

THE SILK ROADS BOOK CLUB

Welcome to the **Silk Roads Book Club**.

This is a space dedicated to serious reading, discussion, and intellectual growth. We will study one book in depth through lectures, discussions, and optional writing assignments, and finish it in 5 - 8 weeks (max.)

Purpose & Aim

The purpose of this book club is simple: to bring together a community of readers for one or two months to explore a particular theme—such as Islamic philosophy—through the close reading and discussion of a carefully selected book.

I will guide you through the book, explaining its key ideas, arguments, and themes.

Structure

-  **1 weekly lecture/class** – where I break down the book
-  **1 weekly discussion session** – open Q&A, critique, and conversation
-  **Bi-monthly special session** – with the author or a scholar related to the book

Each book may take up to 5 - 8 weeks (max.). Each week we will have a lecture session and a discussion session.

The special sessions will allow us to engage directly with experts—asking questions, presenting critiques, and discussing ideas in a thoughtful and respectful way. This will help us understand the material at a much deeper level.

Optional

-  Weekly reading & writing assignments to help you articulate your thoughts and develop clarity

How the Book Club Works

The book club will proceed in phases.

Phase 1 - The Foundations

1. ***The Impossible State* – Wael Hallaq (complete)**
2. ***Philosophy in the Islamic World* – Peter Adamson (starts on 3rd of August)**
3. *Islam and Secularism* – Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas
4. *India in the Persianate Age* – Richard Eaton
5. *The Canonization of Islamic Law* – Ahmed El Shamsy
6. *The Ethics of Authenticity* – Charles Taylor
7. *The Silk Roads* – Peter Frankopan
8. *The Idea of the Muslim World* – Cemil Aydin
9. *The Great Arab Conquests* – Hugh Kennedy
10. *The Millennial Sovereign* – Azfar Moin
11. *Shah Wali Allah's Political Thought* – A. Ghazali
12. *God and Man in the Qur'an* – Toshihiko Izutsu

More books will follow in **Phase 2**. Check the [“Books: Thematic Structure”](#) to see the entire curriculum.

Platform & Access

-  **Live Classes on Zoom**
All sessions will be recorded for later access.
-  **WhatsApp Community**
 - Discussions
 - Q&A
 - Resource sharing
 - **Separate groups for each book**
-  **Private YouTube Access**
All recordings will be uploaded and organized for easy viewing anytime.

All participants will be added to a WhatsApp Community after registration.

THEMATIC STRUCTURE OF BOOKS

1. Islamic Intellectual History & Philosophy

1. Greek Thought Arabic Culture – Dimitri Gutas
 2. Philosophy in the Islamic World – Peter Adamson
 3. Avicenna – Peter Adamson
 4. Al-Kindi – Peter Adamson
 5. Al-Razi - Peter Adamson
 6. The Heirs of Avicenna Vol. 1: Theology and Metaphysics – Peter Adamson
 7. The Heirs of Avicenna Vol. 2: Logic and Epistemology – Peter Adamson
 8. Al-Ghazali's Philosophical Theology – Frank Griffel
 9. The Formation of Post-Classical Philosophy in Islam – Frank Griffel
 10. History and Development of Arabic Logic – Khaled El-Rouayheb
 11. Islamic Intellectual Tradition in the 16th Century – Khaled El-Rouayheb
 12. Palimpsest of Themselves – Asad Q. Ahmed
 13. Prolegomena to the Metaphysics of Islam – Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas
 14. Islam and Secularism – Syed Muhammad Naquib al-Attas
 15. Hierarchy and Freedom – Hasan Spiker
 16. The Metacritique of Kant – Hasan Spiker
 17. Things As They Are – Hasan Spiker
 18. The Unraveling of Intelligibility – Hasan Spiker
 19. Teaching and Learning the Sciences in Islamicate Societies (800-1700) – Sonja Brentjes
 20. The Sciences in Islamicate Societies in Context: Patronage, Education, Narratives – Sonja Brentjes
 21. Historiography of the History of Science in Islamicate Societies – Sonja Brentjes
 22. Travellers from Europe in the Ottoman and Safavid Empires, 16th–17th Centuries – Sonja Brentjes
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2. History of Islamic Law, Legal Theory & Institutions

1. The Canonization of Islamic Law – Ahmed El Shamsy
 2. Reading Islamic Classics – Ahmed El Shamsy
 3. Justice and Islamic Law: Mazalim Courts and Legal Reform – Jonathan Brown
 4. Islamic Law under Trial – Sohaira Siddiqui
 5. Religion and Politics Under the Early ‘Abbāsids – Muhammad Qasim Zaman
 6. Pragmatism in Islamic Law – Ahmed Ibrahim
 7. On Shacht’s Origins of Muhammadan Jurisprudence – Mustafa Azmi
 8. The History of the Quranic Text – Mustafa Azmi
 9. Early Hadith Literature – Mustafa Azmi
 10. Transformation of Tradition – Junaid Quadri
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3. Modernity, Secularism & Political Thought

1. Sharia: Theory Practice and Transformation – Wael Hallaq
 2. The Impossible State – Wael Hallaq
 3. Reforming Modernity – Wael Hallaq
 4. Restating Orientalism – Wael Hallaq
 5. Radical Separation of Powers – Wael Hallaq
 6. Islam and the West – Keller
 7. Formations of the Secular – Talal Asad
 8. Genealogies of Religion – Talal Asad
 9. On Suicide Bombing – Talal Asad
 10. A Secular Age – Charles Taylor
 11. Sources of the Self – Charles Taylor
 12. The Ethics of Authenticity – Charles Taylor
 13. Cosmic Connections – Charles Taylor
 14. Islam and Modernities – Al-Azmeh
 15. Rethinking Islam and West – Ahmed Paul Keeler
 16. Preserving Islamic Tradition: Abu Nasr Qurasawi and the Beginning of Modern Reformism – Nathan Spannus
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4. Global Islamic History

1. The History of the Muslim World – Michael Cook
 2. The Prophet and the Age of the Caliphate – Hugh Kennedy
 3. The Great Arab Conquests
 4. The Silk Roads – Peter Frankopan
 5. The Earth Transformed – Peter Frankopan
 6. Sea of the Caliphs: The Mediterranean in the Medieval Islamic World – Christophe Picard
 7. The New Cambridge History of Islam (6 vols.)
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5. South Asian Islam & Indo-Persian World

1. India in the Persianate Age – Richard Eaton
 2. The Rise of Islam and the Bengal Frontier – Richard Eaton
 3. India's Islamic Traditions – Richard Eaton
 4. Slavery & South Asian History – ed. Richard Eaton
 5. The Golden Road – William Dalrymple
 6. The Anarchy – William Dalrymple
 7. The Last Mughal – William Dalrymple
 8. Rebel Sultans – Manu S. Pilai
 9. Aurangzeb: The Man and the Myth – Audrey Truschke
 10. Culture of Encounters – Audrey Truschke
 11. The Hindus – Wendy Donige
 12. Jahangir – Lisa Balabanlilar
 13. Imperial Identities in the Mughal Empire – Lisa Balabanlilar
 14. The Emperor Who Never Was: Dara Shukoh and Mughal India – S. Gandhi
 15. Persianate Selves – Mana Kia
 16. Urdu and Indo-Persian Thought, Poetics, and Belles Lettres – ed. Alireza Korangy
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6. Colonialism, Reform Movements, South Asian Muslim Thought & Identity

1. Islamic Revival in British India – Barbara Metcalf
2. The Ulama of Farangi Mahall – Francis Robinson
3. The Ulama in Contemporary Pakistan – Mashal Saif
4. Ulama in Contemporary Islam – Muhammad Qasim Zaman
5. Modern Islamic Thought in a Radical Age – Muhammad Qasim Zaman
6. Islam in Pakistan – Muhammad Qasim Zaman
7. Ashraf Ali Thanawi – Muhammad Qasim Zaman
8. Devotional Islam in British India – Usha Sanyal
9. Ahmed Riza Khan Bareilwi – Usha Sanyal
10. Defending Muhammad in Modernity – SherAli Tareen
11. Perilous Intimacies – SherAli Tareen
12. The History of Sufism in India (2 vols.) – S. Athar Abbas Rizvi
13. The Hidden Caliphate – Waleed Ziad
14. Aligarh's First Generation – Lloyd
15. Syed Ahmed Khan – Christian Troll
16. Ashraf into the Middle Class – M. Pernau
17. Making a Muslim – Akbar Zaidi
18. Islamic Law under Trial – Sohaira Siddiqui
19. Jihad in South Asia – Tariq Rahman
20. The Loss of Hindustan, The Invention of India – Manan A. Asif

7. Sufism, Traditional Critiques of Modernity

1. Islam and the Destiny of Man – Gai Eaton
 2. King of the Castle – Gai Eaton
 3. The Crisis of the Modern World – Rene Guenon
 4. The Reign of Quantity and the Sign of Times – Rene Guenon
 5. Izutsu, God and Man in the Quran
 6. Izutsu, The Ethico-Religious Concept in the Quran
 7. Izutsu, Creation and the Timeless Order of Being
 8. Izutsu, The Concept of Belief in Islamic Theology
 9. Izutsu, Taoism and Sufism
 10. What is Sufism – Martin Lings
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8. Caliphate, Pan-Islam & Political History and Identity

1. The Idea of the Muslim World – Cemil Aydin
 2. The Inevitable Caliphate – Pankhurst
 3. Longing for the Caliphate – Mona Hasan
 4. The Caliphate Redefined – Yelmaz
 5. Politics, Law, and Community in Islamic Thought: The Taymiyyan Moment – O. Anjum
 6. Political Theology and Islam – Paul Heck
 7. Disenchanted the Caliphate – H. Yucesoy
 8. Politics, Law, and Community: The Taymiyan Moment – O. Anjum
 9. Law and Politics Under the Abbasids – S. Siddiqui
 10. The Mamluks – J. Bruton
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9. Anthropology, Ethics & Religion in Practice

1. The Politics of Piety – Saba Mahmood
 2. Religious Difference in a Secular Age – Saba Mahmood
 3. The Promise of Piety – Saba Mahmood
 4. Formations of the Secular – Talal Asad
 5. Genealogies of Religion – Talal Asad
 6. The Idea of Anthropology of Islam
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(under work)

12. Pakistan History

1. Issues in Pakistan Economy – A. Zaidi
2. Constitutional and Political History of Pakistan – Hamid Khan
3. Pakistan Beyond the Crisis State – ed. Maleeha Lodhi
4. Pakistan in Search for Stability – ed. Maleeha Lodhi
5. Pakistan: The Formative Years
6. Islam in Pakistan – Qasim Zaman
7. Pakistan Adrift – General (Retd.) Asad Durrani
8. Governing the Ungovernable – Ishrat Hussain
9. A Princely Affairs – Bangash
10. Qaum Mulk Sultanat – Ali Qasmi
11. The Sole Spokesman – Ayesha Jalal
12. The Struggle for Pakistan – Ayesha Jalal
13. Self and Sovereignty – Ayesha Jalal
14. State and Subject Formation in South Asia – Mashal Saif
15. Pakistan's Foreign Policy: A Reappraisal Third Edition – Shahid Amin
16. Pakistan Under Siege – Madiha Afzal
17. Pakistan's Foreign Policy: A Reappraisal – Shahid Amin
18. Pakistan's Nuclear Bomb – Hasan Abbas
19. The Politics of Ethnicity and Federalism in Pakistan – Ryan Brasher
20. The Struggle for Hegemony in Pakistan – Aasim Sajjad Akhtar
21. Jinnah's Pakistan – Farooq Dar

13. Poetry & Literature

1. Urdu Zaban ki Mukhtasar Tareen Tareekh – Dr Aslam Akhtar
2. The Arabs and their Art of Storytelling – Abdelfattah Kilito
3. Though Shalt Not Speak My Language – Abdelfattah Kilito
4. The Author and His Doubles – Abdelfattah Kilito

14. Economics & Current Affairs

1. Iran's Grand Strategy – Vali Nasr
2. The Shia Revival – Vali Nasr
- 3.

15. Historiography

1. FROM RELIABLE SOURCES AN INTRODUCTION TO HISTORICAL METHODS
MARTHA HOWELL & WALTER PREVENIER
- 2.

16. New Political Visions

1. Machine and Sovereignty: For a Planetary Thinking – Yuk Hui
2. Recursivity and Contingency – Yuk Hui
3. Post-Europa – Yuk Hui

17. Biographies

1. Abd al-Malik – Chase F. Robinson
2. Usama bin Munqidh – Paul M. Cobb

18. Warfare & War Strategies

1. Understanding Cyberwarfare: Politics, Policy and Strategy
2. The Scientific Way of Warfare – Antonio Bousquet
3. A very Short Introduction to Modern War
4. A Very Short Introduction to War Strategy
5. Aerial Warfare: The Battle for the Skies – F. Ledwidge
6. Deep Space Warfare: Military Strategy Beyond Orbit – J. Wright
7. AI, Automation and War: The Rise of Military Tech Complex – Anthony King
- 8.

REGISTRATION

Fee & Enrollment

- Fee: 5,000/- (18 USD)

Course 1: *The Impossible State* will end on Sunday, the 5th July, 2026

Apply Here: [Registration Form](#)

(COMPLETE)

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Course 2: *Introduction to Islamic Philosophy* begins on Monday, the 3rd August 2026.

Apply Here: [Registration Form](#)

(COMPLETE)

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Course 3: *Islam and Secularism*

Start: Sunday, 15 November, 2026

End: Sunday, 27 December, 2026.

Apply Here: [Registration Form](#)

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CONTACT

If you have any queries and questions, feel free to reach out:

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