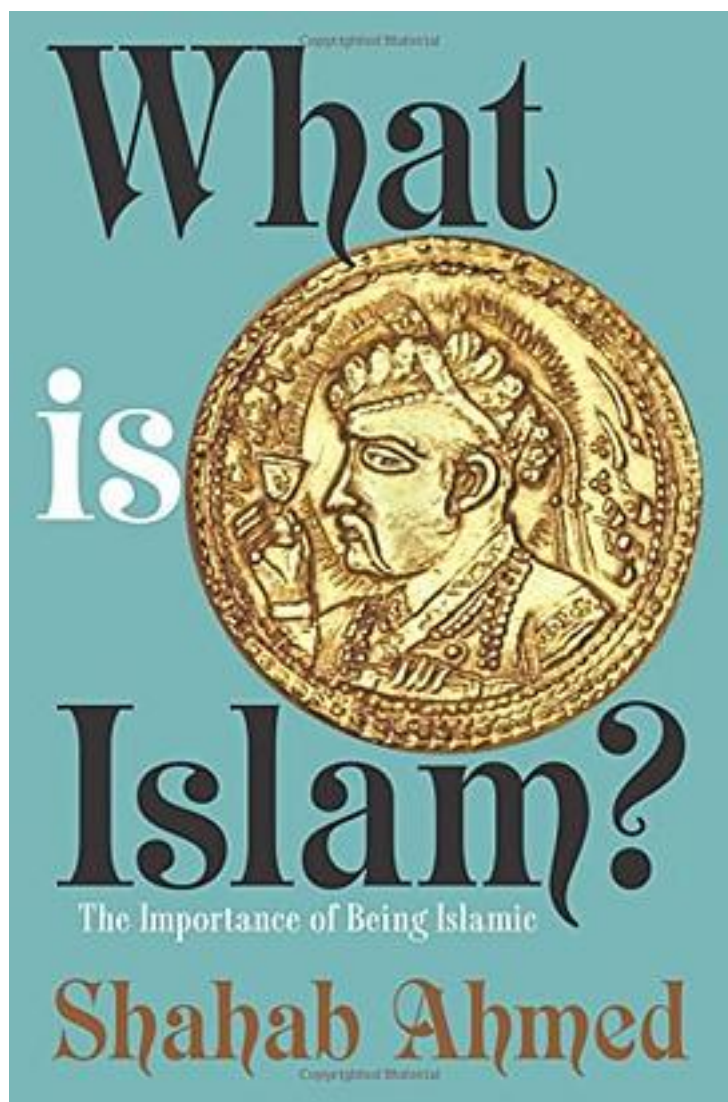


What Is Islam?



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What is Islam? How do we grasp a human and historical phenomenon characterized by such variety and contradiction? What is "Islamic" about Islamic philosophy or Islamic art? Should we speak of Islam or of islams? Should we distinguish the Islamic (the religious) from the Islamicate (the cultural)? Or should we abandon "Islamic" altogether as an analytical term?

In *What Is Islam?*, Shahab Ahmed presents a bold new conceptualization of Islam that challenges dominant understandings grounded in the categories of "religion" and "culture" or those that privilege law and scripture. He argues that these modes of thinking obstruct us from understanding Islam, distorting it, diminishing it, and rendering it incoherent.

What Is Islam? formulates a new conceptual language for analyzing Islam. It presents a new paradigm of how Muslims have historically understood divine revelation—one that enables us to understand how and why Muslims through history have embraced values such as exploration, ambiguity, aestheticization, polyvalence, and relativism, as well as practices such as figural art, music, and even wine drinking as Islamic. It also puts forward a new understanding of the historical constitution of Islamic law and its relationship to philosophical ethics and political theory.

A book that is certain to provoke debate and significantly alter our understanding of Islam, *What Is Islam?* reveals how Muslims have historically conceived of and lived with Islam as norms and truths that are at once contradictory yet coherent.

作者介绍:

Shahab Ahmed (1966-2015) was postdoctoral associate in the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Harvard University.

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标签

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历史

Islam

评论

好难，但确实不错的书籍

First qual book. 书评可以参考Michael Pregill。个人认为作者可以被归入反对过度叙事化转向并且倾向于聚沙成塔/整体大于部分之和的新浪潮。

可以说是一部巨著了。虽然，有些地方过于繁琐，虽然，有些地方有掉书袋嫌疑，虽然，作者对“现代”的态度和对所谓巴尔干-孟加拉共同体的怀念实在让人喜欢不起来，但是这本书应该是最关于“伊斯兰”这个概念的反思了，作者作为掌握十多门语言的大学者，对作为“历史和人类现象”的伊斯兰进行了非常详细的探究。可以进入神作范畴。

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