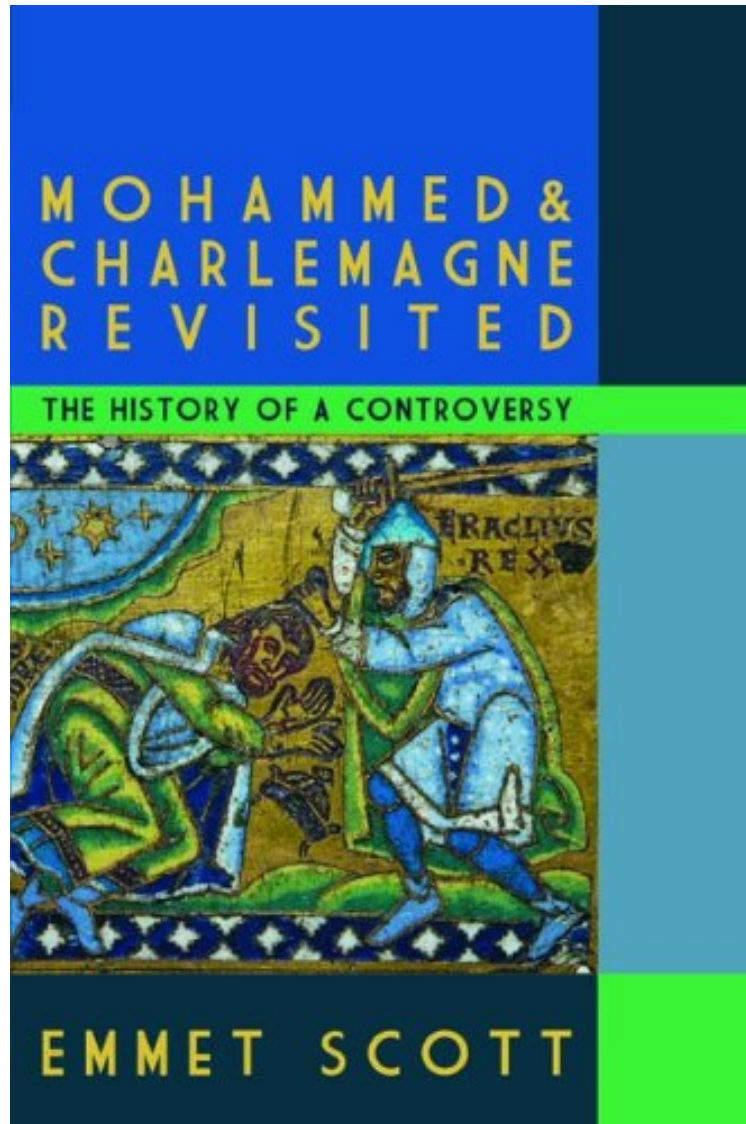


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Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy

Emmet Scott

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Emmet Scott : Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy:

60 of 65 people found the following review helpful. Great Non PC history By Prometheus I Premise of book is that the fall of Rome did not cause the "Dark Ages". Barbarians had been moving into Rome and Roman territory for years.

The barbarians adopted Roman civil norms, albeit in a somewhat impoverished form, and the Roman Empire continued on, more or less, with new management, so to speak. There was actually quite a bit of prosperity and lots of trade with the East via the Mediterranean Sea. Upper class had lots of luxury items that were imported. The "Dark Ages" did not start until the rapid Muslim conquest of North Africa, Southeast Europe, and the Eastern Mediterranean area, not to mention Spain and parts of Southern Italy. People fled the coastline and retreated to fortified castle towns to avoid death, destruction, pillaging and conscription into slavery. Trade with the East was cutoff. Population plummeted. Things sucked for 1000 years, more or less until Spain was liberated and the Muslim invasion was halted at the gates of Vienna. This is apparently a controversial theory, but seems absolutely plausible and likely. Tons of archaeological data in the book to support his thesis. Great book if you want some balance to the PC, "religion of peace" mantra that we have to tolerate constantly. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Awesome, eye-opener
By Jim in Hollister This is an awesome, eye-opener. Basically a forensic tome explaining the dark ages. Highly recommend. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Must read
By Michelle Lamm Great book with history you won't get in schools or universities.

During the 1920s Belgian historian Henri Pirenne came to an astonishing conclusion: the ancient classical civilization, which Rome had established throughout Europe and the Mediterranean world, was not destroyed by the Barbarians who invaded the western provinces in the fifth century, it was destroyed by the Arabs, whose conquest of the Middle East and North Africa terminated Roman civilization in those regions and cut off Europe from any further trading and cultural contact with the East. According to Pirenne, it was only in the mid-seventh century that the characteristic features of classical life disappeared from Europe, after which time the continent began to develop its own distinctive and somewhat primitive medieval culture. Pirenne's findings, published posthumously in his *Mohammed et Charlemagne* (1937), were even then highly controversial, for by the late nineteenth century many historians were moving towards a quite different conclusion: namely that the Arabs were actually a civilizing force who rekindled the light of classical learning in Europe after it had been extinguished by the Goths, Vandals and Huns in the fifth century. And because Pirenne went so diametrically against the grain of this thinking, the reception of his new thesis tended to be hostile. Paper after paper published during the 1940s and 50s strove to refute him. The most definitive rebuttal however appeared in the early 1980s. This was *Mohammed, Charlemagne and the Origins of Europe*, by English archaeologists Richard Hodges and David Whitehouse. These, in common with Pirenne's earlier critics, argued that classical civilization was already dead in Europe by the time of the Arab conquests, and that the Arabs arrived on the scene as civilizers rather than destroyers. Hodges and Whitehouse claimed that the latest findings of archaeology fully supported this view, and their work was highly influential. So influential indeed that over the next three decades Pirenne and his thesis was progressively sidelined, so that recent years have seen the publication of dozens of titles in the English language alone which fail even to mention his name. In *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited* historian Emmet Scott reviews the evidence put forward by Hodges and Whitehouse, as well as the more recent findings of archaeology, and comes to a rather different conclusion. For him, the evidence shows that classical civilization was not dead in Europe at the start of the seventh century, but was actually experiencing something of a revival. Populations and towns were beginning to grow again for the first time since this second century a development apparently attributable largely to the spread of Christianity. In addition, the real centres of classical civilization, in the Middle East, were experiencing an unprecedented Golden Age at the time, with cities larger and more prosperous than ever before. Excavation has shown that these were destroyed thoroughly and completely by the Arab conquests, with many never again reoccupied. And it was precisely then, says Scott, that Europe's classical culture also disappeared, with the abandonment of the undefended lowland villas and farms of the Roman period and a retreat to fortified hilltop settlements; the first medieval castles. For Scott, archaeology demonstrated that the Arabs did indeed blockade the Mediterranean through piracy and slave-raiding, precisely as Pirenne had claimed, and he argues that the disappearance of papyrus from Europe was an infallible proof of this. Whatever classical learning survived after this time, says Scott, was due almost entirely to the efforts of Christian monks. The Pirenne thesis has taken on a new significance in the post 9/11 world. Scott's take on the theory will certainly ignite further and perhaps heated debate.

Emmet Scott's *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy* is not only a fascinating study but an important book, which, I believe, will eventually lead to a paradigm shift - a change in the way we look at the history of Late Antiquity and the Early Medieval Period, and how we answer the question, What ended Roman civilization and brought about the Dark Ages? It is a riveting tale - a history of ideas that does much to illuminate current concerns. Scott takes as his starting point the thesis of the Belgian historian Henri Pirenne [1862-1935] that the real destroyers of classical civilization were the Muslims. Scott refines, corrects and augments Pirenne's insight, and he does so by taking into account two essential disciplines often neglected in studies of this period - archaeology and Islamology. As Scott points out, very few historians paid any attention to the nature of Islam or its beliefs - they simply assumed that Islam was and is a faith no different from others. As for the former element: Scott argues correctly that the written records cannot be taken at their face value, and must be supported by archaeology. I shall not

spoil the fun by revealing what his conclusions are, but they are arrived at after an exhilarating intellectual ride through the history and archaeology of Byzantium, the Roman presence in the West, Middle East, North Africa, the Mediterranean, and much, much more. -- IBN WARRAQ author of *Why the West is Best: A Muslim Apostate's Defense of Liberal Democracy* Conventional scholarly wisdom has held that German conquest ended Roman civilization and brought on the Dark Ages. Henri Pirenne strongly disagreed. Almost a hundred years ago, he argued that starting in the seventh century, Islam was a destructive, indeed a catastrophic, force that caused Europe's Dark Ages. Most European historians have disagreed, claiming that Islam was a tolerant, enlightened force that began to raise Europe out of its darkness. The myth of a so-called Islamic Golden Age in Spain is an expression of that view. Scott defends and enlarges upon Pirenne's thesis, arguing that these historians have paid scant attention to the nature of Islam or its beliefs. Like much of our media and government officials, they assume that Islam is a religion like any other. Scott argues that, with its doctrine of never-ending holy war against all non-believers, Islam was an unprecedentedly destabilizing influence. As with all good history, by reading Scott's well-written, richly-detailed account of the perils that almost destroyed Western civilization in an earlier age, we are informed of the danger that confronts our civilization in our time. This book is a must-read for any person concerned with the future of Western civilization in our times. -- Richard L. Rubenstein, author of *Jihad and Genocide* --New English A number of books published in recent years have demolished the myth of an allegedly tolerant Islamic culture that preserved the Greco-Roman heritage. Ibn Warraq's book *Why the West Is Best* is among the better and more accessible titles in this field. As I concluded in one of my earlier essays, the only part of the ancient Greek heritage that proved to be more compatible with Muslim than with Christian European culture was slavery, and possibly anal sex with young boys in certain parts of the Islamic world. In early 2012 the historian Emmet Scott published *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited: The History of a Controversy* --Front Page Magazine If you are on a limited budget or have limited time and can only read one book this year, *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited* is the one to buy. And a purchase will most likely be necessary, since it will be unavailable in most libraries, what with the hot breath of CAIR and MCB and all the other surrogates of the Muslim Brotherhood breathing down librarians' necks. For more than a thousand years Europe and the European diaspora have struggled to cope with the enormity of the devastation inflicted on us by the Islamic invasions. Our collective memory has attempted and failed to retain an accurate idea of what actually happened to us. In earlier centuries our ability to understand was limited by the inadequacy of communication over vast distances and times. Later, during the European ascendancy, it was difficult to comprehend how much damage could be inflicted by such a primitive and barbaric culture. By the time the European colossus stood astride the globe in the nineteenth century, Islam was a trivial retrograde rabble that deserved no respect and even less attention. How could it have come within a hair's breadth of smothering European civilization in its cradle? The truth of what Islam did and continues to do to Western Civilization has finally been reconstructed. Like an accomplished forensic detective, Emmet Scott has assembled all the pieces of evidence and built an airtight case against Islam. The only verdict possible is Guilty! In the days and months to come the airwaves and the internet will be flooded with ads for books about Barack Hussein Obama, or Mitt Romney, or the meltdown of the euro. Resist their blandishments. Forego just one of those transient and evanescent books. Instead, read Emmet Scott's magnum opus. This one is for the ages. After you finish *Mohammed and Charlemagne Revisited*, your understanding of and reverence for our precious civilization will be fundamentally reorganized. This book is truly artful because it changes the way you see. ---Baron Bodissey --Gates of Vienna About the Author Emmet Scott is a historian specializing in the ancient history of the Near East. Over the past ten years he has turned his attention to Late Antiquity and the declining phase of classical civilization, which he sees as one of the most crucial episodes in the history of western civilization.