

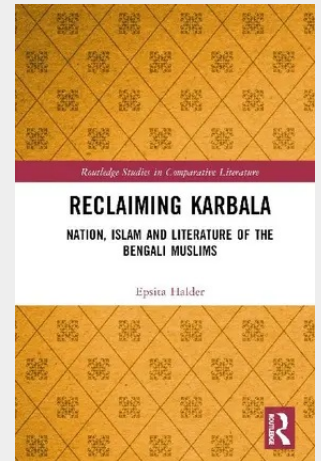
Halder

Reclaiming Karbala

Nation, Islam and Literature of the Bengali Muslims

Analysing an extensive range of texts and publications across multiple genres, formats and literary lineages, *Reclaiming Karbala* studies the emergence and formation of a viable Muslim identity in Bengal over the late-19th century through the 1940s. Beginning with an explanation of the tenets of the battle of Karbala, this multi-layered study explores what it means to be Muslim, as well as the nuanced relationship between religion, linguistic identity and literary modernity that marks both Bengaliness and Muslimness in the region. This book is an intervention into the literature on regional Islam in Bengal, offering a complex perspective on the polemic on religion and language in the formation of a jatiya Bengali Muslim identity in a multilingual context. This book, by placing this polemic in the context of intra-Islamic reformist conflict, shows how all these rival reformist groups unanimously negated the Karbala-centric commemorative ritual of Muharram and Shi'i intercessory piety to secure a pro-Caliphate sensibility as the core value of the Bengali Muslim public sphere.

Reclaiming Karbala studies the emergence and formation of a viable Muslim identity in Bengal over the late-nineteenth century and into the 1940s.



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