

Islamic Intellectual History – JHI Reading List

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Introductory works

1. Joshua Parens. *An Islamic Philosophy of Virtuous Religions : Introducing Alfarabi*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2006.
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5. Henry Corbin. *History of Islamic Philosophy*. London: Kegan Paul International in association with Islamic Publications for The Institute of Ismaili Studies, 1993.
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7. Hyman, et al. *Philosophy in the Middle Ages : The Christian, Islamic, and Jewish Traditions*. 3rd ed. Indianapolis, Ind. : Lancaster: Hackett ; Gazelle [distributor], 2010.
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9. Raven, et al. *Islamic Thought in the Middle Ages : Studies in Text, Transmission and Translation, in Honour of Hans Daiber*. Leiden: Brill, 2008.
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11. Muhammad Ali Khalidi. *Medieval Islamic Philosophical Writings / Edited by Muhammad Ali Khalidi*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.
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16. Lloyd Ridgeon, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Sufism*, Cambridge, 2014.
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19. M. M. Sharif. *A History of Muslim Philosophy*. Royal Book Co., Pakistan, December 1, 2010.
20. W. M. Watt. *Islamic Philosophy and Theology: an Extended Survey*. Edinburgh, 1985.
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22. Massimo Campanini. *An Introduction to Islamic Philosophy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University, 2008. Print.
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25. See 'Islamic World' in Peter Adamson, 'The History of Philosophy Without Any Gaps', <https://historyofphilosophy.net/> (podcast).

The Periods of Islamic Intellectual History

Classical Period: VII-XI Centuries.

Overview: We begin with the development of early currents of philosophy in the early centuries after revelation, which coincided with developments in science, mathematics, geography, and history-writing—known even to the Western public as the “golden age” of Islam. Concurrently, there was a growth of a distinctly mystical path within Islam: *taṣawwuf*, or Sufism.

Key scholars

1. al-Hasan al-Basri (d. 110/728)
2. Jafar al-Sadiq (d. 148/765)
3. Abu Hanifah (d. 150/767)
4. Ibrahim ibn Adham (d. 161/778 [?])
5. Malik ibn Anas (d. 179/795)
6. Al-Shafi'i (d. 204/820)
7. Muhammad ibn Musa al-Khwarizmi (d. 232/847)
8. Bayazid Bastami (d. 234/848 [?])
9. Ahmad ibn Hanbal (d. 241/855)
10. Al-Kindi (d. 259/ 873)
11. Mansour al-Hallaj (d. 309/922)
12. Abū Bakr al-Rāzī (d. 323/935?)
13. Abu Hasan al-Ash'ari (d. 324/ 936)
14. Abu Nasr Muhammad al-Farabi (d. 339/950)
15. Ibn Sina (Avicenna) (d. 428/1037)
16. Abu Rayhan al-Biruni (d. 453/1061 [?])

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1. Abu'l-Faḍl Beyhaqi. *Introduction and Translation of Years 421–423 A.H.* (1030–1032 A.D.). Translated by Mohsen Ashtiany and C. E. Bosworth. Ilex Foundation, October 10, 2011.
2. Abu Al-Abbas Ahmad Bin Jab Al-Baladhuri. *The Origins of the Islamic State (Kitab Futuh al-Buldan)*. Gorgias Press LLC, October 1, 2002.
3. C. Edmund Bosworth, ed. *Historic Cities of the Islamic World*. Leiden: Brill, 2007.
4. Guy Le Strange. *Baghdad During the Abbasid Caliphate*. Kessinger Publishing, September 20, 2004.
5. Guy Le Strange. *The Lands of the Eastern Caliphate*. Legare Street Press, October 27, 2022.
6. Henri Laoust. *Histoire Du Hanbalisme*. Editions Geuthner, December 31, 1959.
7. Ibn Abi Yaḡub. *Kitab Al-Buldan*. Translated by Abrahamus Wilhelmus Theodorus Juynboll. Nabu Press, August 28, 2011.
8. Ibn Jubayr. *The Travels of Ibn Jubayr: A Medieval Journey from Cordoba to Jerusalem*. Translated by Robert Irwin. I.B. Tauris, November 14, 2019.
9. Ibn Hawqal. *Kitab Surat al-ard*. Edited by J. H. Kramers. Bilingual edition. Brill Academic Pub, 2014.

10. Nadja Danilenko. *Picturing the Islamicate World : The Story of al-Isṭakhrī's Book of Routes and Realms*. 2021.
11. Al-Muqaddasi. *The best divisions for knowledge of the regions: A Translation of Ahsan al-Taqasim fi Ma'rifat al-Aqalim*. Translated by Basil Anthony Collins. Centre for Muslim Contribution to Civilization: Garnet Pub., 1994.
12. Vladimir Minorsky. *Hudud Al-Alam: The Regions of the World, A Persian Geography 372 A.H.-982 A.D.* 2021.

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2. Peter Adamson, *Studies on Plotinus and al-Kindī* (Aldershot: 2014).
3. Peter Adamson, *The Arabic Plotinus: a Philosophical Study of the "Theology of Aristotle"* (London: 2002).
4. Dhanani, Alnoor. *The Physical Theory of Kalām : Atoms, Space, and Void in Basrian Mu'tazilī Cosmology*. Leiden: Brill, 1994.
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15. Shlomo Pines, *Studies in Abu'l-Barakāt Al-Baghdādī: Physics and Metaphysics*, Hebrew University Magnes Press (January 20, 2011)
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6. Rina Talgam. "The Stylistic Origins of Umayyad Sculpture and Architectural Decoration". *Journal für Kunstgeschichte* Nr. 4 (2004).

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1. Al Biruni. *The Book of Instruction in the Elements of the Art of Astrology*. Translated by R Ramsay Wright. Kessinger Publishing, September 10, 2010.
2. Roshdi Rashed. *The Development of Arabic Mathematics: Between Arithmetic and Algebra*. Translated by A. F. W. Armstrong. Springer-Science+Business Media, 1994.
3. P. Horden, *Music as Medicine: the History of Music Therapy Since Antiquity*, Ashgate: 2000.

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3. Karen Armstrong. *Muhammad: Biography of the Prophet*, 2001.

Key cities

1. Jerusalem
 - a. Eric H Cline. *Jerusalem Besieged: From Ancient Canaan to Modern Israel*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2004.
 - b. Dore Gold. *The Fight for Jerusalem: Radical Islam, The West, and the Future of the Holy City*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 2007.
2. Balkh
 - a. "Balkh." In *Grove Encyclopedia of Islamic Art & Architecture*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.
3. Baghdad

- a. Clifford Edmund Bosworth. "Historic Cities of the Islamic World". Leiden: Brill, 2007.
 - b. Guy Le Strange. *Baghdad During the Abbasid Caliphate*. Kessinger Publishing, September 20, 2004.
4. Kufa
 - a. Gerald R. Hawting. *The First Dynasty of Islam*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2000.
5. Basra
 - a. Rudi Mathee. "Between Arabs, Turks and Iranians: The Town of Basra, 1600-1700." *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 69, no. 1 (2006): 53–78.
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 - a. Abd al-Husain Zarrinkub. "The Arab Conquest of Iran and Its Aftermath." In *The Cambridge History of Iran, Volume 4: From the Arab Invasion to the Saljuqs*, edited by R. N. Frye, 1–57. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1975.
 - b. Touraj Daryaee. *Sasanian Persia: The Rise and Fall of an Empire*. London: I.B. Tauris, 2009.
7. Mecca
 - a. Richard W. Bullet. *What Life Was Like in the Lands of the Prophet: Islamic World, AD 570–1405*. Alexandria, VA: Time-Life Books, 1999.
8. Medina
 - a. Abdulbasit A. Badr. *Madinah, The Enlightened City: History and Landmarks*. Medina: Al-Madinah Al Munawwarah Research & Studies Center, 2013.
9. Wasit
 - a. Ibn Battutah. *The Travels of Ibn Battutah*. Translated by Tim Mackintosh-Smith. London: Picador, 2002.
10. Nishapur
 - a. Durand-Guédy, David. *Cities of Medieval Iran*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2020.
 - b. Richard W. Bullet. *The Patricians of Nishapur: A Study in Medieval Islamic Social History*. ACLS History E-Book Project, December 31, 1899.
11. Khorasan (region)
 - a. H. A. R. Gibb. *The Arab Conquests in Central Asia*. London: The Royal Asiatic Society, 1923.
 - b. E.L. Daniel, *The Political and Social History of Khurasan under Abbasid Rule*, Chicago: Yy, 1979
12. Samarra
 - a. Chase F. Robinson. ed., *A Medieval Islamic City Reconsidered: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Samarra*. Oxford Studies in Islamic Art 14. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.
13. Marrakesh,
 - a. Jamil M. Abun-Nasr. *A History of the Maghrib in the Islamic Period*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987.
14. Córdoba
 - a. C. Edmund Bosworth, ed., "Cordova." In *Historic Cities of the Islamic World*, 97–99. Leiden: Brill, 2007.
 - b. Mohammad Gharipour. *Synagogues in the Islamic World: Architecture, Design and Identity*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2019.
15. Granada

- a. Idris El Hareir and Ravane M'Baye, eds., *The Spread of Islam Throughout the World*. Paris: UNESCO, 2011.
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16. Zaragoza

- a. Corral Lafuente, José Luis. "El diseño urbano de la Zaragoza islámica." *Revista del Instituto Egipcio de Estudios Islámicos* 36 (2008): 191–213.

Renaissance Period: XII-XVI Centuries.

Overview: Although many of these scholars would be considered part of the “golden age” of Islam, and periodisation itself is never neat, we have designated the Renaissance period as principally the Islamic thought that emerged after the era of Avicenna and began with the considerable critique and re-evaluation of Islamic thought by al-Ghazali.

Key scholars

1. Imam al-Ghazali (d. 505/1111)
2. Omar Khayyam (d. 526/1132 [?])
3. Abdul Qadir Gilani (d. 561/1166)
4. Yahya ibn Habash Suhrawardi (d. 586/ 1191)
5. Averroes (d. 594/ 1198)
6. Ibn al-Jawzi (d. 597/1201)
7. Fakhr al-Din al-Razi (d. 606/1210)
8. Attar of Nishapur (d. 618/1221)
9. Ibn Arabi (d. 638/1240)
10. Rumi (d. 672/1273)
11. Nasir al-Din al-Tusi (d. 672/1274)
12. Ibn al-Nafis (d. 687/1288)
13. Ibn Taymiyya (d. 728/1328)
14. Al-Dhahabi (d. 748/1348)
15. Dawud al-Qaysari (d. 751/1350)
16. Ibn Qayyim al-Jawziyya (d. 751/1350)
17. Baha' al-Din Naqshband (d. 791/1389)
18. Al-Taftazani (d. 792/1390)
19. Hafez (d. 792/1390 [?])
20. Ibn Khaldun (d. 808/1406)
21. Ali ibn Mohammed al-Jurjani (d. 816/1413)
22. Ulugh Beg (d. 853/1449)
23. Ibn Hajar al-Asqalani (d. 852/1449)
24. 'Abd ar-Rahman Jami (d. 898/1492)
25. Jalal al-Din al-Dawani (d. 908/1502)
26. Al-Suyuti (d. 911/1505)

Islamic philosophy and theology

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9. Ayman Shihadeh, *The Teleological Ethics of Fakhr al-Din al-Razi*, Brill Academic Pub (March 23, 2006),
10. Adi Setya, 'The Theological-Scientific Research Program of the Mutakallimun: Intellectual Historical Context and Contemporary Concerns with Special Reference to Fakhr al-Dīn al-Rāzī', *Journal of Islam & Science*, Vol. 3 (Winter 2005) No. 2.
11. Peter Adamson and Fedor Benevich, *The Heirs of Avicenna: Philosophy in the Islamic East, 12-13th Centuries*, 25 Sep 2023, Brill.
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Evaluation Period: XVII-XVIII Centuries.

Overview: We have identified these two centuries as a markedly different period in which Islamic philosophy did not “die”, as many early Orientalists assumed, but rather shifted to the East, to Persia and South Asia. With the development of empire within the Islamic world and a growing entanglement with empires from Europe, questions of navigating religious difference became of greater importance once again.

Key scholars

1. Ibn Hajar al-Haytami (d. 974/1567)
2. Ahmad Sirhindi (Imam Rubbani) (d. 1034/1624)
3. Mulla Sadra (d. 1050/1641)
4. Katip Çelebi (d. 1067/1657)
5. Dara Shikoh (1615-1659)
6. Niyazi-i Misri (d. 1105/1694)
7. Muhammad Baqir Majlisi (d. 1111/1699)
8. Abdul Ghani al-Nabulsi (d. 1143/1731)
9. Shah Waliullah Dehlawi (d. 1176/1762)
10. Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab (d. 1206/1792)
11. Ibn Abidin (d. 1252/1836)
12. Hadi Sabzavari (1797-1873)

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 - a. Suraiya Faroqhi. *The Ottoman Empire: A Short History*. Edited by Shelley Frisch. Princeton, NJ: Markus Wiener Publishers. 2009.

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Quest Period: XVIII-XIX Centuries.

Overview: During the modern period, Muslims were increasingly ruled, directly or indirectly, by European powers, who often attempted to impose upon their Muslim subjects ideas and practices relating to post-Enlightenment secularisation. Muslim thinkers, in turn, sought to understand the perceived decline of Islam and the ascendancy of capitalism and secularisation in Europe. The response often involved either what was claimed to be a pure revival of early Islam or a careful reconstruction of the tradition vis-à-vis European ideas. Simultaneously, beleaguered by contemporary secular philosophy, European thinkers increasingly studied the mystical aspects of Islam as a mode of re-evaluating modern thought.

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2. Sayyid Ahmad Khan (1817-1898)
3. Muhammad Abduh (1849-1905)
4. Rashid Rida (1865-1935)
5. Muhammad Iqbal (1877-1938)
6. Abul A'la Maududi (1903-1979)
7. Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966)
8. Fazlur Rahman (1919-1988)
9. Louis Massignon (1883-1962)
10. Ali Shariati (1933-1977)
11. Ruhollah Khomeini (1902-1989)
12. Seyyed Hossein Nasr (1933-)

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Key cities

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