
SUMMARY

Various factors in the development of Russian Islamic studies precluded the appearance of a scholarly introduction to the Qur'ān that would provide an overview of the text. E. A. Rezvan's work not only fills this gap, but provides scholars of Islam, historians, philosophers, and specialists on religion with rich material for thought and comparison.

E. A. Rezvan's study is the result of 15 years of work on the text of the Qur'ān and the most varied sources. The author's numerous previous publications have allowed him to formulate a truly broad theme: the role and place of the Qur'ān in Muslim society, the history of the study of this text both in the Muslim East and in Europe, and the application of new technologies to the organization and analysis of extant materials on the Qur'ān's early history. Rezvan's approach rests on two interconnected tasks: examine various aspects of the internal links between the «Qur'ān» and «society» (The Qur'ān and Arabian Society: 6th-7th cent.; The Qur'ān and Muslim society: 8th-10th cent.; The Qur'ān and Europe and Russia) and searching for means to solve the methodological problems posed by the Qur'ān's early history with recourse to new information technologies.

The book contains more than 100 color and black-and-white illustrations. Moreover, some copies will be augmented with audio recordings of various recitation styles on CD-ROM, as this is the only way to convey to readers the variations allowed within the existing tradition. The disc contains recitations of the first *sūra*, «Al-Fātiha», and brief information on the styles of recitation. The audio recording is accompanied by examples of Qur'ānic calligraphy from the collection of the St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

The author has recently received offers to publish his book in English and French, which indicates the interest of a broader readership in his work.