

5-3-1 Assignment- Stille and Klein

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Questions

1. According to Donner's interpretation, how many years after Muhammad's death did it take for the religion of Islam to consolidate and establish a Muslim identity apart from other monotheistic religions?
2. Muslims define the _____ as their scripture, and the prophet Muhammad as their prophet.
3. To Muslims the Koran is the very word of _____, who spoke through the Angel Gabriel to Muhammad.
4. What year do scholars agree that there is no evidence of the Koran until?
5. Professor of Islamic history at Harvard University, Roy Mottahedeh, expresses that there is an increasing acceptance, even on the part of many Muslims, that Islam emerged out of the wider _____ soup of the Middle East.

Answers

1. It took perhaps 100 years.
2. Quran
3. God
4. Scholars agree until the year 691 there is no evidence of the Koran.
5. Monotheistic

Terms

Hymns of Paradise- a Christian text written by a fourth-century author that deals with paradise.

Muslim- one who submits.

Unmediated sources- what somebody wrote at a time for a particular purpose: a bill of sale, manumission document of a slave, purchase of a house, shopping list, or some narrative that is being told at the time.

Summary

This week's two articles both highlight the revisionist theories among non-Muslim scholars where even top Muslim scholars are dialoguing with them. There seems to be more ties to "the wider monotheistic soup of the Middle East" than originating from its own context (Stille 3). Non-Muslim scholars need to be sensitive yet firm in their historical criticisms, but Muslims

cannot claim canonicity to their texts without being open to scrutiny. It is exciting to see that Islam has more connections to other monotheistic religions of Christianity and Judaism in the Middle East than appearing on its own.