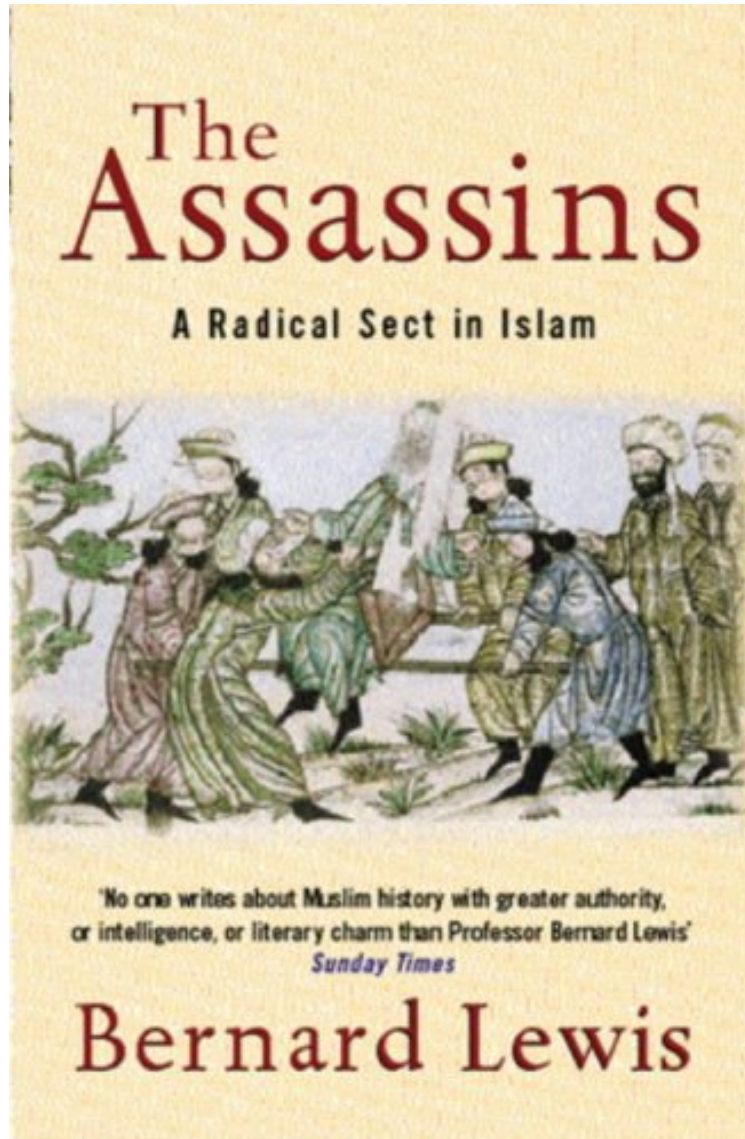


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The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam (English Edition)

Von Bernard Lewis

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Von Bernard Lewis : The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Assassins: A Radical Sect in Islam (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 3 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A thoroughly enjoyable book on a fascinating topicVon Aaron A. RanckThis well-written book is obviously the work of an erudite writer. Lewis provides a thorough examination of what became known to the Europeans as the Assassins.

From explaining likely explanations of where the word "Assassin" came from to describing the shadowy ruler of the group, known as "The Old Man of the Mountain," Lewis keeps the reader interested by making insightful comments and offering thoughtful analysis. Lewis writes about the origins of the Assassin movement, the effects of the Assassins on European Crusaders, Sunni rulers and others. He explains probable causes for their existence with a thorough examination of primary source material. The Assassins are a fascinating study for not only those interested in the history of Islam or the Near East, but is also perfect for those who are interested in fundamentalism, comparative religion, radicalism or someone who wants to learn more about different peoples in a different time period (sometimes the similarities between the Assassin movement and modern fundamentalist and/or radical religious movements are striking). Another fascinating aspect of this book is its sociological explanations of why the Assassins lived primarily in the mountains compared to the Sunni who lived in the fertile river valleys. I especially recommend this book to professors of Religion/History classes who are looking for a very well-written book that provides valuable information while keeping the student interested.

KurzbeschreibungThe history of an extremist Islamic sect in the 11th-12th centuries whose terrorist methods gave the English language a new word: assassin. The word 'Assassin' was brought back from Syria by the Crusaders, and in time acquired the meaning of murderer. Originally it was applied to the members of a Muslim religious sect - a branch of the Ismailis, and the followers of a leader known as the Old Man of the Mountain. Their beliefs and their methods made them a by-word for both fanaticism and terrorism in Syria and Persia in the 11th and 12th centuries, and the subject of a luxuriant growth of myth and legend. In this book, Bernard Lewis begins by tracing the development of these legends in medieval and modern Europe and the gradual percolation of accurate knowledge concerning the Ismailis. He then examines the origins and activities of the sect, on the basis of contemporary Persian and Arabic sources, and against the background of Middle Eastern and Islamic history. In a final chapter he discusses some of the political, social and economic implications of the Ismailis, and examines the significance of the Assassins in the history of revolutionary and terrorist movements.

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