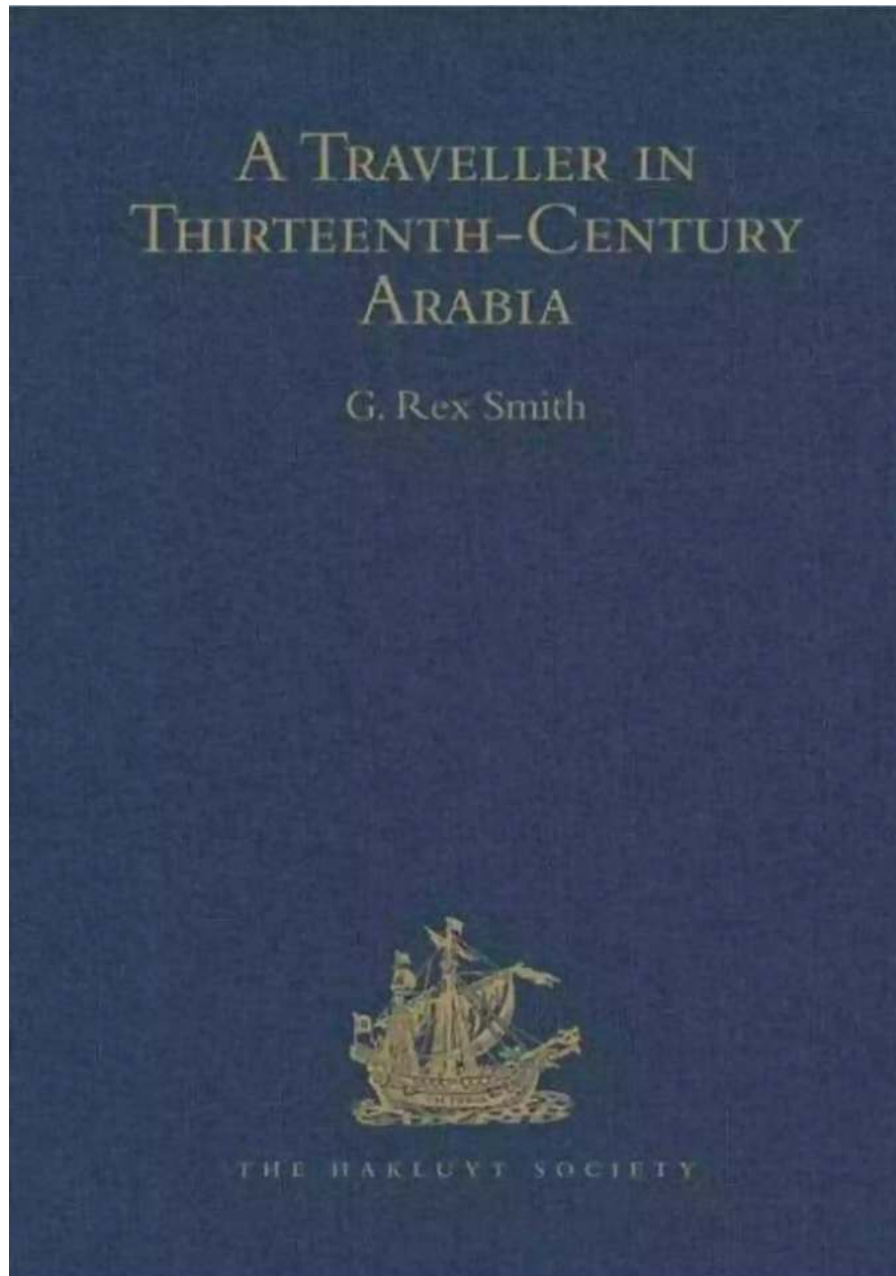


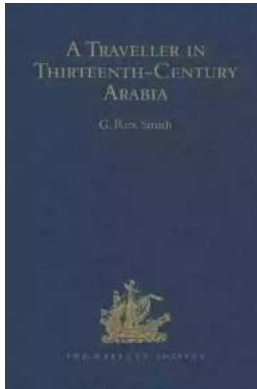
# Travelling Through Time: Exploring Thirteenth Century Arabia with Ibn Al-Mujawir in Tarikh Al-Mustabsir



Travelling back in time is something most of us dream about. The prospect of immersing ourselves in a different era, experiencing the sights, sounds, and tales

of distant lands, is truly enticing. One such opportunity takes us to thirteenth century Arabia, a land flourishing with culture, trade, and enchantment. In this article, we embark on a journey through the captivating tales of Ibn Al-Mujawir as chronicled in the renowned historical account, Tarikh Al-Mustabsir.

## What is Tarikh Al-Mustabsir?



### A Traveller in Thirteenth-Century Arabia / Ibn al-Mujawir's Tarikh al-Mustabsir (Hakluyt Society, Third Book 19) by Sabera Rasoolbi(1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 3744 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Print length	: 357 pages
Paperback	: 304 pages
Item Weight	: 13.4 ounces
Dimensions	: 5.12 x 0.87 x 7.8 inches



Tarikh Al-Mustabsir, meaning "The Enlightened Historical Account," is a remarkable text written by Ibn Al-Mujawir, an avid traveler and historian from thirteenth century Arabia. His book serves as a valuable resource for understanding the social, political, and cultural landscape of the Arabian Peninsula during this transformative period.

## The Life of Ibn Al-Mujawir

Little is known about the personal life of Ibn Al-Mujawir except for his exceptional travels and intellectual contributions. He dedicated his existence to exploring various regions, venturing into the unknown, and documenting his experiences meticulously.

## **Discovering Thirteenth Century Arabia**

Ibn Al-Mujawir's extensive voyages took him across the vast territories of thirteenth century Arabia and beyond. His account provides vivid descriptions of bustling markets, opulent palaces, and picturesque landscapes. It allows us to glimpse into the everyday life of ordinary people, the interplay of power among rulers, and the profound impact of trade routes.

Arabia at that time was a place of cultural convergence. The Islamic Golden Age, which spanned from the 8th to the 14th century, was in full swing, attracting scholars, artists, and traders from all corners of the world. The cities thrived with diversity, creating a vibrant tapestry of different cultures, languages, and traditions.

## **The Journey Begins**

Our virtual journey starts in the bustling markets of Baghdad, the capital of the Abbasid Caliphate. Ibn Al-Mujawir's detailed accounts paint a vivid picture of the colorful stalls, exotic spices, and vibrant fabrics abundantly displayed in these vibrant bazaars.

From there, we venture south towards the coastal cities of Yemen, where the frankincense trade prospered. The aromatic scent of this precious resin filled the air as merchants bartered for the best deals. The tales of these bustling markets

inspire awe and vividly depict the economic importance of these regions during this era.

## **Adventure in the Desert**

Continuing our journey westwards, we reach the Arabian Desert. Ibn Al-Mujawir's words transport us to vast landscapes of shifting sand dunes, sweltering heat, and the nomadic tribes that called the desert home. His detailed observations of their customs, traditions, and way of life provide a rare glimpse into a now distant time.

The journey across the peninsula leads us to the city of Mecca, a place of immense religious significance. The accounts of Ibn Al-Mujawir reveal the magnificence of the Kaaba, its vibrant atmosphere during the Hajj pilgrimage, and the bustling trade that accompanied these sacred events.

## **Thirteenth Century Arabia: A Center of Learning**

Arabia during the thirteenth century was not just a land of trade and cultural exchange but also a hub of intellectual fervor. Scholars from various fields flocked to renowned centers of learning such as Baghdad, Cairo, and Aleppo.

Ibn Al-Mujawir himself partook in this intellectual pursuit, engaging with scholars, poets, and theologians. His writings express deep admiration for the knowledge shared by these esteemed individuals, highlighting the richness of intellectual discourse present during this period.

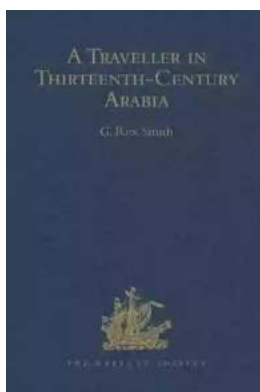
## **An Enduring Legacy**

The historical significance of Tarikh Al-Mustabsir extends far beyond Ibn Al-Mujawir's lifetime. His meticulous documentation of thirteenth century Arabia has

allowed future generations to gain valuable insights into the past. What makes Tarikh Al-Mustabsir truly remarkable is its ability to bridge the gap between present and past, giving us a sense of connection to a bygone era.

As we close the pages of Ibn Al-Mujawir's travelogue, we reflect on the importance of understanding history to comprehend our present world. By exploring the rich tapestry of thirteenth century Arabia through his narratives, we gain a renewed appreciation for the diverse cultures, vibrant trade networks, and intellectual vitality that once defined this remarkable era.

So, let us continue to travel back in time, unraveling the mysteries of history and immersing ourselves in the vivid stories of those who paved the way.



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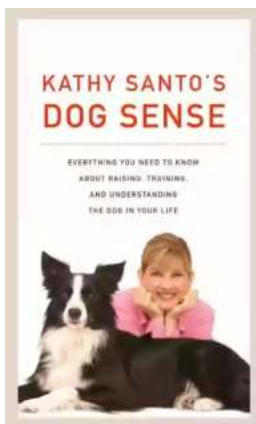
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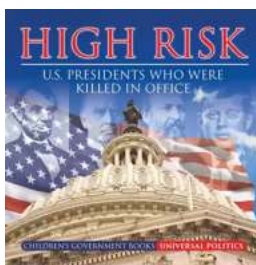
This is the first English translation of the Tarikh al-Mustabsir, written in the early quarter of the thirteenth century by Ibn al-Mujawir. The text is a fascinating account of the western and southern areas of the Arabian Peninsula by a man

from the east of the Islamic world, probably from Khurasan in Iran. Ibn al-Mujawir was a man who in all probability followed the age-old Islamic practice of making the pilgrimage to Mecca and thereafter travelling in the area to further his business interests. His route began in Mecca and essentially ran south through the Red Sea coastal plain, Tihamah, down into the Yemen and along the southern coast of the peninsula. He paused long in Aden, where he observed closely the activities of the port to report at some length on its administration, its taxes, its markets, its currency, its weights and measures, and the like. His route then continued along the southern coast of Arabia into the Gulf, and he presumably returned home to the east via Iraq. The author is a wonderful observer of people: their buildings, their dress, their customs, their agriculture, their food and their history. This book is a unique source for the social and economic history of thirteenth-century south Arabia, written with a humour and wit otherwise unknown in the writings of medieval Islam. The text is of major linguistic importance too, written as it is in a far from classical Arabic. This translation is fully annotated with an , appendices, glossary and full index, and contains maps and illustrations.



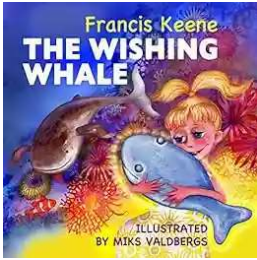
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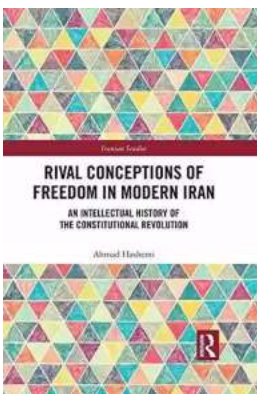
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