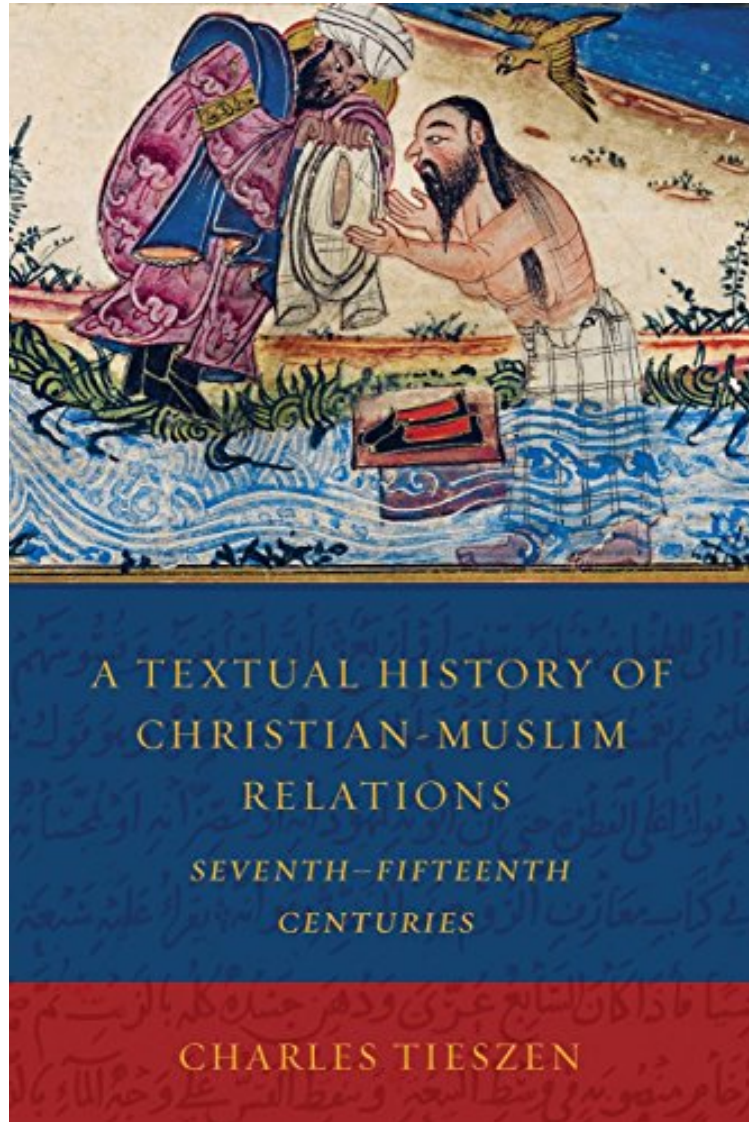


[Free download] A Textual History of Christian-Muslim Relations: Seventh-Fifteenth Centuries

A Textual History of Christian-Muslim Relations: Seventh-Fifteenth Centuries

Charles Tieszen

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Charles Tieszen : A Textual History of Christian-Muslim Relations: Seventh-Fifteenth Centuries before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Textual History of Christian-Muslim Relations: Seventh-Fifteenth Centuries:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. What Polemicists Were Saying About the Other FaithBy Stefano NikolaouThis book is a collection of sources. Charles Tieszen has gathered a wide selection of polemical texts written

by Muslims and Christians over a 700 year period (7th century to the 15th century). As there is no list of the sources included in the product description, for the convenience of potential customers, I will include them.

Chapter 1
 Apocalypse of Pseudo-Methodius (ca. 640-692)
 John of Damascus 'On Heresies' (750 AD)
 Anonymous Christian Arabic Treatise 'On the Triune Nature of God' (788 AD)
 Chapter 2
 Theodore Abu Qurrah 'On the Characteristics of the True Religion', 'On the Trinity', and 'On Our Salvation' (late 8th century)
 The Disputation of Patriarch Timothy I with Caliph al-Mahdi (782/83)
 Abu Ra'itah al Takriti 'On the Proof of the Christian Religion and the Proof of the Holy Trinity', 'The First Risalah on the Holy Trinity' and 'The Second Risalah on the Incarnation' (ca. 815 - 828)
 The Apology of al-Kindy (9th century)
 Chapter 3
 Abu Isa al-Warraq 'The Refutation of the Three Christian Sects' (mid 9th century)
 Al-Jahiz 'Refutation of the Christians' (mid 9th century)
 Rabban al-Tabari 'Book of Religion and Empire' (855 AD)
 Al-Nashi al-Akbar 'The Middle Way Among the Teachings' (9th century)
 Al-Jubbai 'Refutation of the Christians' (915 AD)
 Abu Mansur al-Maturidi 'Divine Unity' (before 944 AD)
 Abu Bakr al-Baqillani 'The Introduction' (before 975)
 Abd al-Jabbar 'The Confirmation of the Proofs of Prophethood' (995 AD)
 Chapter 4
 Ibn Hazm 'Judgement Regarding the Confessions, Inclinations and Sects' (before 1064)
 Abu l-walid al-Baji 'Reply to the Monk of France's Letter to the Muslims' (before 1081)
 Petrus (Peter) Alfonsi 'Dialogue Against the Jews' (1110 AD)
 Unknown Andalusian Christian Author 'The Book of Denuding or Exposing' (ca. 1050-1132 AD)
 Chapter 5
 Thomas Aquinas 'Letter to the Cantor of Antioch on the Saracens, Greeks and Armenians' (1274 AD)
 Anonymous Christian Author 'Letter from the People of Cyprus' (ca. 1316)
 Ibn Taymiyyah 'The Correct Answer to Those Who Have Changed the Religion of Christ' (1316)
 Al-Dimashqi 'Reply to the Letter of the People of Cyprus' (1321)
 Gregory Palamas 'Letter as Captive He Sent From Asia to His Church' (1354)
 Chapter 6
 Anselmo Turmeda 'The Cultured Man's Gift, in Refutation of the People of the Cross' (ca. 1420)
 Nicholas of Cusa 'On the Peace of Faith' (1453) and 'Sifting the Quran' (1461)

This is a good range of sources. I have a strong familiarity with the polemical tradition and I own many of the texts in their original editions. Chapter 3 has a number of texts that I was unaware of. However, Tieszen has relied on gathering already existing sources rather than translating other texts that have been neglected. This is lazy scholarship. I was disappointed that texts from Niketas Byzantios, Peter the Venerable (recently translated into English), Ricoldo of Monte Croce, Dionysius bar Salibi and Manuel Palaeologos were not included. The Byzantine Empire had contact with Islam from its earliest days yet only one Byzantine text is included (Gregory Palamas). As Peter the Venerable wrote the most 'scientific' refutation of Islam I was especially puzzled by his absence. Many of the texts included are in editions that are so expensive the average person could not afford it or are now out of print. For example the 'Letter from the People of Cyprus' is worth two hundred dollars. The gathering of these texts is certainly convenient. The extracts tend to be short. For example ibn Taymiyyah wrote 3,000 pages in his polemic but Tieszen includes 8 pages. Other polemics are a bit briefer so the extracts are more representative of what they have to say. I also noticed that Tieszen avoids the erroneous, lame or stupid things some of the polemicists said. This has many of them coming across as more knowledgeable than they really were. Many polemics were a hit and miss affair with untrue slanders mixed with real points - remember no one was trying to be impartial. Despite its limitations this book is well worth buying for anyone interested in Christian/Muslim Polemics.

The question of Christian-Muslim relations is one of enduring importance in the twenty-first century. While there exists a broad range of helpful overviews on the question, these introductory texts often fail to provide readers with the depth that a thorough treatment of the primary sources and their authors would provide. In this important new project, Charles Tieszen provides a collection of primary theological sources devoted to the formational period of Christian-Muslim relations. It provides brief introductions to authors and their texts along with representative selections in English translation. The collection is arranged according to the key theological themes that emerge as Christians and Muslims encounter one another in this era. The result is a resource that offers students a far better grasp of the texts early Christians and Muslims wrote about each other and a better understanding of the important theological themes that are pertinent to Christian-Muslim dialogue today.

"By assembling representative original materials in English translation, Charles Tieszen facilitates our experience of the range of genres, tones of voice, and modes of discourse employed by Christians and Muslims in the seventh to fifteenth centuries as they took up the doctrinal questions each raised for the other. Tieszen's book is a valuable resource for anyone with serious interest in the theological dimensions of Christian-Muslim engagement." --Lucinda Mosher, Hartford Seminary

About the Author
 Charles Tieszen is an adjunct professor of Islamic studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Christian Identity amid Islam in Medieval Spain* (2013).