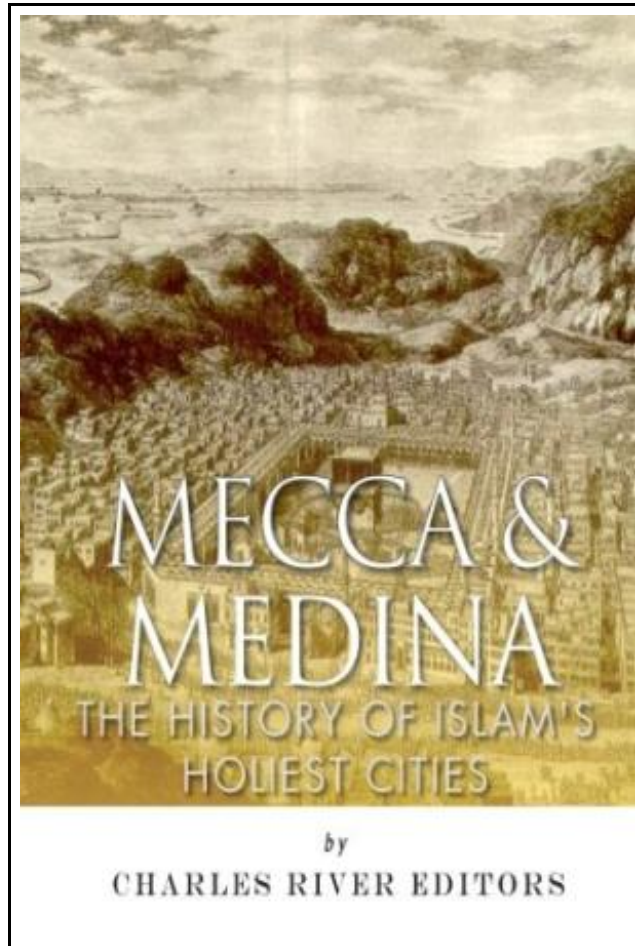


## Mecca and Medina: The History of Islam's Holiest Cities



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Createspace, United States, 2015. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 224 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*. \*Includes pictures \*Includes a history of the region and religion before Islam \*Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading \*Includes a table of contents There is no doubt in the sanctity of Mecca, but a donkey won t become a Hajj pilgrim by just going through the motions. - Rahman Baba Whenever the Prophet returned from a journey and observed the walls of Madinah, he would make his Mount go fast, and if he was on an animal (i.e. a horse), he would make it gallop because of his love for Madinah. - Sahih Bukhari - Book 30: Hadith 110 The reason for the existence of most of the world s cities is obvious to the student of geography. New York and Shanghai control deep ports and straddle great rivers bringing trade from the interior; Paris and London are at the crossing points of major cross-country rivers; Johannesburg sits atop a great mountain of gold ore; and Moscow and Madrid are at the heart of their great nations, easily able to control even the more distant corners of the land. Mecca is quite different, as the city exists solely because it is holy. Even centuries before the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, the leaders of Mecca established that their city was the pre-eminent holy site in western Arabia and established a truce for pilgrims to the city. In the process, one effect of this was that Mecca became a center for might today be described as tourism, as even ancient visitors needed places for food, water, and sleep. At the same time, they could make offerings in the temples and leave with mementos of their time in...

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