



# Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity

By Nadia Maria El Cheikh

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

**Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity** By Nadia Maria El Cheikh

When the Abbasids overthrew the Umayyad dynasty in 750 CE, an important element in legitimizing their newly won authority involved defining themselves in the eyes of their Islamic subjects. Nadia Maria El Cheikh shows that ideas about women were central to the process by which the Abbasid caliphate, which ushered in Islam's Golden Age, achieved self-definition.

In most medieval Islamic cultures, Arab Islam stood in opposition to *jahl*, or the state of impurity and corruption that existed prior to Islam's founding. Over time, the concept of *jahl* evolved into a more general term describing a condition of ignorance and barbarism?as well as a condition specifically associated in Abbasid discourse with women. Concepts of womanhood and gender became a major organizing principle for articulating Muslim identity. Groups whose beliefs and behaviors were perceived by the Abbasids as a threat?not only the *jahilis* who lived before the prophet Muhammad but peoples living beyond the borders of their empire, such as the Byzantines, and heretics who defied the strictures of their rule, such as the Qaramita?were represented in Abbasid texts through gendered metaphors and concepts of sexual difference. These in turn influenced how women were viewed, and thus contributed to the historical construction of Muslim women's identity.

Through its investigation of how gender and sexuality were used to articulate cultural differences and formulate identities in Abbasid systems of power and thought, *Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity* demonstrates the importance of women to the writing of early Islamic history.

 [Download Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity ...pdf](#)

# Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity

By Nadia Maria El Cheikh

## Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh

When the Abbasids overthrew the Umayyad dynasty in 750 CE, an important element in legitimizing their newly won authority involved defining themselves in the eyes of their Islamic subjects. Nadia Maria El Cheikh shows that ideas about women were central to the process by which the Abbasid caliphate, which ushered in Islam's Golden Age, achieved self-definition.

In most medieval Islamic cultures, Arab Islam stood in opposition to *jahl*, or the state of impurity and corruption that existed prior to Islam's founding. Over time, the concept of *jahl* evolved into a more general term describing a condition of ignorance and barbarism?as well as a condition specifically associated in Abbasid discourse with women. Concepts of womanhood and gender became a major organizing principle for articulating Muslim identity. Groups whose beliefs and behaviors were perceived by the Abbasids as a threat?not only the *jahilis* who lived before the prophet Muhammad but peoples living beyond the borders of their empire, such as the Byzantines, and heretics who defied the strictures of their rule, such as the Qaramita?were represented in Abbasid texts through gendered metaphors and concepts of sexual difference. These in turn influenced how women were viewed, and thus contributed to the historical construction of Muslim women's identity.

Through its investigation of how gender and sexuality were used to articulate cultural differences and formulate identities in Abbasid systems of power and thought, *Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity* demonstrates the importance of women to the writing of early Islamic history.

## Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh Bibliography

- Rank: #1463697 in Books
- Published on: 2015-10-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .80" h x 6.00" w x 9.30" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 176 pages

 [Download Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

In *Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity*, El Cheikh offers a well-crafted and distinctly fresh approach to the formation of Islamic identity. This is a work of high scholarly caliber that will make a significant contribution to the study of early Islam. (Nancy Khalek, Brown University)

El Cheikh demonstrates convincingly and elegantly that ideas about women and gender are key to marking temporal, religious, sectarian, and ideological boundaries. There is a real need for this accessible work for those who want to learn more about Islamic history. (Kecia Ali, Boston University)

#### About the Author

Nadia Maria El Cheikh is Professor of History at the American University of Beirut.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### **Michael Vu:**

This Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you will get by reading this book is usually information inside this book incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This specific Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity can bring once you are and not make your bag space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in the lovely laptop even phone. This Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity having excellent arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not really feel uninterested in reading.

##### **Donna Moore:**

The guide with title Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity contains a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This book exist new information the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world now. That is important to you to be aware of how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you with new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

##### **Enrique Boggs:**

Precisely why? Because this Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will surprise you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining approach but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of

advantages than the other book get such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I have been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

**Jack Morgan:**

Is it a person who having spare time then spend it whole day by watching television programs or just resting on the bed? Do you need something totally new? This Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity can be the respond to, oh how comes? The new book you know. You are so out of date, spending your spare time by reading in this new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these books have than the others?

**Download and Read Online Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity  
By Nadia Maria El Cheikh #1GI2MFZ5JTH**

# **Read Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh for online ebook**

Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh books to read online.

## **Online Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh ebook PDF download**

**Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh Doc**

**Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh Mobipocket**

**Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh EPub**

**1GI2MFZ5JTH: Women, Islam, and Abbasid Identity By Nadia Maria El Cheikh**