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The Great Caliphs: The Golden Age of the Abbasid Empire (Paperback)

By Amira K. Bennison

I.B.Tauris Co Ltd, United Kingdom, 2011. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 234 x 156 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. The flowering of the Abbasid caliphate between 750 and 1258 CE is often considered the classical age of Islamic civilization. In the preceding 120 years the Arabs had conquered much of the known world of antiquity and established a vast empire stretching from Spain to China. But was this empire really so very different, as has sometimes been claimed, from what it superseded? The Great Caliphs creatively explores the immense achievements of the Abbasid age through the lens of Mediterranean history. When the Umayyad caliphs were replaced by the Abbasids in 750, and the Arab capital moved to Baghdad, Iraq quickly became the centre not only of an imperium but also of a culture built on the foundations of the great civilizations of antiquity: Greece, Rome, Byzantium and Persia. Debunking popular misconceptions about the Arab conquests, Amira Bennison shows that, far from seeing themselves as purging the occidental culture of the ancient world with a pure and oriental Islamic doctrine, the Abbasids perceived themselves to be as much within the tradition of Mediterranean and Near Eastern empire as any of...



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