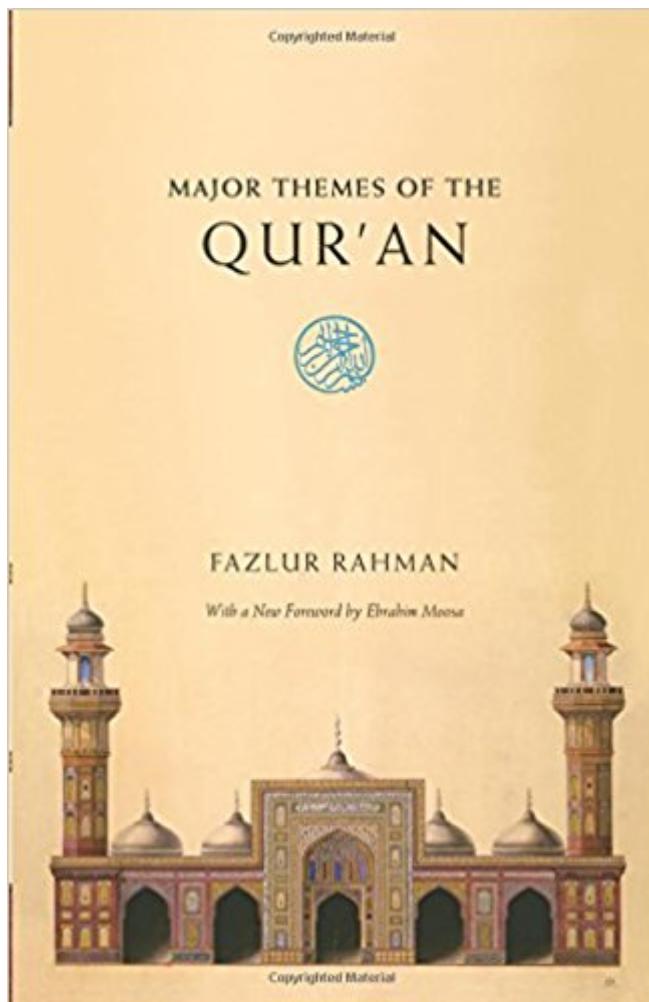


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Major Themes Of The Qur'an: Second Edition



Synopsis

Major Themes of the Qur'ân is Fazlur Rahman's introduction to one of the richest texts in the history of religious thought. In this classic work, Rahman unravels the Qur'ân's complexities on themes such as God, society, revelation, and prophecy with the deep attachment of a Muslim educated in Islamic schools and the clarity of a scholar who taught for decades in the West. "Generations of scholars have profited from [Rahman's] pioneering scholarly work by taking the questions he raised and the directions he outlined to new destinations." --Ebrahim Moosa, from his new foreword "The religious future of Islam and the future of interfaith relationship . . . will be livelier and saner for the sort of Quranic centrality which Major Themes of the Qur'ân exemplifies and serves." --Kenneth Cragg, Middle East Journal "There shines through [a] rare combination of balanced scholarly judgment and profound personal commitment. . . . [Rahman is] eager to open up the mysteries of the Qur'ân to a shrinking world sorely in need of both moral regeneration and better mutual understanding." --Patrick D. Gaffney, Journal of Religion "I can't think of any book more important, still, than Major Themes of the Qur'ân." --Michael Sells, author of Approaching the Qur'ân

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Customer Reviews

"Those who have been disappointed in what must seem the narrow defensiveness of so many Muslim writers attempting to present the Qur'an to outsiders will find Rahman refreshingly different. He is a mature thinker, at once well informed and basically realistic about the reigning myths of

modern secularist society. He is also a clear writer capable of disarming simplicity and tightly reasoned, technically detailed argument." (Patrick D. Gaffney *Journal of Religion*) "Here is a painstaking and positive effort to think through the Qur'an beyond the verse by verse, tediously grammatical, scrutiny which many have employed in past centuries. . . . The religious future of Islam and the future of interfaith relationship . . . will be livelier and saner of the sort of Quranic centrality which [this book] exemplifies and serves." (Kenneth Cragg *Middle East Journal*)

Fazlur Rahman (1919–1988) was Harold H. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Islamic Thought at the University of Chicago. He was the author of ten books, including *Islam and Modernity and Islam*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

excellent

The book seems to be in great condition. There are more than a few marks with various colors of highlighter, but I can deal with that. Just grateful the book came as fast and good looking as it did!

good overview of what might be called the intellectual/secular viewpoint of Islam but is also worth noting that the author is not that well received within the Muslim community as an authority on what constitutes a "proper" understanding of the Koran/Islam

Informative

school

A nice introduction to the basic themes of the Quran, divided into seven categories: God, Man as Individual, Man as Society, Nature, Prophethood and Revelation, Eschatology, Satan and Evil. While Rahman sometimes pushes a modernist agenda that leads to strained readings of the Quran, this is nonetheless a good guide to the Quran's central teachings. For systematic account of what the Quran says about some central issues this may still be the best book. But for deeper insights into the Quran, I would recommend Ingrid Mattson's *The Story of the Qur'an: Its History and Place in Muslim Life*. For more in depth, though also somewhat more 'academic,' analysis, I would recommend *Understanding the Qur'an: Themes and Style*. I am divided between three stars and four stars and might give it three and a half. It is a shame that the field of Quranic Studies has not

yet produced a good introductory book that overcomes the shortcomings of this book while also providing an overview of the Quran's basic teachings.

Fazlur Rahman is a man that has contributed significantly to the study of Islam both in Pakistan and in the West through his work at the Near Eastern Affairs Dept at University of Chicago. His is not an orthodox view of Islam, but a truly beautiful explanation of the spirituality of this religion. In chapters titled in a convention similar to philosophers past (Man as an Individual, Man in Society reads similar to a Puffendorf), Rahman espouses a philosophy of Islam. The themes are not controversial in their moral implications - indeed it cultivates a spiritual understanding of Islam that is lost in the popular literature or media these days. However, Rahman's take has unfortunately been challenged by more orthodox camps of Islam. In my opinion, it offers the most telling and comprehensive understanding of Islamic philosophy and is a wonderful, illuminating read.

Interesting history and inspirational in light of the need to expand spiritual knowledge in comparison to the negative dynamic that political power has watered down education and miseducated the people.

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