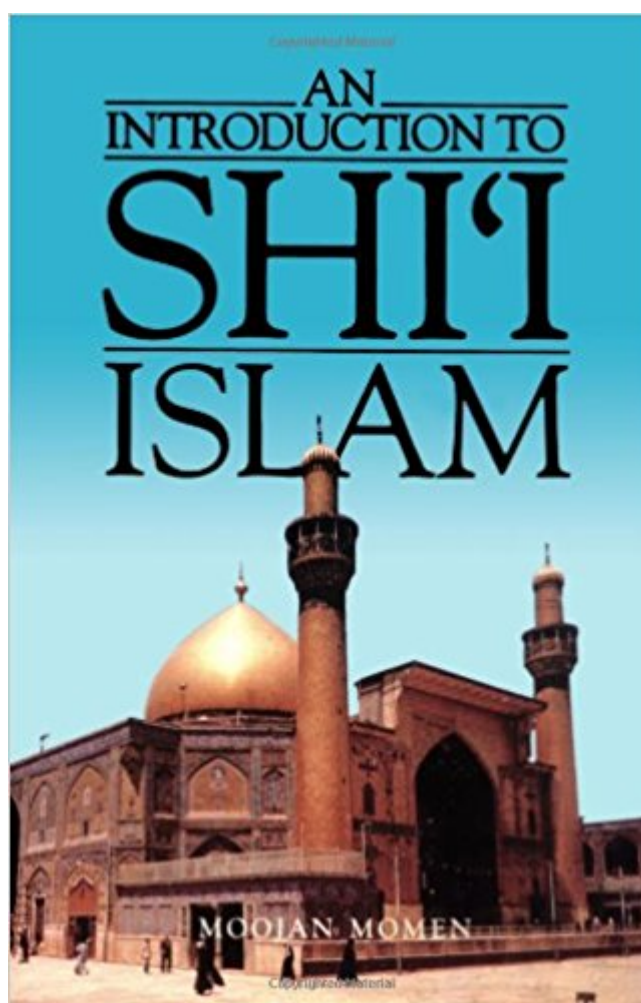


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# An Introduction To Shi`i Islam: The History And Doctrines Of Twelver Shi`ism



## Synopsis

This book is a general introduction to Shi'ite Islam—specifically to Twelver Shi'ism, to which the majority of Shi'ites belong today. It deals with the history and development of this important religion, giving an account of Shi'ite doctrines and focusing in particular on those areas in which it differs from Sunni Islam. Momen's book fills an important gap in the general literature in English on Twelver Shi'ism, and should be carefully studied by anyone who wants to know more about what is happening in the Middle East today. This is a fine work which deserves the widest possible readership.

Malise Ruthven, *The Middle East*—An extremely useful reference source on the establishment and evolution of the Shi'ite branch of the Islamic religion.

Cecil V. Crabb, Jr., *Perspective*—An unpretentious style, interpretive clarity and . . . sound judgment characterize Momen's writings. The various aspects of Twelver Shi'ism are carefully distinguished to satisfy both the general reader and the aspiring student.

Norman Calder, *Times Literary Supplement*—Specialist and nonspecialist alike will benefit from its lucid exposition of both elite and popular Shi'ism. Especially valuable is the way the work presents modern critical scholarship on Shi'ite history alongside the orthodox history, which still has great influence on the religion's self-understanding.

Mel Piehl, *Library Journal*—Moojan Momen has written extensively on Iran and Middle East religion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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giving an account of Shi'i doctrines and focusing in particular on those areas in which it differs from Sunni Islam.

All details needed to understand about SHI'A are in this book .For historical elements it is very well detailed . Thanks .

Interesting and very well written and gives a detailed account of shia sunni historical events. I cannot confirm that everything is true but seems to be correct as in religious politics everything happens the same way as it happens in politics. Human beings are the same everywhere. Greed for wealth and power makes every one mad. To remain honest, clean and pious is not everyone's job.

Great and well written book!

Another wonderful, educational book about Islam. Great historical facts, and easy to read. Moojan Momen is a gifted writer and an incredible scholar!

Dr. Momen wrote an excellent illustrated book. Even the printing layout is very good with a rather large typeface readable even by oldies. Dr. Momen gave due attention to details like exact transliteration, differences between Arabic and Farsi spellings and pronunciations, careful complete footnotes, glossary and reference lists, etc. The book also contains several charts that make it much easier to gain an overview of the subject matter, in particular of politico-historic events compared to theological developments. Dr. Momen does not claim to be an esoterist but rather has chosen an historic (zahiri) viewpoint without at all closing the door to the esoteric side (batini). Dr. Momen makes it clear and plausible how Twelver Shi'ism has especially since Safavid rule in Iran moved towards a concentration on exoteric law with the legal experts gradually assuming several prerogatives originally held reserved to the occulted 12th Imam. In other words, it seems that the Sunni Al-Azhar University's published opinion considering 12er Shi'a a 5th school of orthodox Islamic jurisprudence in addition to the four still extant Sunni schools is factually based. In all fairness, however, we should bear in mind that tendencies towards legalism are currently not restricted to Shi'i Islam but, alas, observable worldwide. The more esoterically minded (batini) amongst the 12er ulama (doctors of theology) who do not share the view that jurisprudence (fiqh) is the central theme of Islamic knowledge have apparently gradually withdrawn and gone underground in a kind of relative occultation. This reviewer heartily thanks Dr. Momen and hopes he is alive and

well and will soon publish a second updated edition of his excellent work.

Love reading about history!

I have read many books about the religious development and history of Shia Islam and have to say without any hesitation that this is the most detailed and objective book I have ever read on the subject. The author, Mr. Momen, has done a thorough job of accurately presenting its early history as well as its development up to present time. Very scholarly, with many footnotes and cross references. Based upon the information that I was already familiar with, I recommend this book to anyone interested in gaining unbiased information about the subject.

The name of must be changed to AMAZING. Just received my book today it's the 16th February 2016. When I go to the tracker it says my book is due on February the 22nd SIX days from now!!!!!! I ordered it on Feb. 7th and it was shipped I think the 9th so with a weekend or two it took only FIVE days to reach me in Australia!!!!!!!!!! I was expecting it next Monday. Great Condition and has everything I wanted but I didn't expect it to be so extensive. It has maps and details like the population of Shiah's and where they are and all sorts of information I never dreamed of being included and of course the main point for me about the Mahdi and that is about the Bab and Baha'u'llah fulfilling the prophecies of Shiah Islam. But it is so informative and just flipping through it I thought WOW, "I didn't know that". A very welcome addition to "Muhammad and the Course of Islam" and the Quran by Bakhtiar who she clears up the mistranslation 4:34 about beating wives and corrects it to the right meaning of 'leave them alone' if a woman gets angry. This book goes into the history of Shiah and events and gives charts and visual examples so you can grasp information at a glance. is great and I'm very happy shopping here and recommend everyone to shop here.

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