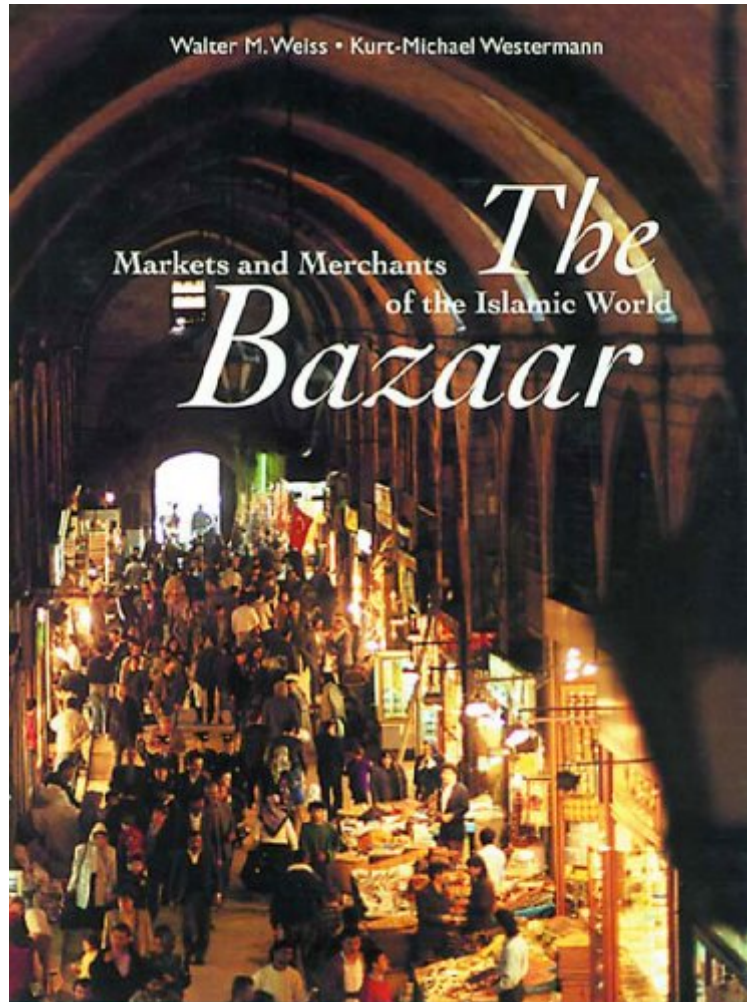


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The Bazaar: Markets and Merchants of the Islamic World

Walter M. Weiss, Kurt-Michael Westerman
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Walter M. Weiss, Kurt-Michael Westerman : The Bazaar: Markets and Merchants of the Islamic World before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Bazaar: Markets and Merchants of the Islamic World:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Unique book offering a glimpse of captivating worlds!By Audrey ShabbasI've shelves full of beautify books about the Middle East and the wider world of Islam. There is nothing like this out there. . .each double spread page, complete with maps. . . describes a bazaar and helps you find your way through labyrinthian alley ways. I just wish it was easy to carry around. Guess I will make copies of those maps and highlight on each, what makes that particular bazaar a "must experience"!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Rebecca A MahmoodWonderful book.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. comprehensive informationBy foI would recommend for any one interested in the history of the bazaars in the middle

east. many pictures help reader visualize the feel.

This volume is a journey through the bazaars in the old Islamic cities of the Orient. Beginning with a general outline of the history of trade, it examines the origins of the "city within a city" and the early Islamic fortresses and caravanserais. The path of goods is traced along legendary caravan routes such as the Silk, Incense and Amber Roads. The everyday workings of the bazaar are described, and the book focuses on traditional trades and crafts including gold and sugar traders' markets, the workshops of lute makers, fabric painters and mosaic carvers, glass-blowers and coppersmiths. Persian carpet-makers, engravers and perfumers, miniature painters and calligraphers are revealed at work, as are people whose exotic trades are now dying out - sword and fire makers, water sellers, foot ironers, magicians and storytellers. In the final section, more than a dozen of the finest bazaars are described and illustrated.

From Library Journal
Travel writer Weiss and photographer Westermann combine their talents to produce a stunning tour of the bazaars of the old Islamic cities. The uniquely Islamic bazaar, explains Weiss, is "a city within a city, with its own economy and way of life and a spiritual background from which western society has a great deal to learn." The philosophy of the bazaar affects and is affected by religion, social customs, architecture, and the availability of water. To understand the concept of the bazaar, Weiss begins with a brief history of trade, its existence from earliest times, the effects of Mohammed's teachings, the four major trade routes, and a history of the camel and its place in Arab society. A section on shopkeepers and their goods covers history, their techniques, and the effects of modern life on their livelihood. Finally, brief visits to 15 of the great bazaars point out the qualities that makes each unique. A beautiful book without any real competition that will be of use for most collections.
AMary Morgan Smith, Northland P.L., Pittsburgh
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From Booklist
The Islamic bazaar, as veteran editor and traveler Weiss reveals, is more than a collection of flea market stalls. And his book, though illustrated with glorious photographs by Kurt-Michael Westermann, is more than a decoration for the coffee table. Here, peripatetic readers and couch potatoes alike will discover the true romance of this area, learning about trade routes, the religious life, camels, and craftspeople, as well as 15 bazaars, ranging in location from Aleppo in Syria to Samarkand in Uzbekistan. The text in combination with the visuals is mesmerizing; Weiss, for instance, describes the one-or two-humped ship of the desert--an animal that can drink up to 22 gallons of water in mere minutes--so factually that almost instant familiarity is born. Bazaars are featured in light of purchases and historical sights, accompanied by maps showing the location of different souks or markets. A picture book that destroys ancient myths while acknowledging beauties of the Middle East. Barbara Jacobs [A] truly spectacular tour through the markets of Marrakech, Fez, Aleppo, Istanbul, and more. -- Philadelphia Inquirer, Carlin Romano, 6 December 1998
[E]vocative portraits of Middle Eastern centers through their labyrinthine traditional markets.....Readers will find little here about the riven Islamic world of reality but much that is of undoubted fascination--lore, extraordinary pictures of everyday life, detailed maps of mazy souks that are a unique urban design form now giving way to more modern methods of retailing. -- Wall Street Journal, Raymond Sokolov, 4 December 1998