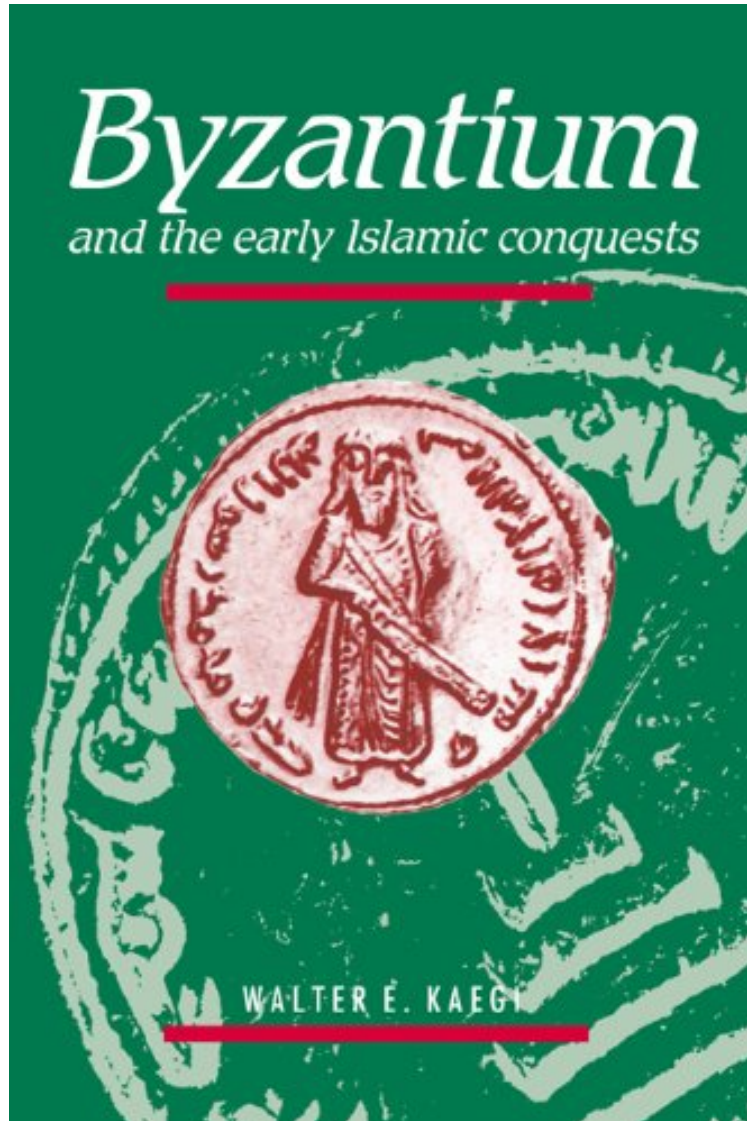


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Byzantium and the Early Islamic Conquests

Von Walter E. Kaegi

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Von Walter E. Kaegi : Byzantium and the Early Islamic Conquests before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Byzantium and the Early Islamic Conquests:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Fluent style and extensive research combinedVon Nima RezaiThis is a great work on a selected special topic, the early arabo-islamic conquests of the mid 7th century, which led to the ousting of the Byzantine empire from the old Roman provinces Syria and Palestine.Kaegi uses an impressive range of primary sources including islamic sources as well as

syriac, greek and armenian sources. The variety of these sources allows him a balanced judgement and depiction of events, but also the (often implicit) correction of well manifested misconceptions. Interestingly for many biased islamophobe readers Kaegi attests that the islamic sources were both comprehensive and (relatively) accurate. Contrary to widespread assumptions and populist anti-islam expectations Kaegi does not attribute any large-scale massacres, expulsions or plundering to the muslim conquerors. He describes the Byzantines as unpopular among local people. The book is easy to read due to the authors fluent style.

Kurzbeschreibung This is a study of how and why the Byzantine Empire lost many of its most valuable provinces to Islamic (Arab) conquerors in the seventh century, provinces which included Syria, Palestine, Mesopotamia, and Armenia. It investigates conditions on the eve of those conquests, mistakes in Byzantine policy toward the Arabs, the course of the military campaigns, and the problem of local official and civilian collaboration with the Muslims. It also seeks to explain how, after terrible losses, the Byzantine government achieved some intellectual rationalisation of its disasters and began the complex process of transforming and adapting its fiscal and military institutions and political controls in order to prevent further disintegration. **Pressestimmen** 'An important contribution to the debate on the Arab Islamic conquests of the eastern Roman provinces in the seventh century.' John Haldon, *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society* **über das Produkt** In describing life and conditions in the seventh-century Byzantine east, Professor Kaegi examines how the empire came to lose so much of its territory to Islamic conquerors. He also seeks to explain how the Byzantine government reacted to this loss.