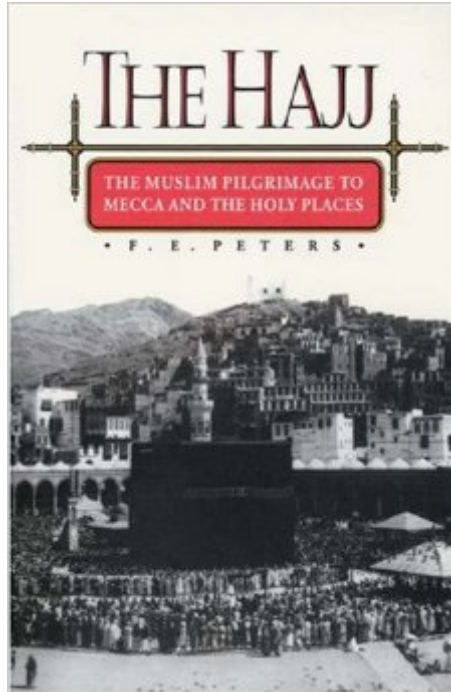


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# The Hajj: The Muslim Pilgrimage To Mecca And The Holy Places



## Synopsis

Among the duties God imposes upon every Muslim capable of doing so is a pilgrimage to the holy places in and around Mecca in Arabia. Not only is it a religious ritual filled with blessings for the millions who make the journey annually, but it is also a social, political, and commercial experience that for centuries has set in motion a flood of travelers across the world's continents. Whatever its outcome--spiritual enrichment, cultural exchange, financial gain or ruin--the road to Mecca has long been an exhilarating human adventure. By collecting the firsthand accounts of these travelers and shaping their experiences into a richly detailed narrative, F. E. Peters here provides an unparalleled literary history of the central ritual of Islam from its remote pre-Islamic origins to the end of the Hashimite Kingdom of the Hijaz in 1926.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A ruby of a work, *The Hajj* provides great background on the largest annual pilgrimage in the world. Peters traces the history from myth, religion, and recorded history (going back to Adam), and provides many interesting and flowing anecdotes using primary source material throughout the 1400 years of Hajj history. Here one will learn more about the steps of the pilgrimage and the layout of the Ka'ba (the building which Hajjis run around) than most Muslims know. Of particular interest is Peter's numerous stories of Hajj through Western eyes- Western Muslims, non-Muslims going to Mecca when it was still allowed, or non-Muslims sneaking into a city to make Hajj, though if they are found out it means death. The Westerner descriptions provide that etic, outsider perspective which is valuable for those of us who are not from the Middle East, as we grapple to understand religious events and customs and relate them to what we understand within ourselves and our culture.

This is a fine academic study woven from the many writers who have recorded their experiences on hajj over its history. The only phrases which might be found objectionable to any Muslim come from the primary source readings, where a variety of viewpoints were deliberately sought. If some intruder like Richard Burton throws off a snide or irreverent comment, I think Muslims will know what to make of it. The author draws an interesting and informative history of one of humanity's greatest phenomena thru history up to the Saudi hajj of 1926. I would like to see this brought up to date.

I read this book back in 2003. By collecting the firsthand accounts of travellers and shaping their experiences into a richly detailed narrative, F. E. Peters have provided an unparalleled literary history of the central ritual of Islam from its remote pre-Islamic origins to the end of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Hijaz in 1926. By reading this book one gets a good idea of the cost of doing The Hajj and the logistics involved in. I highly recommend this book.

This book has a lot to give which other traditional haj books lacks. But the Author has included his own opinions on the Muhammadan Ideology without substantiating from any authentic traditional sources. Though the flow and the tone of the book captivates the reader, the book is a total disgrace to any Muslim reader.

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