore, what is now called 'radicalisation' requires complementary approaches, as an expression of a religious fact that has become threatening and at the same time as a psychic social symptom.

The term 'super-Muslim' (Über-Muslim) is used here as a diagnosis of the danger to which Muslims and their civilisation are exposed. This is why this essay ends with a chapter on overcoming the super-Muslim, with a view to another future for Muslims.



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75 EUR  
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HC c. 160 pages

ISBN Hardcover 9783959941549

ISBN eBook (pdf) 9783959941556

ISBN eBook (ePUB)

**Bibliographic record:**

**Author(s) / Editor(s):**

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