

Analysis of the Quranic Studies and Interpretive Content of the Book “Le Coran des Historiens”

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Abstract

The book “Le Coran des historiens”, is among the latest comprehensive publications on the Quran in Western academia. Key questions arising from the book's content and reports by its contributors pertain to its place in contemporary exegetical and meta-exegetical discussions, as well as the new scholarly benefits it may offer to Quranic and interpretation studies, or the transformations it might bring about in this field. This discussion examines the general Quranic studies topics such as the history of compilation, sources, and structure of the Quran, and reviews examples of exegetical discussions. By presenting evidence, it reveals that the work's general approach is based on principles and assumptions derived from or influenced by modern biblical studies, which may not be applicable to the Holy Quran. This raises significant epistemological questions that scrutinize the validity of the methods employed in the book. It also shows that the perspectives presented or the general Quranic studies are not aligned with the exegetical content of the work. However, the detailed data in the book, in terms of understanding the essentials of explanation and research, as well as utilizing the provided evidence and clues, hold scholarly value as part of the interpretative process in contemporary studies; although the scholarly findings emphasized by the editors of this work may not have a significant impact on the course of contemporary Quranic studies.

Keywords: The Quran of Historians; Amir-Moezzi; Western Quranic Studies; Orientalists; Le Coran des historiens.

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