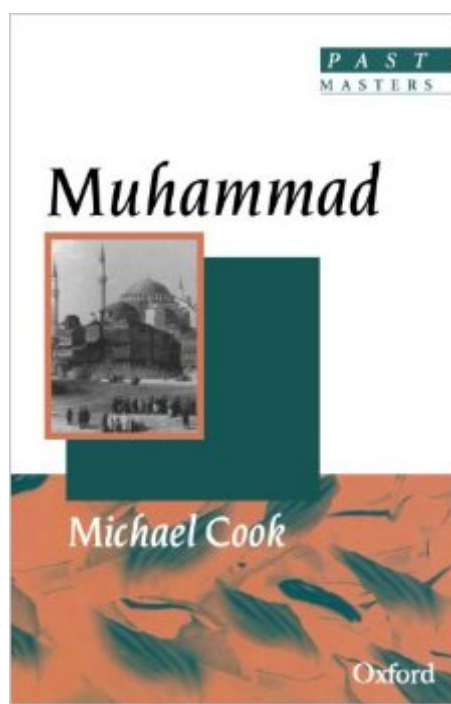


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# Muhammad (Past Masters)



## Synopsis

Just over a sixth of the world's population subscribes to the Muslim belief that 'there is no god but God, and Muhammad is his Messenger'. Michael Cook gives an incisive account of the man who inspired this faith, drawing on the traditional Muslim sources to describe Muhammad's life and teaching. He also attempts to stand back from this traditional picture to question how far it is historically justified.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (16 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #341,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #45 in [Books > Religion & Spirituality > Islam > Muhammed](#) #48 in [Books > History > Middle East > Saudi Arabia](#) #688 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Religious](#)

## Customer Reviews

At the time this book was published in 1983, Michael Cook was a lecturer "at the School of Oriental and African Studies in the University of London, (and) the author or editor of several books on the history of the Middle East." He wrote in the Preface, "My own reservations about writing this book arise from different grounds. Muhammad made too great an impact on posterity for it to be an easy matter to place him in his original context... The result is that the only aspect about the book about which I feel no qualms is the brevity imposed by the format of the series. The attempt to write about Muhammad within such a compass has brought me to confront issues I might not otherwise have faced..." Here are some additional quotations from the book: "As might be expected, the Jesus of the Koran is still recognizable as the Jesus of the New Testament... There are, however, divergences. For no obvious reason the Koran insists that Jesus was not really crucified... But the crucial point of divergence is the insistence that Jesus, though a messenger of God, was not His son, still less God Himself." (Pg. 32-33) "We may end this account with a brief relation of the future course of history as

it appeared to early Muslims... The Muslim community will break up into a mass of conflicting sects... Eventually God will send a redeemer... This redeemer, the Mahdi, will receive allegiance at the sanctuary in Mecca, whence his emigration (hijra) will be to Jerusalem; there he will reign in justice... Thereafter the Antichrist (the Dajjal) will appear from Iraq, reducing the Muslims to a remnant... In the hour of their need, Jesus will descend to earth in armour and lead them against Antichrist..." (Pg.

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