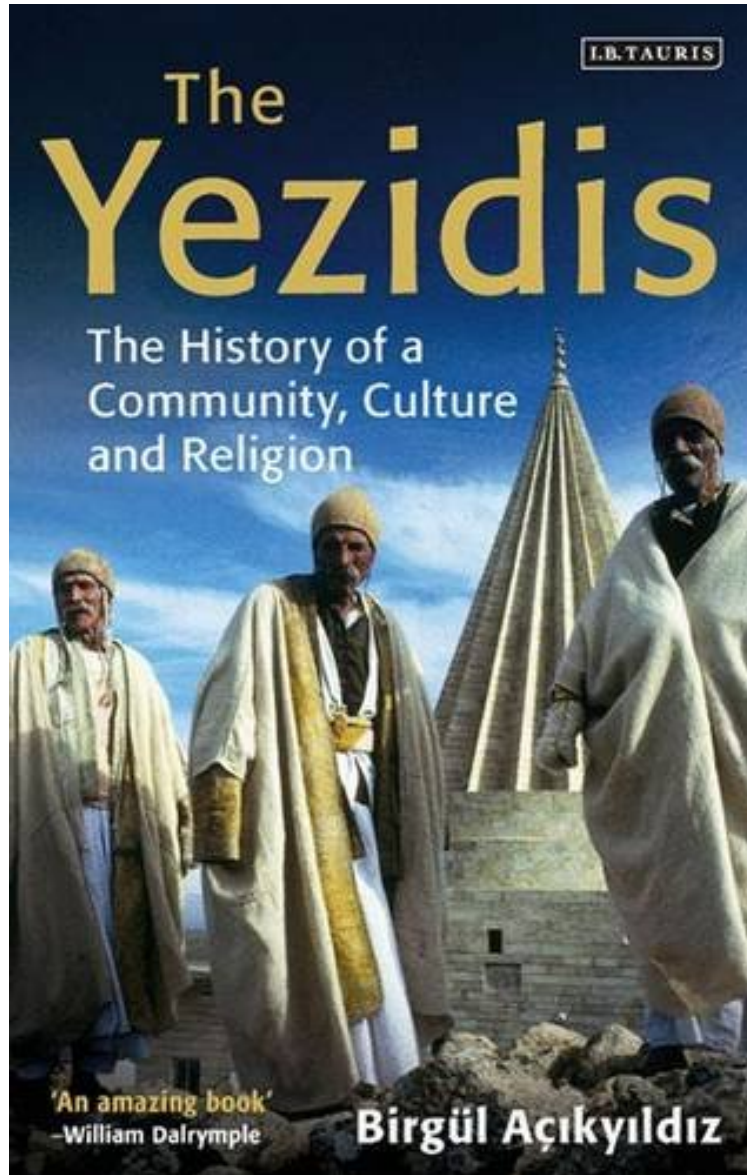


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The Yezidis: The History of a Community, Culture and Religion

Birgöl Aikyildiz

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Birgöl Aikyildiz : The Yezidis: The History of a Community, Culture and Religion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Yezidis: The History of a Community, Culture and Religion:

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for anyone interested. It's vital knowing about these people as ISIS is persecuting and murdering them which has led to their diaspora. Now that the Yezidis are in many parts of Europe and North America we must understand their culture and beliefs which makes this book even more important. I highly recommend this treasure of a book! 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By DRAGUTIN HLADE Excellent! 15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A very interesting important book, but very poorly produced by Tauris. By Rufus Fuscus This is a serious, scholarly (albeit accessible), and at times even fascinating monograph about the Yezidis, and it is a pleasure to read. Unfortunately, the author has been very poorly served by the publisher, Tauris: the paperback edition has been printed in a small format (I never saw this before in a Tauris book), and the black white photos are of dismal quality. Tauris is known for publishing books with abundant illustrations and even art books. However, the way in which this book has been produced is a disgrace. The author deserves high praise, but the Tauris people should be ashamed of themselves.

The minority communities of northern Iraq are under increasingly severe threat from Islamic State jihadists. Among these minorities, the Yezidis have one of the most remarkable legacies of any tradition in the Middle East. Yet not just their religious and material culture but now their entire existence is in peril as entire populations seek refuge from their violent oppressors. But who are the Yezidis (or 'Yazidis' as in much of the Western media)? The community has been misunderstood and oppressed for centuries. Predominantly ethnic Kurds, and the target of persecution over many centuries, until now they have succeeded in keeping their ancient religion alive despite the claim that they are 'devil worshippers.' This is the essential guide to a threatened tradition. It reveals an intricate system of belief influenced by Zoroastrianism and Sufism and regional paganism like Mithraism. It explores the origins of the Yezidis, their art and architecture and the often misunderstood (and now progressively life-threatening) connections between Yezidism and the Satan/Sheitan of Christian and Muslim tradition. Extensively illustrated, with maps, photographs and illustrations, this pioneering book is a testimonial to one of the region's most extraordinary and ancient peoples.

'This is a major, innovative study of one of the least known religious communities of the Middle East Will probably long remain the definitive work on Yezidi material culture.' - Martin van Bruinessen, Professor of the Comparative Study of Contemporary Muslim Societies, Utrecht University 'A fascinating narrative and photographic journey through Yezidi religion, society and material culture.' - Nelida Fuccaro, Lecturer in Modern History of the Arab Middle East, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London 'It is particularly gratifying to see the publication of a scholarly work that takes into account both the living tradition and the archaeological and architectural aspects of the Yezidi heritage... A book that makes a real contribution to Yezidi studies.' - Philip G Kreyenbroek, Professor of Iranian Studies, Georg-August University, Göttingen 'An invaluable introduction to Yezidi architectural and spiritual history An indispensable reference book.' - Sebastian Maisel, Assistant Professor for Arabic and Middle East Studies, Grand Valley State University, Allendale 'A remarkable and original interdisciplinary work on Yezidi history, religion and material culture.' - Khalil Jindy Rashow, Consular at the Ministry of Iraqi Foreign Affairs, Baghdad