

5-3-1 Assignment- Stille&Klein

Edward Brereton

QUESTIONS

1. What does Christoph Luxenberg argue about the Koran?
2. What do many of the early documents refer to the followers of Muhammad as?
3. “The believers” were more committed to what rather than to Muhammad?
4. What partly compels Donner’s revision of the historical records?
5. The Koran and the Islamic tradition present what?

ANSWERS

1. That it has been misread and mistranslated for centuries.
2. Hagarenes, decedents of Hagar.
3. They were more committed to monotheism.
4. The scarcity of sources written during and right after Muhammad’s lifetime.
5. A fundamental paradox.

TERMS

WHITE RASIANS- A mistranslation of the virgins supposedly awaiting good Islamic martyrs as their reward in paradise.

MUSLIM- One who submits

KORAN- The Islamic holy book.

SUMMARY

The two articles by Asher Klein and Alexander Stille are about new theories of the Koran and the origins of Islam. These articles speak about how the Koran could have been misinterpreted and the risk of criticizing the text which was offensive to their religion. They discuss Muhammad and how the writing of the Koran was decades after his death which make problems arise on anything dealing with early Islam. Both articles discuss the interpretation of the Koran and the amount of independent thought and diversity that existed in the early centuries of Islam.