

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910820023503321
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Titolo	The social origins of Islam : mind, economy, discourse / / Mohammed A. Bamyeh
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Minneapolis : , : University of Minnesota Press, , 1999 ©1999
ISBN	0-8166-8984-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xiii, 316 pages)
Disciplina	297
Soggetti	Islam - Origin Arabian Peninsula Civilization Arabian Peninsula Social conditions
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Introduction; Part I: The Ground; ONE. The Ideology of the Horizons; TWO. Socioeconomy and the Horizon of Thought; THREE. Social Time, Death, and the Ideal; FOUR. Pre-Islamic Ontotheology and the Method of Knowledge; FIVE. The Discourse and the Path; Part II: The Faith; SIX. Prophetic Constitution; SEVEN. The House of the Umma and the Spider Web of the Tribe; EIGHT. Austerity, Power, and Worldly Exchange; NINE. In Lieu of a Conclusion: The Origins, the System, and the Accident; Notes; Bibliography; Index
Sommario/riassunto	The story of the origins of Islam provides a rich and suggestive example of sweeping cultural transformation. Incorporating both innovation and continuity, Islam built upon the existing cultural patterns among the peoples of the Arabian peninsula even as it threatened to eradicate these same patterns. In this provocative interdisciplinary study, Mohammed A. Bamyeh combines perspectives from sociology, literary studies, anthropology, and economic history to examine the cultural ecology that fostered Islam.