

a history of god by karen armstrong

A Critical Analysis of Karen Armstrong's "A History of God": Its Enduring Impact

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Introduction: Tracing the Evolution of the Divine in "A History of God by Karen Armstrong"

Karen Armstrong's *A History of God*, first published in 1993, remains a seminal work in the field of religious studies. This comprehensive exploration of the development of the concept of God within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—the three Abrahamic faiths—has significantly influenced popular understanding of religious history and continues to shape current trends in interfaith dialogue and comparative theology. This analysis will delve into the book's strengths and weaknesses, examining its impact on contemporary discussions surrounding religion, spirituality, and the ongoing quest for understanding different faith traditions. Analyzing *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong requires considering its historical context, its methodology, and its lasting legacy.

Karen Armstrong: A Voice for Religious Understanding

Armstrong, a former Roman Catholic nun and acclaimed author, brings a unique perspective to the study of religion. Her expertise lies in understanding the

inner lives of faith traditions, moving beyond superficial doctrinal comparisons to uncover the deeper spiritual and ethical dimensions. This approach, clearly demonstrated in *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong, allows her to bridge the gaps between often-conflicting theological interpretations and highlight the shared humanity underpinning diverse religious expressions. Her personal journey and scholarly rigor combine to create a work that is both deeply insightful and widely accessible.

Summary of the Book and its Central Arguments

A History of God by Karen Armstrong traces the evolution of the concept of God from its polytheistic origins in ancient Mesopotamia to its monotheistic articulation in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Armstrong argues that the concept of God has undergone significant transformations throughout history, shaped by social, political, and cultural contexts. She meticulously examines the theological shifts within each faith tradition, highlighting the complexities and internal debates that have shaped their respective understandings of the divine. A central theme in *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong is the progressive emphasis on the personal, compassionate, and merciful nature of God, contrasting the earlier, often more fearsome, portrayals found in ancient religious practices. The book doesn't shy away from exploring the darker aspects of religious history, including violence and intolerance, but contextualizes these phenomena within broader historical narratives. The ultimate aim of *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong is to foster greater understanding and empathy across different religious communities by emphasizing the common threads that unite them, rather than focusing solely on their differences.

Impact on Current Trends

A History of God by Karen Armstrong has had a profound and multifaceted impact on current trends:

Increased Interfaith Dialogue: The book's emphasis on the shared heritage and underlying spiritual aspirations of the Abrahamic faiths has fueled increased interfaith dialogue and cooperation. By presenting a nuanced and sympathetic portrayal of each tradition, Armstrong encourages readers to approach religious difference with greater understanding and respect. This resonates powerfully in our increasingly interconnected and diverse world.

Renewed Interest in Religious History: *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong sparked a renewed interest in studying the history of religion from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. It challenged simplistic narratives and encouraged a more nuanced understanding of the historical development of religious beliefs and practices. Its accessibility helped to bring religious history to a wider audience beyond specialized academic circles.

Shifting Perceptions of God: Armstrong's focus on the evolving concept of God has challenged traditional, static understandings of divinity. Her analysis encourages a more dynamic and contextualized understanding of religious belief, acknowledging the influence of historical circumstances on theological interpretations. This approach contributes to a more sophisticated and less rigid understanding of faith.

Critique of Religious Extremism: While not explicitly focused on combating religious extremism, *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong indirectly contributes to this effort. By highlighting the rich historical development and internal complexities of each faith, it undermines simplistic, fundamentalist interpretations that often fuel religious violence and intolerance. The book implicitly advocates for a more nuanced and historically informed understanding of religious texts and traditions.

Critical Assessment: Strengths and Weaknesses

While *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong is widely praised, it also faces some criticisms:

Eurocentric Bias: Some scholars argue that the book's focus on the Abrahamic traditions neglects other significant religious traditions, potentially perpetuating a Eurocentric bias in the study of religion.

Simplified Narrative: The breadth of the topic necessitates a certain level of simplification. Critics argue that some historical nuances and complexities might be overlooked in the interest of providing a concise and accessible narrative.

Interpretive Choices: Armstrong's interpretations, while insightful, are not universally accepted. Different scholars may offer alternative interpretations of the same historical events or theological developments.

Despite these criticisms, *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong remains an indispensable contribution to the field of religious studies. Its strengths far outweigh its weaknesses, making it a valuable resource for both scholars and general readers seeking a deeper understanding of the history and evolution of religious belief.

Conclusion: A Lasting Legacy

A History of God by Karen Armstrong has undeniably left an enduring mark on the study of religion. Its accessibility, insightful interpretations, and emphasis on interfaith understanding have made it a landmark work. While some critiques remain, the book's impact on shaping contemporary discourse on religion, spirituality, and interfaith relations is undeniable. Its continued relevance speaks volumes about its enduring power to challenge perspectives, promote dialogue, and encourage a more nuanced and empathetic approach to

understanding the world's diverse religious traditions. The book serves as a vital reminder of the complex, often paradoxical, journey of humanity's relationship with the divine.

FAQs

1. What is the main argument of *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong? The central argument is that the concept of God has evolved significantly throughout history, shaped by social, political, and cultural factors, within Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
1. Who is the intended audience of *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong? The book is accessible to a wide audience, including scholars, students, and general readers interested in religious history and comparative religion.
1. What are the primary sources used in *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong? Armstrong draws upon a vast range of primary sources, including religious texts, historical documents, and archaeological findings.
1. How does *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong contribute to interfaith dialogue? By emphasizing the shared spiritual heritage and ethical principles of the Abrahamic faiths, the book encourages greater understanding and cooperation among different religious communities.
1. What are some of the criticisms leveled against *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong? Some critics point to a potential Eurocentric bias and argue that certain historical complexities are oversimplified.
1. What is Armstrong's own religious background? Armstrong was raised a Roman Catholic and spent several years as a nun before becoming a writer and scholar of comparative religion.

1. Is *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong considered a scholarly work? While accessible to a broad audience, it is grounded in serious scholarship and employs rigorous historical and theological methods.
1. How has *A History of God* by Karen Armstrong influenced current academic discussions? It has significantly impacted comparative religious studies, prompting further exploration of the evolution of religious ideas and fostering interdisciplinary approaches.
1. Where can I find more information about Karen Armstrong's work? Her official website and numerous interviews and articles provide further insights into her scholarship and perspectives.

Related Articles

1. "The Problem of God in Karen Armstrong's *A History of God*": This article examines the evolution of the concept of God as portrayed in Armstrong's book and analyzes her approach to the problem of theodicy.
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1. "Comparing Armstrong's A History of God with other Major Works on Religious History": This article contrasts Armstrong's book with other significant works in the field, highlighting similarities and differences in approach and interpretation.
1. "The Use of Primary Sources in A History of God by Karen Armstrong": An in-depth analysis of the primary source material used by Armstrong and its impact on her overall argument.
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from the time of Abraham to the present. The epic story begins with the Jews' gradual transformation of pagan idol worship in Babylon into true monotheism—a concept previously unknown in the world. Christianity and Islam both rose on the foundation of this revolutionary idea, but these religions refashioned 'the One God' to suit the social and political needs of their followers. From classical philosophy and medieval mysticism to the Reformation, Karen Armstrong performs the near miracle of distilling the intellectual history of monotheism into one superbly readable volume, destined to take its place as a classic. Praise for *History of God* “An admirable and impressive work of synthesis that will give insight and satisfaction to thousands of lay readers.”—The Washington Post Book World “A brilliantly lucid, spendidly readable book. [Karen] Armstrong has a dazzling ability: she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to the fundamentals, without oversimplifying.”—The Sunday Times (London) “Absorbing . . . A lode of learning.”—Time “The most fascinating and learned study of the biggest wild goose chase in history—the quest for God. Karen Armstrong is a genius.”—A.N. Wilson, author of *Jesus: A Life*

a history of god by karen armstrong: The Case for God Karen Armstrong, 2009-09-22 NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A nuanced exploration of the role of religion in our lives, drawing on insights of the past to build a faith for our dangerously polarized age—from the New York Times bestselling author of *The History of God* Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names, such as God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in our own time, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike now think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions with the same depth of knowledge and profound insight that have marked all her acclaimed books, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level. Yet she cautions us that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason; that, she says, is the role of logos. The task of religion is “to help us live creatively, peacefully, and even joyously with realities for which there are no easy explanations.” She emphasizes, too, that religion will not work automatically. It is, she says, a practical discipline: its insights are derived not from abstract speculation but from “dedicated intellectual endeavor” and a “compassionate lifestyle that enables us to break out of the prism of selfhood.”

a history of god by karen armstrong: The Battle for God Karen Armstrong, 2001-01-30 In the late twentieth century, fundamentalism has emerged as one of the most powerful forces at work in the world, contesting the dominance of modern secular values and threatening peace and harmony around the globe. Yet it remains incomprehensible to a large number of people. In *The Battle for God*, Karen Armstrong brilliantly and sympathetically shows us how and why fundamentalist groups came into existence and what they yearn to accomplish. We see the West in the sixteenth century beginning to create an entirely new kind of civilization, which brought in its wake change in every aspect of life -- often painful and violent, even if liberating. Armstrong argues that one of the things that changed most was religion. People could no longer think about or experience the divine in the same way; they had to develop new forms of faith to fit their new circumstances. Armstrong characterizes fundamentalism as one of these new ways of being religious that have emerged in every major faith tradition. Focusing on Protestant fundamentalism in the United States, Jewish fundamentalism in Israel, and Muslim fundamentalism in Egypt and Iran, she examines the ways in which these movements, while not monolithic, have each sprung from a dread of modernity -- often in response to assault (sometimes unwitting, sometimes intentional) by the mainstream society. Armstrong sees fundamentalist groups as complex, innovative, and modern -- rather than as throwbacks to the past -- but contends that they have failed in religious terms. Maintaining that fundamentalism often exists in symbiotic relationship with an aggressive

modernity, each impelling the other on to greater excess, she suggests compassion as a way to defuse what is now an intensifying conflict. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

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a history of god by karen armstrong: The Spiral Staircase Karen Armstrong, 2010-06-04 The moving story of her own search for God by the highly-acclaimed author of the bestselling *A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity and Islam*; *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism*; and *Islam: A Short History*. In 1969, after seven years as a Roman Catholic nun -- hoping, but ultimately failing, to find God -- Armstrong left her convent. She knew almost nothing of the changed world she was entering, and she was tormented by panic attacks and inexplicable seizures. Her struggle against despair was fueled by a string of discouragements -- failed spirituality, doctorate and jobs, fruitless dealings with psychiatrists -- but finally, in 1976, she was diagnosed with epilepsy and given proper treatment. She then began the writing career that would become her true calling, and as she focused on the sacred texts of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, her own true inner story began to emerge. She would come to experience brief moments of transcendence through her work -- the profound fulfillment that she had not found in the long hours of prayer as a young nun. Powerfully engaging, often heart-breaking, but lit with bursts of humour, *The Spiral Staircase* is an extraordinary history of self.

a history of god by karen armstrong: The case for God. Karen Armstrong, 2009 Moving from the Paleolithic age to the present, Karen Armstrong details the great lengths to which humankind has gone in order to experience a sacred reality that it called by many names, such as God, Brahman, Nirvana, Allah, or Dao. Focusing especially on Christianity but including Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Chinese spiritualities, Armstrong examines the diminished impulse toward religion in 21st century, when a significant number of people either want nothing to do with God or question the efficacy of faith. Why has God become unbelievable? Why is it that atheists and theists alike think and speak about God in a way that veers so profoundly from the thinking of our ancestors? Answering these questions, Armstrong makes clear how the changing face of the world has necessarily changed the importance of religion at both the societal and the individual level. And she makes an argument for drawing on the insights of the past in order to build a faith that speaks to the needs of our dangerously polarized age. Yet she cautions readers that religion was never supposed to provide answers that lie within the competence of human reason; that, she says, is the role of logos.

a history of god by karen armstrong: In the Beginning Karen Armstrong, 2011-08-10

"Karen Armstrong is a genius."—A. N. Wilson As the foundation stone of the Jewish and Christian scriptures, The Book of Genesis unfolds some of the most arresting stories of world literature—the Creation; Adam and Eve; Cain and Abel; the sacrifice of Isaac. Yet the meaning of Genesis remains enigmatic. In this fascinating volume, Karen Armstrong, author of the highly acclaimed bestseller *A History of God*, brilliantly illuminates the mysteries and profundities of this mystifying work.

BONUS: This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*. "A lyrical chronicle of one woman's wrestling with Genesis that can serve as a guide to others . . . As notable for its scholarship as it is for its honesty and vulnerability."—Publishers Weekly "Armstrong can simplify complex ideas, but she is never simplistic."—The New York Times Book Review

a history of god by karen armstrong: *The Great Transformation* Karen Armstrong, 2009-02-24 From one of the world's leading writers on religion and the highly acclaimed author of the bestselling *A History of God*, *The Battle for God* and *The Spiral Staircase*, comes a major new work: a chronicle of one of the most important intellectual revolutions in world history and its relevance to our own time. In one astonishing, short period – the ninth century BCE – the peoples of four distinct regions of the civilized world created the religious and philosophical traditions that have continued to nourish humanity into the present day: Confucianism and Daoism in China; Hinduism and Buddhism in India; monotheism in Israel; and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Historians call this the Axial Age because of its central importance to humanity's spiritual development. Now, Karen Armstrong traces the rise and development of this transformative moment in history, examining the brilliant contributions to these traditions made by such figures as the Buddha, Socrates, Confucius and Ezekiel. Armstrong makes clear that despite some differences of emphasis, there was remarkable consensus among these religions and philosophies: each insisted on the primacy of compassion over hatred and violence. She illuminates what this "family" resemblance reveals about the religious impulse and quest of humankind. And she goes beyond spiritual archaeology, delving into the ways in which these Axial Age beliefs can present an instructive and thought-provoking challenge to the ways we think about and practice religion today. A revelation of humankind's early shared imperatives, yearnings and inspired solutions – as salutary as it is fascinating. Excerpt from *The Great Transformation*: In our global world, we can no longer afford a parochial or exclusive vision. We must learn to live and behave as though people in remote parts of the globe were as important as ourselves. The sages of the Axial Age did not create their compassionate ethic in idyllic circumstances. Each tradition developed in societies like our own that were torn apart by violence and warfare as never before; indeed, the first catalyst of religious change was usually a visceral rejection of the aggression that the sages witnessed all around them. . . . All the great traditions that were created at this time are in agreement about the supreme importance of charity and benevolence, and this tells us something important about our humanity.

a history of god by karen armstrong: *A Short History of Myth* (Myths series) Karen Armstrong, 2010-10-29 What are myths? How have they evolved? And why do we still so desperately need them? A history of myth is a history of humanity, Karen Armstrong argues in this insightful and eloquent book: our stories and beliefs, our curiosity and attempts to understand the world, link us to our ancestors and each other. This is a brilliant and thought-provoking introduction to myth in the broadest sense—from Palaeolithic times to the "Great Western Transformation" of the last 500 years—and why we dismiss it only at our peril.

a history of god by karen armstrong: *Through the Narrow Gate, Revised* Karen Armstrong, 2005-02-19 Read and cherished by thousands all over the world since it was first published in 1981, *Through the Narrow Gate* takes the reader on a spiritual journey that began one September day in 1962 when Karen Armstrong said good-bye to her family at London's King's Cross station and journeyed on to the convent in Tripton to become a nun. *Through the Narrow Gate* is by turns a book of spiritual revelation and an intimate look at life inside the cloistered walls of the convent.--BOOK JACKET.

a history of god by karen armstrong: *The Trial of God* Elie Wiesel, 1995-11-14 The Trial of

God (as it was held on February 25, 1649, in Shamgorod) A Play by Elie Wiesel Translated by Marion Wiesel Introduction by Robert McAfee Brown Afterword by Matthew Fox Where is God when innocent human beings suffer? This drama lays bare the most vexing questions confronting the moral imagination. Set in a Ukrainian village in the year 1649, this haunting play takes place in the aftermath of a pogrom. Only two Jews, Berish the innkeeper and his daughter Hannah, have survived the brutal Cossack raids. When three itinerant actors arrive in town to perform a Purim play, Berish demands that they stage a mock trial of God instead, indicting Him for His silence in the face of evil. Berish, a latter-day Job, is ready to take on the role of prosecutor. But who will defend God? A mysterious stranger named Sam, who seems oddly familiar to everyone present, shows up just in time to volunteer. The idea for this play came from an event that Elie Wiesel witnessed as a boy in Auschwitz: "Three rabbis—all erudite and pious men—decided one evening to indict God for allowing His children to be massacred. I remember: I was there, and I felt like crying. But there nobody cried." Inspired and challenged by this play, Christian theologians Robert McAfee Brown and Matthew Fox, in a new Introduction and Afterword, join Elie Wiesel in the search for faith in a world where God is silent.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Buddha Karen Armstrong, 2008-11-03 The author of The Battle for God and other works on religion focuses her attention on the Buddha, retracing his life from prince to savior of humankind, in a philosophical portrait that offers an illuminating look at how his life and path to spiritual enlightenment spawned one of the great religions of the world. Reprint.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Jesus A. N. Wilson, 2004 Extraordinarily entertaining....Learned, witty....Wilson [is] a gifted novelist and diligent biographer.--Newsday

a history of god by karen armstrong: The Evolution of God Robert Wright, 2009-06-08 In this sweeping narrative that takes us from the Stone Age to the Information Age, Robert Wright unveils an astonishing discovery: there is a hidden pattern that the great monotheistic faiths have followed as they have evolved. Through the prisms of archaeology, theology, and evolutionary psychology, Wright's findings overturn basic assumptions about Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and are sure to cause controversy. He explains why spirituality has a role today, and why science, contrary to conventional wisdom, affirms the validity of the religious quest. And this previously unrecognized evolutionary logic points not toward continued religious extremism, but future harmony. Nearly a decade in the making, The Evolution of God is a breathtaking re-examination of the past, and a visionary look forward.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Summary and Analysis of A History of God: The 4,000-Year Quest of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam Worth Books, 2017-02-14 So much to read, so little time? This brief overview of A History of God tells you what you need to know—before or after you read Karen Armstrong's book. Crafted and edited with care, Worth Books set the standard for quality and give you the tools you need to be a well-informed reader. This short summary and analysis of A History of God by Karen Armstrong includes: Historical context Chapter-by-chapter summaries Detailed timeline of important events Important quotes Fascinating trivia Supporting material to enhance your understanding of the original work About A History of God by Karen Armstrong: A History of God is a rich and comprehensive account of the concept of God across thousands of years of human history. Karen Armstrong, a former nun, focuses on Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, with insights into the work of Western history's great theologians and philosophers. Can humanity persist without some idea of God? Far from moving into an era of pure atheism, Armstrong believes that God as a construct is more crucial now than ever. God is not "dead," God has not abandoned us, God merely shape-shifts to adapt to new contexts, whether that context is medieval agrarianism, nineteenth-century romanticism, or twenty-first-century post-modern techno-urbanism. Armstrong's in-depth examination of monotheism provides a foundation for the curious novice while not holding back on academic concepts and obscure but fascinating historical accounts. The summary and analysis in this ebook are intended to complement your reading experience and bring you closer to a great work of nonfiction.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Jerusalem Karen Armstrong, 2011-08-10 Venerated for millennia by three faiths, torn by irreconcilable conflict, conquered, rebuilt, and mourned for again and again, Jerusalem is a sacred city whose very sacredness has engendered terrible tragedy. In this fascinating volume, Karen Armstrong, author of the highly praised *A History of God*, traces the history of how Jews, Christians, and Muslims have all laid claim to Jerusalem as their holy place, and how three radically different concepts of holiness have shaped and scarred the city for thousands of years. Armstrong unfolds a complex story of spiritual upheaval and political transformation—from King David's capital to an administrative outpost of the Roman Empire, from the cosmopolitan city sanctified by Christ to the spiritual center conquered and glorified by Muslims, from the gleaming prize of European Crusaders to the bullet-ridden symbol of the present-day Arab-Israeli conflict. Written with grace and clarity, the product of years of meticulous research, *Jerusalem* combines the pageant of history with the profundity of searching spiritual analysis. Like Karen Armstrong's *A History of God*, *Jerusalem* is a book for the ages. **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life*.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Twelve Steps to a Compassionate Life Karen Armstrong, 2010-12-28 One of the most original thinkers on the role of religion in the modern world—and the bestselling author of such acclaimed books as *A History of God*, *Islam*, and *Buddha*—now gives us a thoughtful, and thought-provoking book that can help us make the world a more compassionate place. Karen Armstrong believes that while compassion is intrinsic in all human beings, each of us needs to work diligently to cultivate and expand our capacity for compassion. Here, she sets out a program that can lead us toward a more compassionate life. The twelve steps Armstrong suggests begin with “Learn About Compassion” and close with “Love Your Enemies.” In between, she takes up “compassion for yourself,” mindfulness, suffering, sympathetic joy, the limits of our knowledge of others, and “concern for everybody.” She suggests concrete ways of enhancing our compassion and putting it into action in our everyday lives, and provides, as well, a reading list to encourage us to “hear one another’s narratives.” Throughout, Armstrong makes clear that a compassionate life is not a matter of only heart or mind but a deliberate and often life-altering commingling of the two.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Holy War Karen Armstrong, 1988 The Crusades and their impact on today's world.

a history of god by karen armstrong: A History of God Karen Armstrong, 1993-09-30

a history of god by karen armstrong: The Great Transformation Karen Armstrong, 2007-04-10 **NATIONAL BESTSELLER** • An extraordinary investigation of a critical moment in the evolution of religious thought—from the New York Times bestselling author of *A History of God* and *The Spiral Staircase* “A splendid book.... Lucid, highly readable.... Relevant to a world still embroiled in military conflict and sectarian hatreds.” —The New York Times In the ninth century BCE, events in four regions of the civilized world led to the rise of religious traditions that have endured to the present day—development of Confucianism and Daoism in China, Hinduism and Buddhism in India, monotheism in Israel, and philosophical rationalism in Greece. Armstrong, one of our most prominent religious scholars, examines how these traditions began in response to the violence of their time. Studying figures as diverse as the Buddha and Socrates, Confucius and Jeremiah, Armstrong reveals how these still enduring philosophies can help address our contemporary problems.

a history of god by karen armstrong: Religion Karen Armstrong, 2019-10-03 ‘Because God is infinite, nobody can have the last word’ What is this thing, religion, supposedly the cause of bloodshed and warring for centuries? What is ‘God’ and do we need ‘Him’ in our modern world? Karen Armstrong looks again at these questions in a refreshing and startling way. God is not to be ‘believed in’ as a child believes in Santa Claus; religion is not a story to be proven true or false, but a discipline akin to music or art that answers a deeply human need, and can teach us to discover new capacities of mind and heart. Selected from *A Case for God*, *Fields of Blood* and *The Lost Art of Scripture* **VINTAGE MINIS: GREAT MINDS. BIG IDEAS. LITTLE BOOKS.** A series of short books by

the world's greatest writers on the experiences that make us human Also in the Vintage Minis 'Great Ideas' series: Art by Simon Schama Science by Ian McEwan

a history of god by karen armstrong: Muhammad Prophet for our time Karen Armstrong, 2013-06-01 Karen Armstrong adalah penulis yang telah menghasilkan karya-karya gemilang tentang berbagai tradisi agama. Dalam setiap tulisannya, dia menampakkan kepiawaiannya menampilkan kajian yang rumit menjadi bahasan yang memikat dan mudah dimengerti. Penulis yang bermukim di Inggris itu kini menampilkan biografi Nabi Muhammad, yang tentunya membawakan tafsiran yang baru dan mengejutkan yang selalu menjadi kekhasannya. Biografi Nabi Muhammad ini ditulis Karen pertama kali sebagai respons terhadap fatwa Ayatullah Khomeini terhadap Salman Rushdie. Hingga saat itu, kebanyakan literatur Barat menggambarkan Muhammad entah sebagai orang suci yang sempurna atau sebagai penipu ulung. Armstrong berdiri di tengahnya: Muhammad ditampilkannya sebagai seorang luar biasa berbakat, pemberani, dan kompleks. Diperlihatkannya pula betapa karakter dan ide-ide Nabi demikian kuat untuk mengubah sejarah secara drastis dan menarik jutaan pengikut. Dengan mahir Karen menjalinkan di dalam narasinya jejak-jejak awal sejarah panjang permusuhan Barat terhadap Islam. Ditulis dengan riset yang kuat dan berdasarkan sumber-sumber yang berimbang, penggambaran Karen tentang Nabi dengan latar kehadirannya tentu dapat pula mencerahkan pembaca dengan pemahaman baru tentang kejadian-kejadian modern di kancah politik internasional. [Mizan, Agama, nabi, Islam, Karen Armstrong, Indonesia]

a history of god by karen armstrong: Muhammad Karen Armstrong, 2023-06-15 A life of the prophet Muhammad by bestselling author Karen Armstrong. 'Armstrong has a dazzling ability: she can take a long and complex subject and reduce it to its fundamentals, without over-simplifying' SUNDAY TIMES 'One of our best living writers on religion' FINANCIAL TIMES 'Not just a sympathetic book that would dispel the misconceptions and misgivings of its western readers, but also a book that is of considerable importance to Muslims' MUSLIM NEWS Most people in the West know very little about the prophet Muhammad. The acclaimed religious writer Karen Armstrong has written a biography which will give us a more accurate and profound understanding of Islam and the people who adhere to it so strongly. Muhammad also offers challenging comparisons with the two religions most closely related to it - Judaism and Christianity.

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