

ali ibn al athir the complete history

Ali Ibn al-Athir: The Complete History

ali ibn al athir the complete history offers a fascinating glimpse into the life and works of one of the most influential historians of the medieval Islamic world. Ali ibn al-Athir's contributions have shaped our understanding of the Islamic Golden Age, the Crusades, and the broader Middle Eastern history during the 12th and 13th centuries. His meticulous chronicles and insightful analyses remain invaluable resources for scholars and history enthusiasts alike. In this article, we will explore the life, context, and legacy of Ali ibn al-Athir, uncovering the depth of his historical significance.

Who Was Ali Ibn al-Athir?

Ali ibn al-Athir was a prominent Muslim historian, biographer, and jurist born in 1160 CE in Jazirat ibn Umar, a town in the region of Upper Mesopotamia, which is part of modern-day Iraq. Coming from a Kurdish family known for their scholarly pursuits, Ali ibn al-Athir was immersed in a rich intellectual environment from an early age. His father, Muhammad ibn al-Athir, was also a scholar, which influenced Ali's academic path.

Ali ibn al-Athir lived during a period marked by intense political upheaval and military conflict, including the Crusades and the struggles between the Seljuks, Zengids, and Ayyubids. This turbulent backdrop inspired his historical work, as he sought to document the events and leaders shaping the Muslim world and beyond.

The Historical Context of Ali Ibn al-Athir's Era

To fully appreciate **ali ibn al athir the complete history**, it's essential to understand the complex historical context in which he lived and wrote. The 12th and early 13th centuries were characterized by:

- **The Crusades:** A series of religiously motivated military campaigns launched by European Christians to reclaim the Holy Land from Muslim control.
- **The Rise and Fall of Dynasties:** The Seljuk Turks' dominance waned, giving way to the Zengid dynasty and later the Ayyubid dynasty under Salah ad-Din (Saladin).

- **Intellectual Flourishing:** Despite political instability, this era saw remarkable advancements in science, philosophy, and literature across the Islamic world.

Ali ibn al-Athir's chronicles provide a first-hand narrative of these events, delivered with a thoroughness that few contemporaries could match.

The Magnum Opus: *Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh*

Perhaps the most significant contribution to Ali ibn al-Athir the complete history is his monumental work, *Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh* (The Complete History). This extensive chronicle covers history from the creation of the world up to the year 1231 CE, offering a comprehensive account of global events with a focus on Islamic history.

Structure and Content

Al-Kamil is organized chronologically, detailing the reigns of various caliphs, sultans, and rulers. It includes:

- Biographical sketches of key figures like Saladin and Nur ad-Din.
- Detailed descriptions of battles, political intrigues, and alliances.
- Accounts of the Crusades from a Muslim perspective, providing invaluable insights into these conflicts.
- References to earlier historians and sources, demonstrating Ali's commitment to accuracy and scholarship.

Why Is *Al-Kamil* Important?

Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh is not just a chronicle; it's a window into the medieval Islamic worldview. It helps historians reconstruct events where Western and Eastern sources may conflict or lack detail. Ali ibn al-Athir's balanced approach to historiography, combining narrative flair with critical analysis, sets his work apart in Islamic literature.

Ali Ibn al-Athir's Writing Style and Methodology

Ali ibn al-Athir's approach to history was both methodical and engaging. Unlike some historians who simply listed events, he sought to explain causes and effects, motivations of leaders, and the cultural context behind political developments.

Use of Sources

He extensively cited earlier historians such as al-Tabari and Ibn al-Qalanisi, synthesizing and sometimes critiquing their accounts. This critical engagement adds layers of reliability and depth to his work.

Narrative Techniques

Ali's writing is noted for its clarity and narrative momentum. He combined factual reporting with storytelling elements that made historical figures come alive. This technique has helped his chronicles remain accessible and compelling even centuries later.

Legacy and Influence of Ali Ibn al-Athir

The influence of Ali ibn al-Athir's *al-Kamil* extends beyond his lifetime, impacting both the Muslim world and Western scholarship.

Impact on Islamic Historiography

Ali ibn al-Athir set new standards for historical writing in the Islamic tradition. His comprehensive approach inspired later historians to adopt rigorous methodologies and broaden their scope beyond local events to encompass wider geopolitical dynamics.

Western Interest and Translations

European orientalist in the 19th and 20th centuries translated and studied *al-Kamil*, recognizing its value in understanding the Crusades and medieval Middle Eastern history. His works helped bridge gaps in knowledge and facilitated cross-cultural historical studies.

Modern Relevance

Today, scholars still consult Ali ibn al-Athir's chronicles for research on the Crusades, Islamic political history, and medieval culture. His work also serves as a reminder of the rich intellectual heritage of the Islamic world during a pivotal historical era.

Additional Works by Ali Ibn al-Athir

While al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh is his most famous work, Ali ibn al-Athir authored other important texts that contribute to the complete history narrative:

- **Al-Nihayah fi Gharib al-Hadith wa al-Athar:** A lexicon explaining rare and difficult words found in hadith and historical texts.
- **Al-Tabqat al-Kubra:** A biographical dictionary chronicling notable Islamic scholars and figures.

These works highlight his linguistic expertise and broad scholarly interests, reinforcing his reputation as a polymath.

Tips for Exploring Ali Ibn al-Athir's Works

For those interested in diving deeper into the complete history, here are some helpful suggestions:

1. **Start with Translations:** Look for well-annotated English translations of al-Kamil to grasp the context and nuances.
2. **Compare Sources:** Pair Ali's accounts with other contemporary historians like Ibn al-Qalanisi or William of Tyre for a multifaceted perspective.
3. **Understand the Historical Background:** Familiarize yourself with the Crusades, Seljuk and Ayyubid history to better appreciate the events described.
4. **Explore Secondary Literature:** Read modern analyses and commentaries that explain the significance of Ali's methodology and narratives.

Engaging with Ali ibn al-Athir's work can be a rewarding journey through one of history's most dynamic periods.

Ali ibn al-Athir's dedication to preserving history with accuracy and depth continues to inspire those who seek to understand the rich tapestry of medieval Islamic and world history. His chronicles remain a testament to the power of narrative in shaping our collective memory and understanding of the past.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was Ali ibn al-Athir and what is he known for?

Ali ibn al-Athir was a 12th-13th century Muslim historian and writer known for his comprehensive historical work "Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh" (The Complete History), which chronicles world history from the creation of Adam until his own time.

What is the significance of Ali ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History"?

"The Complete History" is significant because it provides a detailed and continuous narrative of Islamic and world history, combining earlier sources with ibn al-Athir's own observations, making it one of the most important medieval Islamic historical texts.

In what language was Ali ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History" originally written?

Ali ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History" was originally written in Arabic, the scholarly and literary language of the Muslim world during his time.

How does Ali ibn al-Athir's work contribute to our understanding of the Crusades?

Ali ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History" offers valuable insight into the Crusades from the Muslim perspective, providing detailed accounts of battles, political events, and key figures involved in the conflicts between Muslims and Crusaders.

What sources did Ali ibn al-Athir use to compile "The Complete History"?

Ali ibn al-Athir utilized earlier historical works, oral traditions, eyewitness accounts, and official records to compile "The Complete History," critically synthesizing these sources to create a comprehensive narrative.

Is "The Complete History" by Ali ibn al-Athir available in English?

Yes, parts of Ali ibn al-Athir's "The Complete History" have been translated into English, making it accessible to a wider audience interested in Islamic and medieval history.

Why is Ali ibn al-Athir's historical methodology considered important?

Ali ibn al-Athir is praised for his rigorous approach to historical writing, including critical evaluation of sources and chronological accuracy, which set a standard for later Muslim historians and enhanced the reliability of his accounts.

Additional Resources

****Ali ibn al-Athir: The Complete History****

Ali ibn al-Athir the complete history represents a significant chapter in the study of medieval Islamic historiography. As one of the most prominent Muslim historians of the 12th and 13th centuries, Ali ibn al-Athir's contributions to the chronicling of Islamic and Middle Eastern history remain invaluable. His detailed accounts offer insights not only into the political and military events of his time but also the cultural and social fabrics that defined the Islamic world during the Crusades and the rise of various dynasties.

Understanding Ali ibn al-Athir's complete history involves examining his life, works, and the broader historical context that shaped his narratives. Through a thorough analysis, this article delves into his biographical background, the scope and significance of his major texts, and his enduring legacy in the realm of historical scholarship.

Life and Background of Ali ibn al-Athir

Born in 1160 CE in Jazirat ibn Umar (modern-day Cizre in Turkey), Ali ibn al-Athir hailed from an illustrious family of scholars and historians. His full name was Ali ibn Muhammad ibn Muhammad ibn al-Athir al-Jazari. The region of his origin, located at the crossroads of several cultures and empires, greatly influenced his scholarly pursuits.

Ali ibn al-Athir's family had a strong tradition of learning and intellectual engagement, particularly in Islamic jurisprudence, Arabic grammar, and history. His brothers—Majd ad-Din and Diyā' ad-Din—were also noted scholars, contributing to the family's scholarly reputation. This intellectual environment provided Ali ibn al-Athir with a solid foundation for his

historical works.

Throughout his life, Ali ibn al-Athir traveled extensively across the Islamic world, including Syria and Iraq, where he gathered information from various sources. His interactions with different courts and scholars enriched his perspective, allowing him to craft comprehensive historical narratives.

Major Works and Historical Contributions

Ali ibn al-Athir's legacy is primarily anchored in his magnum opus, **Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh** (The Complete History). This monumental chronicle is an encyclopedic history of the world from the creation until his contemporary period in the early 13th century. His meticulous approach to sourcing and cross-referencing events has made **Al-Kamil** a crucial primary source for historians studying the Crusades, the Seljuk Empire, and the early Mongol invasions.

Al-Kamil fi al-Tarikh: Scope and Importance

Al-Kamil covers a vast timeline, beginning with prophetic history and extending through the Islamic Golden Age to the era of the Crusades. This comprehensive scope distinguishes Ali ibn al-Athir from other chroniclers who often focused on narrower periods or specific regions.

His narrative style combines both detailed political events and broader cultural and religious developments. For example, his coverage of the Crusades provides not only battle accounts but also insights into the diplomatic relations between Muslim and Christian states. He is notable for striving to present a balanced view, often comparing Muslim and Crusader perspectives.

Ali ibn al-Athir's work is frequently cited by later historians, including Ibn Khaldun and Rashid al-Din, attesting to its foundational role in Islamic historiography. His chronicles also serve as comparative material alongside Western medieval sources, enriching the global understanding of the medieval period.

Other Historical Texts and Contributions

Besides **Al-Kamil**, Ali ibn al-Athir authored several other significant works:

- **Nihayat al-Arab fi Funun al-Adab:** A literary encyclopedia that includes historical anecdotes, biographies, and cultural commentary.

- **Usd al-Ghaba fi Ma'rifat al-Sahaba:** A biographical dictionary of the companions of the Prophet Muhammad, reflecting Ali ibn al-Athir's depth in Islamic scholarship beyond pure historiography.

These works demonstrate his versatility as a scholar, combining historical narrative with biographical and literary elements.

Historical Context and Methodology

Ali ibn al-Athir wrote during a tumultuous period marked by significant political upheaval. The Seljuk Turks held sway over much of the Middle East, while the Crusader states were firmly established in parts of the Levant. The looming threat of the Mongol invasions also cast a shadow over the region's stability.

His historiographical approach was shaped by this dynamic environment. Unlike some of his contemporaries who wrote purely from ideological perspectives, Ali ibn al-Athir often incorporated multiple viewpoints and critically assessed his sources. This investigative method enhances the credibility and value of his chronicles.

He heavily relied on earlier historians such as al-Tabari but also added firsthand accounts and eyewitness testimonies when available. His ability to synthesize various narratives into a coherent history reflects an advanced level of historical scholarship for his time.

Strengths and Limitations of His Histories

Ali ibn al-Athir's histories possess several strengths:

- **Comprehensive Coverage:** His work spans centuries and covers diverse geographic areas.
- **Balanced Perspective:** Attempts to present both Muslim and non-Muslim viewpoints.
- **Source Criticism:** Use of multiple sources and cross-checking information.

However, his works also reflect certain limitations common to medieval historiography:

- **Religious Bias:** Despite balanced efforts, some narratives are colored by Islamic viewpoints, especially regarding Crusaders and non-Muslims.
- **Chronological Challenges:** Occasional inconsistencies in dates and event sequences.
- **Focus on Elite Figures:** The histories prioritize rulers, battles, and elites, with less attention to common people's experiences.

Recognizing these factors is essential for modern researchers who rely on Ali ibn al-Athir's chronicles.

Ali ibn al-Athir's Impact on Islamic and World Historiography

The enduring significance of Ali ibn al-Athir's historical contributions can be seen in multiple dimensions. His works provide a critical source for understanding the Islamic world during one of its most transformative eras, bridging the classical Islamic historiographical tradition with later medieval scholarship.

His detailed accounts of events such as the Crusades have become indispensable for historians seeking to construct a multifaceted picture of medieval geopolitics. Moreover, his balanced and methodical approach has influenced the standards of historical writing in Islamic scholarship.

In the broader scope of world historiography, Ali ibn al-Athir's chronicles offer a valuable non-Western perspective that complements European medieval sources. This cross-cultural viewpoint enriches global historical narratives, offering insights into how medieval Muslim societies perceived themselves and their neighbors.

Ali ibn al-Athir Compared to Contemporaries

When measured against contemporaries like Ibn al-Qalanisi or Ibn al-Jawzi, Ali ibn al-Athir's work stands out due to its extensive chronological reach and geographical coverage. While some historians specialized in local histories, Ali ibn al-Athir undertook the ambitious task of compiling a universal history, a feat that required synthesizing vast sources and information.

His narrative clarity and critical engagement with sources also distinguish him from more partisan chroniclers of the period, making his work more reliable for modern academic scrutiny.

Preservation and Modern Scholarship

Today, Ali ibn al-Athir's texts are preserved in numerous manuscripts scattered across Middle Eastern and European libraries. The rise of digital humanities has facilitated broader access to his works, enabling scholars worldwide to analyze and translate his chronicles.

Modern historians continue to explore his writings to better understand the medieval Islamic world, including its political struggles, cultural dynamics, and intellectual heritage. Translations into various languages have further expanded his influence beyond Arabic-speaking audiences.

Academic studies often highlight the critical role of **Al-Kamil** as a source for reconstructing the history of the Crusades and the Mongol expansion. Furthermore, his biographical works provide rich material for Islamic studies and the study of early Muslim communities.

Ali ibn al-Athir's complete history stands as a pillar of medieval Islamic historiography, reflecting an era of great complexity and transition. His meticulous chronicling, extensive scope, and critical methodology continue to guide and inform historical inquiry, bridging past and present in the ongoing quest to understand the intricate tapestry of human history.

[Ali Ibn Al Athir The Complete History](#)

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The Chronicle of Ibn Al-Athir for the Crusading Period from Al-Kamil Fi'l-Ta'rikh , 2010 The Chronicle of Ibn al-Athir (1160-1233 AD), entitled *al-Kamil fi'l-Ta'rikh*, is one of the outstanding sources for the history of the mediaeval world. It covers the whole sweep of Islamic history almost up to the death of its author. The years in this part are dominated by the careers of Nur al-Din and Saladin, the champions of the Jihad, sometimes called the 'counter-crusade'.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The Conquest and Islamization of Iraq Hüseyin Gökalp, 2023-12-06 This book examines the early Muslim conquests that started with the first caliph, Abu Bakr, and accelerated during the reign of the second caliph, Omar. During this time, the Sassanids were destroyed, the political and commercial order of Rome was turned upside down, and the ancient period came to an end. Iraq, a province belonging to the Persians and the capital city of Ctesiphon, was the first of the regions the Caliphate entered. This book explores in detail the history of the Islamic conquests in Iraq, how and why the Sassanid Empire fell, and the Islamization policies of the Rashidun Caliphate.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: Sources for the History of Western Civilization Michael Burger, 2024-05-01 Sources for the History of Western Civilization is a primary source reader designed specifically to allow undergraduate students to interact with historical documents. Michael Burger provides only the editorial guidance that students truly require, without unnecessary interventions. The third edition gives special stress to certain genres, including letters and biographical writings, to facilitate comparisons across time. Introductions to sources are brief,

encouraging students to make their own assessments and giving instructors the freedom to supplement where desired. The third edition features substantive revisions and additional coverage of key topics throughout as well as new material on the Crusades, Jewish persecution, and European expansion.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: Irānshahr and the Downfall of the Sassanid Dynasty Shahin Nezhad, 2023 The Sassanid Persia (224 - 651 CE) has received increasing attention in both Western and domestic scholarship, not to mention within Iranians in general, particularly in the last three decades. The 1979 Islamic Revolution and the subsequent establishment of the theocratic-clerical regime, the apparent failure of its ideologues in their attempt to reinvent an Irano-Islamic identity based on Twelver Shia myth, and the Iran-Iraq war (1980 - 1988) were all key stimuli that have contributed to this increased attention towards the revival of a non-Islamic historicity.⁰⁰The present work sheds light on some significant sociopolitical and cultural aspects which played decisive roles in the collapse of the Sasanian Empire, a world's antique power, whose decline - with no exaggeration - rewrote the history of the three Asian, European and African continents. The authors meticulously describe, analyze and evaluate all the major historical events at the eve of the Arabo-Islamic invasions whose prediction, and subsequently underestimation by and rivalry within the Sasanian nobility put a definite end to the last Iranian pre-Islamic monarchy. The reader hence, by studying this book, may reconsider the downfall of Sasanians and the rise of the Islamic Caliphate to be a mere unexpected event; a cliché which still dominates within majority of scholars and those interested in the Middle East and Iranian Studies looking at Sasanians' decline as an incomprehensible surprise.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: War and Religion Arnaud Blin, 2019-03-19 The resurgence of violent terrorist organizations claiming to act in the name of God has rekindled dramatic public debate about the connection between violence and religion and its history. Offering a panoramic view of the tangled history of war and religion throughout Europe and the Mediterranean, War and Religion takes a hard look at the tumultuous history of war in its relationship to religion. Arnaud Blin examines how this relationship began through the concurrent emergence of the Mediterranean empires and the great monotheistic faiths. Moving through the Middle Ages and the Renaissance and into the modern era, Blin concludes with why the link between violence and religion endures. For each time period, Blin shows how religion not only fueled a great number of conflicts but also defined the manner in which wars were conducted and fought.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The Literature of Islam Paula Youngman Skreslet, Rebecca Skreslet, 2006-09-20 This book introduces the literature of Islam as it is presented in English translation. For scholars in other fields who need to understand the vast and complex literary heritage of this erudite and vigorous faith community (but are unable to devote years of their lives to achieving a reading proficiency in classical Arabic), for faculty members called upon to teach introductory or survey courses outside their own disciplines, and for graduate students in theology, medieval studies, world religions, or related fields who need access to these primary sources in English translation, The Literature of Islam is a welcome resource. Even lay readers who are interested in understanding the modern Arab or Islamic world may grasp something of the currents of thought and belief through the centuries that produced these important works, which continue to exert a powerful influence upon Muslims today. The primary literatures of Islam are normally classified into several areas of study: the canonical literature, the interpretation of scripture and tradition, law, theology, philosophy, history, and mysticism. Entries here are organized into these areas of study and represent the most significant texts from important trends in the discipline. The volume also includes an extensive bibliography that lists the editions of primary sources analyzed in each chapter. There are also some suggestions for secondary reading, which might be helpful to a student seeking additional information about each genre of literature.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The Pechenegs: Nomads in the Political and Cultural Landscape of Medieval Europe Aleksander Paroń, 2021-06-22 In The Pechenegs: Nomads in the Political and Cultural Landscape of Medieval Europe, Aleksander Paroń offers a reflection on the

history of the Pechenegs, a nomadic people which came to control the Black Sea steppe by the end of the ninth century. Nomadic peoples have often been presented in European historiography as aggressors and destroyers whose appearance led to only chaotic decline and economic stagnation. Making use of historical and archaeological sources along with abundant comparative material, Aleksander Paron offers here a multifaceted and cogent image of the nomads' relations with neighboring political and cultural communities in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *Intelligence Elsewhere* Philip H. J. Davies, Kristian C. Gustafson, 2013-03-12 Spying, the "world's second oldest profession," is hardly limited to the traditional great power countries. *Intelligence Elsewhere*, nevertheless, is the first scholarly volume to deal exclusively with the comparative study of national intelligence outside of the anglosphere and European mainstream. Past studies of intelligence and counterintelligence have tended to focus on countries such as the United States, Great Britain, and Russia, as well as, to a lesser extent, Canada, Australia, France, and Germany. This volume examines the deep historical and cultural origins of intelligence in several countries of critical importance today: India, China, the Arab world, and indeed, Russia, the latter examined from a fresh perspective. The authors then delve into modern intelligence practice in countries with organizations significantly different from the mainstream: Iran, Pakistan, Japan, Finland, Sweden, Indonesia, Argentina, and Ghana. With contributions by leading intelligence experts for each country, the chapters give the reader important insights into intelligence culture, current practice, and security sector reform. As the world morphs into an increasingly multi-polar system, it is more important than ever to understand the national intelligence systems of rising powers and regional powers that differ significantly from those of the US, its NATO allies, and its traditional opponents. This fascinating book shines new light into intelligence practices in regions that, until now, have eluded our understanding.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *After the Prophet* Lesley Hazleton, 2009-09-15 In this gripping narrative history, Lesley Hazleton tells the tragic story at the heart of the ongoing rivalry between the Sunni and Shia branches of Islam. "Fascinating. . . . Lively and engaging. . . . Anyone seeking to understand today's Middle East can learn from this book.—Seattle Times Even as Muhammad lay dying, the battle over who would take control of the new Islamic nation had begun, beginning a succession crisis marked by power grabs, assassination, political intrigue, and passionate faith. Soon Islam was embroiled in civil war, pitting its founder's controversial wife Aisha against his son-in-law Ali, and shattering Muhammad's ideal of unity. Combining meticulous research with compelling storytelling, *After the Prophet* explores the volatile intersection of religion and politics, psychology and culture, and history and current events. It is an indispensable guide to the depth and power of the Shia-Sunni split.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *Charlemagne's Defeat in the Pyrenees* Xabier Irujo, 2025-10-01 The Battle of Errozabal (Rencesvals) is the one of the most significant historical events of eighth century Vasconia and in all Western Europe. The present monograph examines Charlemagne's campaign from the perspective of military history but also as part of a complex socio-political process that began after the Muslim conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in 711 and culminated with the creation of the Kingdom of Pamplona in 824. The battle had major (and largely underappreciated) consequences for the Carolingian Empire. It also enjoyed a remarkable legacy as the topic of one of the oldest European epic poems, *La Chanson de Roland*. The events that took place in the Pyrenean pass of Errozabal on 15 August 778 defined the development of the Carolingian world, and lie at the heart of the early medieval contribution to the later medieval period.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *The Career and Communities of Zaynab Fawwaz* Marilyn Booth, 2021 A study of the career and writings of Zaynab Fawwaz (c.1860-1914) an early feminist thinker and writer in Egypt. It focuses on her newspaper essays, novels, poetry, and her play which was the first to be published by a female author in Arabic.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *Animals and their roles in the medieval society of Sicily from Byzantines to Arabs and from Arabs to Norman/Aragonese (7th-14th c. AD)* Veronica Aniceti,

2022-12-30 The work presented in this book opens a new window on the history and archaeology of medieval Sicily, by focusing on the development of human-animal relationships from Byzantine times to the later Middle Ages. This large-scale study of animal bones and teeth relies on the analysis of material from old and recent excavations, as well as on a comprehensive review of data available from the literature. The results shed light on two major lines of investigation on Arab and Norman-Aragonese Sicily: the influence of different dominations on dietary practices, most notably the extent to which the taboo on pork consumption spread in the island under the Arab administration, and the longer-term changes in animal husbandry as a consequence of the technological developments and novel approaches to landscape exploitation introduced by the Arabs.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The New Cambridge Medieval History: Volume 4, C.1024-c.1198, Part 2 Rosamond McKitterick, David Abulafia, C. T. Allmand, 1995 The fourth volume of The New Cambridge Medieval History covers the eleventh and twelfth centuries, which comprised perhaps the most dynamic period in the European middle ages. This is a history of Europe, but the continent is interpreted widely to include the Near East and North Africa. The volume is divided into two parts of which this, the second, deals with the course of events - ecclesiastical and secular - and major developments in an age marked by the transformation of the position of the papacy in a process fuelled by a radical reformation of the church, the decline of the western and eastern empires, the rise of western kingdoms and Italian elites, and the development of governmental structures, the beginnings of the recovery of Spain from the Moors and the establishment of western settlements in the eastern Mediterranean region in the wake of the crusades.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The ^AOxford Dictionary of Islam John L. Esposito, 2004-10-21 Designed for general readers with little or no knowledge of Islam, this superb Oxford Dictionary provides more than 2,000 vividly written, up-to-date, and authoritative entries organized in an easy-to-use, A-to-Z format. The Dictionary focuses primarily on the 19th and 20th centuries, stressing topics of most interest to Westerners. What emerges is a highly informative look at the religious, political, and social spheres of the modern Islamic world. Naturally, readers will find many entries on topics of intense current interest, such as terrorism and the Taliban, Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, the PLO and HAMAS. But the coverage goes well beyond recent headlines. There are biographical profiles, ranging from Naguib Mahfouz (the Nobel Prize winner from Egypt) to Malcolm X, including political leaders, influential thinkers, poets, scientists, and writers. Other entries cover major political movements, militant groups, and religious sects as well as terms from Islamic law, culture, and religion, key historical events, and important landmarks (such as Mecca and Medina). A series of entries looks at Islam in individual nations, such as Afghanistan, the West Bank and Gaza, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the United States, and there are discussions of Islamic views on such issues as abortion, birth control, the Internet, the Rushdie Affair, and the theory of evolution. Whether we are listening to the evening news, browsing through the op-ed pages, or reading a book on current events, references to Muslims and the Islamic world appear at every turn. The Oxford Dictionary of Islam offers a wealth of information for anyone curious about this burgeoning and increasingly important world religion.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: The Cambridge Medieval History: Contest of empire and papacy. 1926 Henry Melvill Gwatkin, James Pounder Whitney, 1926

ali ibn al athir the complete history: Texts from the Middle Thomas E Burman, Brian A. Catlos, Mark D. Meyerson, 2022-08-23 Texts from the Middle is a companion primary source reader to the textbook The Sea in the Middle. It can be used alone or in conjunction with the textbook, providing an original history of the Middle Ages that places the Mediterranean at the geographical center of the study of the period from 650 to 1650. Building on the textbook's unique approach, these sources center on the Mediterranean and emphasize the role played by peoples and cultures of Africa, Asia, and Europe in an age when Christians, Muslims, and Jews of various denominations engaged with each other in both conflict and collaboration. The supplementary reader mirrors the main text's fifteen-chapter structure, providing six sources per chapter. The two texts pair together

to provide a framework and materials that guide students through this complex but essential history—one that will appeal to the diverse student bodies of today.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *Byzantium and the Turks in the Thirteenth Century* Dimitri Korobeinikov, 2014-09-25 At the beginning of the thirteenth century Byzantium was still one of the most influential states in the eastern Mediterranean, possessing two-thirds of the Balkans and almost half of Asia Minor. After the capture of Constantinople in 1204 during the Fourth Crusade, the most prominent and successful of the Greek rump states was the Empire of Nicaea, which managed to re-capture the city in 1261 and restore Byzantium. The Nicaean Empire, like Byzantium of the Komnenoi and Angeloi of the twelfth century, went on to gain dominant influence over the Seljukid Sultanate of Rum in the 1250s. However, the decline of the Seljuk power, the continuing migration of Turks from the east, and what effectively amounted to a lack of Mongol interest in western Anatolia, allowed the creation of powerful Turkish nomadic confederations in the frontier regions facing Byzantium. By 1304, the nomadic Turks had broken Byzantium's eastern defences; the Empire lost its Asian territories forever, and Constantinople became the most eastern outpost of Byzantium. At the beginning of the fourteenth century the Empire was a tiny, second-ranking Balkan state, whose lands were often disputed between the Bulgarians, the Serbs, and the Franks. Using Greek, Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman sources, *Byzantium and the Turks in the Thirteenth Century* presents a new interpretation of the Nicaean Empire and highlights the evidence for its wealth and power. It explains the importance of the relations between the Byzantines and the Seljuks and the Mongols, revealing how the Byzantines adapted to the new and complex situation that emerged in the second half of the thirteenth century. Finally, it turns to the Empire's Anatolian frontiers and the emergence of the Turkish confederations, the biggest challenge that the Byzantines faced in the thirteenth century.

ali ibn al athir the complete history: *On Salafism* Azmi Bishara, 2022-09-27 *On Salafism* offers a compelling new understanding of this phenomenon, both its development and contemporary manifestations. Salafism became associated with fundamentalism when the 9/11 Commission used it to explain the terror attacks and has since been connected with the violence of the so-called Islamic State. With this book, Azmi Bishara critically deconstructs claims of continuity between early Islam and modern militancy and makes a counterargument: Salafism is a wholly modern construct informed by specific sociopolitical contexts. Bishara offers a sophisticated account of various movements—such as Wahabbism and Hanbalism—frequently collapsed into simplistic understandings of Salafism. He distinguishes reformist from regressive Salafism, and examines patterns of modernization in the development of contemporary Islamic political movements and associations. In deconstructing the assumptions of linear continuity between traditional and contemporary movements, Bishara details various divergences in both doctrine and context of modern Salafisms, plural. *On Salafism* is a crucial read for those interested in Islamism, jihadism, and Middle East politics and history.

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the contrary, the Zirids and other local lords in Ifriqiya were integral parts of the far-reaching political and economic networks across the Mediterranean. Despite the eventual collapse of the Zirid dynasty at the hands of the Normans, *Dynasties Intertwined* makes clear that its emirs were active and consequential Mediterranean players for much of the eleventh and twelfth centuries, with political agency independent of their Christian neighbors across the Strait of Sicily.

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