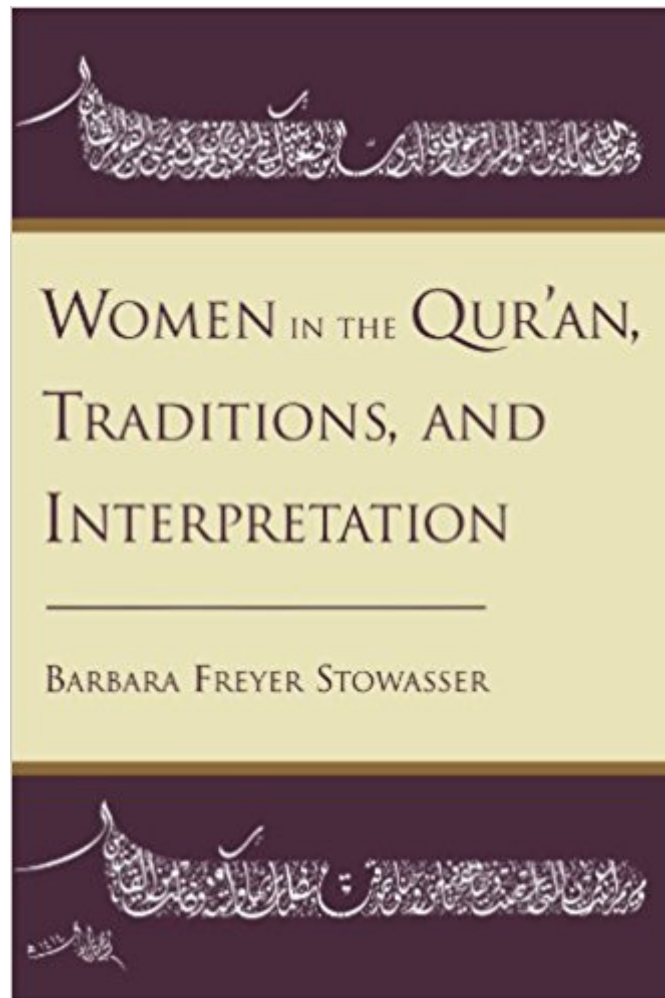




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# Women In The Qur'an, Traditions, And Interpretation



## Synopsis

Islamic ideas about women and their role in society spark considerable debate both in the Western world and in the Islamic world itself. Despite the popular attention surrounding Middle Eastern attitudes toward women, there has been little systematic study of the statements regarding women in the Qur'an. Stowasser fills the void with this study on the women of Islamic sacred history. By telling their stories in Qur'an and interpretation, she introduces Islamic doctrine and its past and present socio-economic and political applications. Stowasser establishes the link between the female figure as cultural symbol, and Islamic self-perceptions from the beginning to the present time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An excellent study of women in Islamic scriptures and commentary. A significant contribution to the scholarship. There is no comparable study in terms of either focus or approach, despite the fact that the topic and materials are so fundamental."--John Esposito, Georgetown University  
"This is not just another book on women in Islam...It is an in-depth survey of Islamic literature dealing with women. As much as any book can, it avoids judgement; it simply presents material drawn from the Qur'an and both traditional and modern interpretations of female role models in Islam....This volume will be essential reading for scholars of Islam, and very useful for courses in Islam and women's studies, particularly on the graduate level."--Middle East Studies Association Bulletin  
"...one of the most outstanding works to have been published on the popular topic of women in Islam....The erudition and insights of this study will make this an invaluable reference work for both specialists and

non-specialists on women in Islam."--Digest of Middle East Studies

This book is a study in religious texts. It forms part of a large research project on Women in Qur'an and Interpretation, which has occupied the past decade of my life.

To understand the complexity of women's role in Islam, Barbara Stowasser examines the various components that make up Islamic world view, from Qur'an, Hadith, and Surah, to prominent exegetic texts, and its cultural history. Focused through the lens of women in Islamic traditions, this interdisciplinary exploration understands that "religious ideas are linked with social reality in mutually affective relationships, shaping it and being shaped by it in turn." The cross-referential methodology throughout the text moves seamlessly along passages from the Qur'an, earlier tafsir, traditions of Hadith, as well as along adversaries in contemporary Islamic discourse: modernists, traditionalists, and fundamentalists. As consequence, the reader is exposed to a spectrum of responses to conceptions of individual women from the Qur'an, while knowing the ideological source of certain viewpoints. Stowasser's methodology offers critical analysis while also deciphering diverse elements of some internal Islamic debates.

I was looking for a work that talked about women in the Qur'an and the Hadiths, and also included cultural tales about notable women, such as the Prophet's wives, Hagar, Mary, etc.. Stowasser does a great job of providing this information. She guides us through the processes in which information about women is related in the Qur'an and then interpreted in various ways to reflect the traditions and cultures of the times in which the interpretations were made. She provides a thoughtful analysis of what the information means and has to say to modern women in Islam. Well documented.

Brilliant book! Continues to be essential reading for representation of women in Quran, Hadith, & interpretations. Very readable, very accessible.

What an amazing piece of work! So informative! Again it make syou look a the religious texts froma different angle!

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