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Book Review: "Speaking Qur'an: An American Scripture" By Timur R.Yuskaev

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SPEAKING QUR'AN: AN AMERICAN SCRIPTURE. By Timur R. Yuskaev.

Columbia, South Carolina: The University of South Carolina Press, 2017. Pp.

xii + 180. \$44.99.

Timur Yuskaev's study is an important contribution to the fields of Qur'anic studies and Islam in America. With a strong analytical focus framed through reception studies, the monograph examines how Muslim American communities have navigated and inhabited, particularly through their engagement with scripture, the political and cultural landscapes of the United States. Across an introduction, four chapters, and a concise afterword, the author explores these modes of engagement through the lives and words of several prominent Muslim thinkers. Each of the four chapters is dedicated to closely examining a different personality. In Chapter One "Time," Yuskaev studies the often-overlooked legacy of Fazlur Rahman (d. 1988), the South Asian American academic. In Chapter Two "Justice," attention turns to amina wadud, the African American Qur'anic scholar of gender justice. While her written work on Qur'anic hermeneutics is meticulously studied, two well-known sermons that she delivered are also importantly included. With Chapters Three "Redemption" and Four "Politics," even greater attention is paid to oral exegesis as the book turns to Warith Deen Mohammed (d. 2008), born Wallace Delaney Muhammad, and Hamza Yusuf respectively. While the chapter on Mohammed primarily focuses on the speeches that he delivered to his primarily African American Muslim community, it notably concludes with an insightful look at how his oral interpretative legacy survives him.

Ultimately, the book provides a choice examination of how several significant Muslim communities today navigate both the world and the Qur'an.

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