



Volume 59 | Issue 2

Article 20

2016

Curtis's "The Bloomsbury reader on Islam in the west" (Book Review)

Carrie Beth Lowe
Johnson University

The Christian Librarian is the official publication of the Association of Christian Librarians (ACL). To learn more about ACL and its products and services please visit [//www.acl.org/](http://www.acl.org/)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/tcl>



Part of the [Islamic Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Lowe, Carrie Beth (2016) "Curtis's "The Bloomsbury reader on Islam in the west" (Book Review)," *The Christian Librarian*: Vol. 59: Iss. 2, Article 20.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55221/2572-7478.1105>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ George Fox University. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Christian Librarian by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ George Fox University. For more information, please contact arolfe@georgefox.edu.

concludes with three major lessons: first, Christian scholars must not lose their nerve to keep speaking out in both Christian and secular environments; second, we must read the whole Bible as the “Word of God” without degradation by critical scholars; and third all of this is because moral and religious knowledge affect the whole person and their respective communities and practices.”

It is useful in most of its main points, but written in wordy “academic” prose that is difficult to wade through. The bottom line of this work is that whether Christian or secular higher education, neither can stand without acknowledging the authority and veracity of the Bible in its original manuscripts as God’s revelation to men and women.

Most chapters contain either footnotes or bibliography or both. The back cover blurbs by Stanley Hauerwas states that this is “an important book.” Likewise, Rev. Richard John Neuhaus suggests that this books is “an informed provocation.” Finally, Mark A. Noll’s comment that this is “a superb collection; the final volume in a very important series” makes this work worthwhile in any collection.

Reviewer

Armand T. Ternak, Toccoa Falls College

Curtis, E. E. (Ed.). (2015). *The Bloomsbury reader on Islam in the west*. London: Bloomsbury Academic. 280 pp. \$34.95. ISBN 9781474245371

The editor of this collection is an Indiana University Professor of Religious Studies. His goal is to collect “illustrative case studies that speak to the important historical contributions and contemporary lives of Muslims in the West” (p. x). The articles are excerpted and reprinted from books and journals with original publication dates ranging from 1995 to 2015. Only three of the 29 readings were originally published before September 11, 2001, and two of these readings are in the historical section of the book.

The readings are arranged topically, with major sections on “Islam in Western history” and “Islam in the contemporary West.” Each section is further subdivided by themes that include “Muslims in the making of the West”, “Muslims in the modern West”, “Western Muslims in the late twentieth century”, “Practicing Islamic religion in the West”, “Islam, Muslim women, and gender”, “Muslim citizenship, belonging, and dissent in the West”, and “Muslim music, TV, and comedy in the age of terror” (pp. vii-ix).

The intended audience for this book includes both students and general readers. However, the scholarly vocabulary of most selections is best suited for advanced undergraduate or graduate students. The absence of the footnotes, endnotes, and illustrations that appear in the original sources limits this book's usefulness for research purposes. It will have more value as a text for upper division undergraduate or graduate courses on Islam.

Reviewer

Carrie Beth Lowe, Johnson University

Kbusingye, A., & Bone, L. (2015). *Born anonymous: One story of hope and love in Rwanda*. Fort Smith, AR: Bone Publishing Group. 183 pp. \$12.95. ISBN 9780991300266

Born Anonymous is a moving autobiography of Anitha Kbusingye spanning from her earliest childhood days to her most recent ones. Anitha's story is truly one of God's protection and grace. Her very first memories included both emotional and physical abuse from her adoptive family. She ran from that situation to being homeless in downtown Kampala. Her new foster home with a missionary family was the initial stepping stone towards a changed life. Cornerstone Academy where she was the recipient of unconditional love was pivotal in both her growth and life calling. She learned "You are not an accident" via Rick Warren's *Purpose Driven Life*. In time she appreciated the concept responding to having freely received to give freely out of her abundance. Anitha's journey to the United States, her college years and a calling to serve in Rwanda are nothing short of miraculous. My first exposure to Anitha's story was at a ladies' tea for internationals. I am delighted to recommend *Born Anonymous* as a must read to encourage and challenge your personal walk.

Reviewer

Lindsay Van Sicklen, Ouachita Baptist University

Joeckel, S. (2013). *The C. S. Lewis phenomenon: Christianity and the public sphere*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press. 427 pp. \$30.00. ISBN 978881464375

With numerous works already written about this influential author on Christian thought from the last century, Joeckel acknowledges that "the author of a new book on Lewis apparently has some explaining to do" (p. 1). Rightly so. This work in particular touches on the broader issues of Christian engagement with culture by