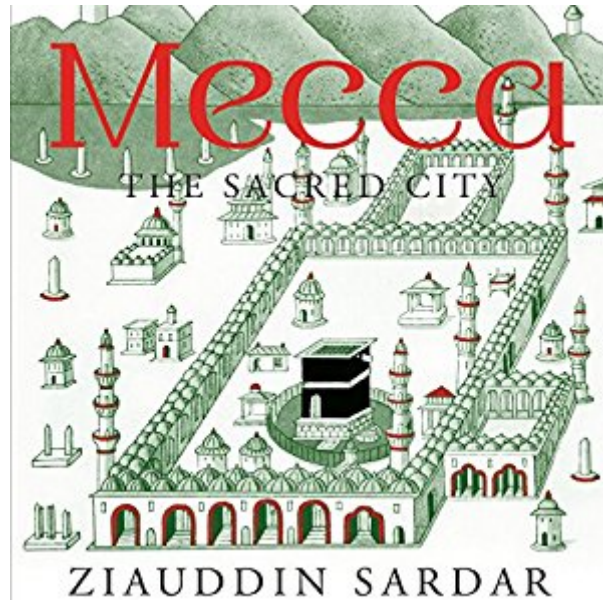




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Mecca: The Sacred City



Synopsis

Mecca is, for many, the heart of Islam. It is the birthplace of Muhammad, the direction to which Muslims turn when they pray, and the site of pilgrimage that annually draws some three million Muslims from all corners of the world. Yet the significance of Mecca is more than purely religious. What happens in Mecca and how Muslims think about the political and cultural history of Mecca has had and continues to have a profound influence on world events to this day. In this insightful book, Ziauddin Sardar unravels the meaning and significance of Mecca. Tracing its history, from its origins as a "barren valley" in the desert to its evolution as a trading town and sudden emergence as the religious center of a world empire, Sardar examines the religious struggles and rebellions in Mecca that have significantly shaped Muslim culture. An illuminative, lyrical, and witty blend of history, reportage, and memoir, Mecca reflects all that is profound and enlightening, curious and amusing about Mecca and takes us behind the closed doors to one of the most important places in the world today.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Very thorough and interesting, especially if you are familiar with the Middle East. I loved some descriptions and I loved the honesty of the author.

Good one but face a bad experience with aramex courier services by which i have received it.

A very informative on the history of the region as it related to the specifics of Mecca, its rulers, and the tribal warfare surrounding it

A good read, explores the history of Mecca from pre-Islamic day to modern times. Separates the spiritual Mecca from the "real" Mecca and how they co-exist with each other.

An excellent book with very rational interpretation of the doctrine and history.

This is a great work written with clarity, passion, wit and deep understanding. It is well researched and beautifully written. I love Ziauddin Sardar's prose which is racy, elegant and has his signature style. I also admire his courage of conviction in putting down the facts as they are knowing fully well that majority of his co-religionists will be very upset with the very critical views on the present Saudi regime. I would recommend this book to every muslim, because Muslim in general

a fascinating yet ultimately depressing account of Mecca that was great for a reader who knew little of the place

I won't be heading to Mecca anytime soon, so I'm sitting back and enjoying this erudite, artfully written, historical account of this sacred Saudi city.

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