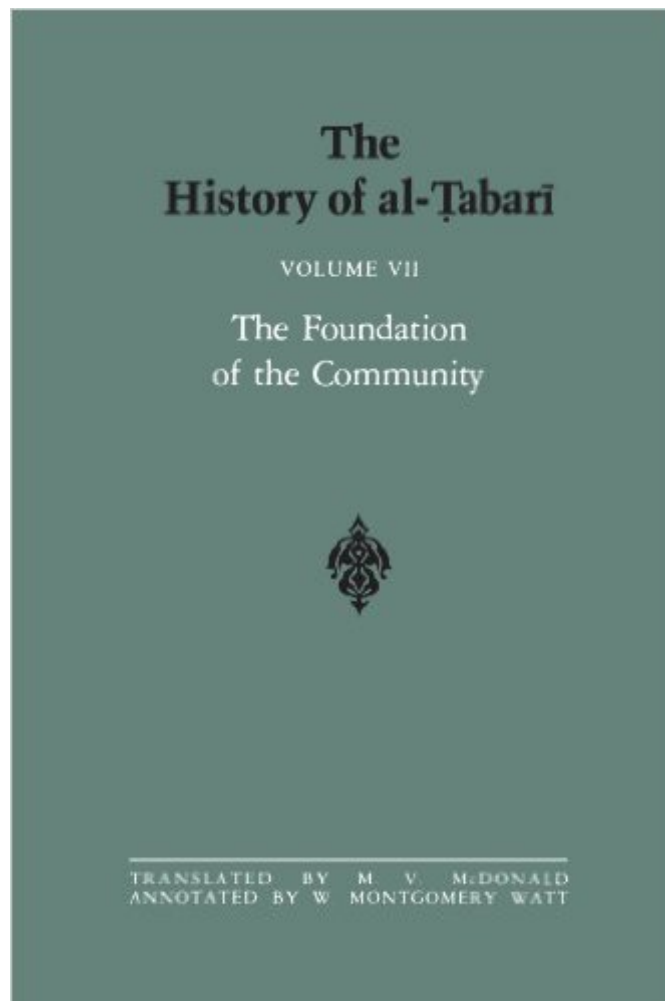


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The History Of Al-Tabari Vol. 7: The Foundation Of The Community: Muhammad At Al-Madina A.D. 622-626/Hijrah-4 A.H. (SUNY Series In Near Eastern Studies)



Synopsis

The contents of this volume are extremely significant: The specific events in this earliest period set precedents for what later became established Islamic practice. The book deals with the history of the Islamic community at Medina during the first four years of the Islamic period--a time of critical importance for Islam, both as a religion and as a political community. The main events recounted by Tabari are the battles between Muhammad's supporters in Medina and their adversaries in Mecca. Tabari also describes the rivalries and infighting among Muhammad's early supporters, including their early relations with the Jewish community in Medina.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This Volume covers the first four years after the Hicrat. Among various excursions to neighbouring tribes or caravans the volume covers Badr and Uhud battles. Marriage of Mohammed (AS) to HZ. Aisah, conflicts with Jews in the city of Madina. Tabari uses Ibn Ishak, Ibn Hisham as his sources and time to time provides variant stories on same subject with chain of isnads. Contrary to his Tafsir, he does not say which one is more acceptable to him. The translators have some preface and time to time explanatory commentary in Fine Prints which I found most of them unacceptable. I did not appreciate sometimes their twisted opinions in a book which is supposed to be a translation. But again I appreciate their work for making this book available to English readers.

Tabari's opus is magnificent indeed. His Taarikh (History of Prophets and Kings) is a great piece of

early islamic historiography, earliest with the exception of Ibn Ishaq's Sira. SUNY did great job translating this 40-volume into English. The reader will find out how early Islam developed according to its official narrative, and how it conquered neighboring lands. I would suggest to the reader to also check historiographical works on early Islam by Hoyland, Crone, Cook, Ibn Warraq and particularly by B. Lewis and M. Sharon, which provide more context for Tabari's History and discuss historicity - or lack thereof - of its narrative.

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