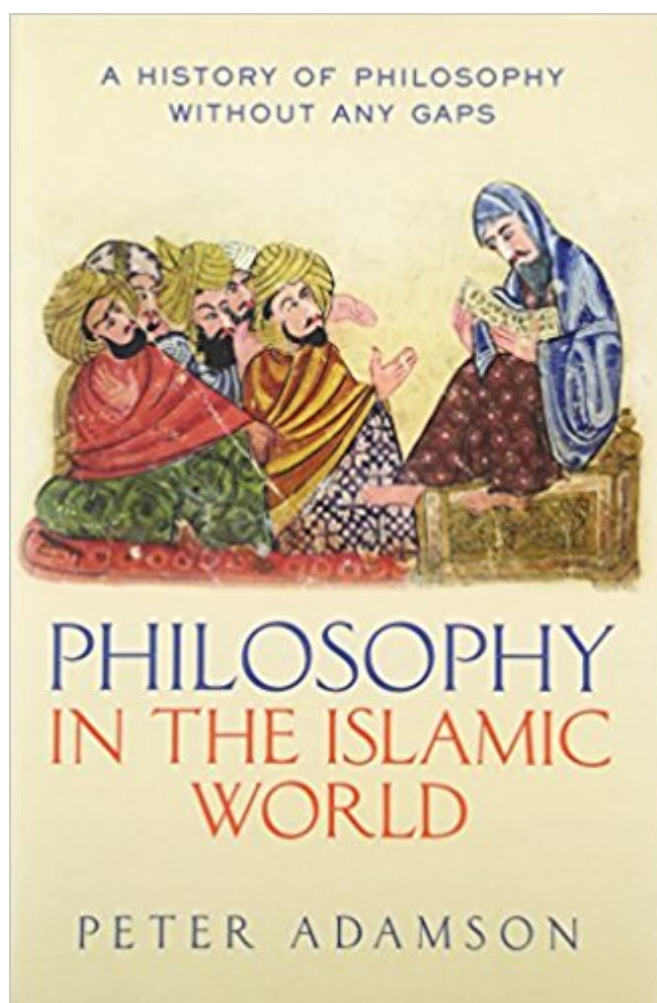


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# Philosophy In The Islamic World: A History Of Philosophy Without Any Gaps, Volume 3



## Synopsis

The latest in the series based on the popular History of Philosophy podcast, this volume presents the first full history of philosophy in the Islamic world for a broad readership. It takes an approach unprecedented among introductions to this subject, by providing full coverage of Jewish and Christian thinkers as well as Muslims, and by taking the story of philosophy from its beginnings in the world of early Islam all the way through to the twentieth century. Major figures like Avicenna, Averroes, and Maimonides are covered in great detail, but the book also looks at less familiar thinkers, including women philosophers. Attention is also given to the philosophical relevance of Islamic theology (kalam) and mysticism--the Sufi tradition within Islam, and Kabbalah among Jews--and to science, with chapters on disciplines like optics and astronomy. The book is divided into three sections, with the first looking at the first blossoming of Islamic theology and responses to the Greek philosophical tradition in the world of Arabic learning. This 'formative period' culminates with the work of Avicenna, the pivotal figure to whom most later thinkers feel they must respond. The second part of the book discusses philosophy in Muslim Spain (Andalusia), where Jewish philosophers come to the fore, though this is also the setting for such thinkers as Averroes and Ibn Arabi. Finally, a third section looks in unusual detail at later developments, touching on philosophy in the Ottoman, Mughal, and Safavid empires and showing how thinkers in the nineteenth to the twentieth century were still concerned to respond to the ideas that had animated philosophy in the Islamic world for centuries, while also responding to political and intellectual challenges from the European colonial powers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This is a well-written and interesting work ... the author deserves credit for engaging with such a complex subject and making it accessible to the public."--Muhammad Khan, The Muslim

News"From the first volume onwards, a repeated refrain has been philosophers arguing that being a philosopher is the best choice in life. These books are so engaging, instructive and diverting it might almost make you believe that is true." -- Scotland on Sunday"As an introduction to philosophy in the Islamic world, the book is readable, relatively thorough, and provides a solid foundation for the topic."--Reading Religion

Peter Adamson, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität MünchenPeter Adamson took his doctorate from the University of Notre Dame and first worked at King's College London. In 2012 he moved to the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, where he is Professor of Late Ancient and Arabic Philosophy. He has published widely in ancient and medieval philosophy, especially on Neoplatonism and on philosophy in the Islamic world.

In my review of Peter Adamson's [Philosophy in the Hellenistic and Roman Worlds: A History of Philosophy without any gaps, Volume 2](#), I wondered if the world really needed another primer on Greco-Roman philosophy and expressed my concern that we needed more books on non-western philosophy. I said this without any knowledge of Adamson's podcast. And for this I apologize, because it turns out Adamson is truly writing a history of philosophy without any gaps. With this volume, he ventures into Islamic philosophy. Given the state of relations between Islam and the West, and widespread Islamophobia, this book is actually quite timely. It shows some of the brilliant philosophical insights Islamic scholars made, often parallel to, sometimes predating, but often independent of the West. Sometimes, these philosophical insights are quite new and distinct from Western philosophy. I've always been fascinated by the way religion, government, and philosophy interact in Islam, a tension Adamson explores quite a bit. Equally interesting was seeing Islamic scholars reach the same philosophical insights as their Western counterparts. Different roads, same destination. I admit I'm not particularly well versed in philosophy, much less Islamic philosophy, so I can't really judge its accuracy. But this book seems quite thorough. Even as somebody not fooled by the caricatures about Islamic, I was fascinated to read about female philosophers. Now that I know that Adamson can explain non-Western as well as Western philosophy, I'm looking forward to

future books in the series. This book fills an important gap and will likely change your view of the Islamic world.[Note: I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.]

wonderful copy and book

Great book, great podcasts as well. Book came in excellent condition, cover has a nice feel to it

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