

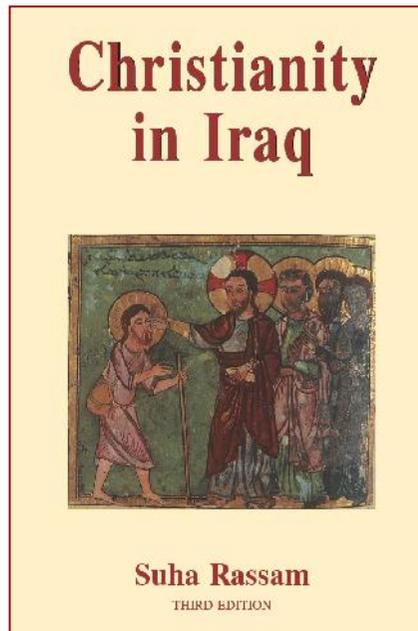
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Christianity was firmly established in Iraq from the earliest times, and the Churches of Iraq were to play a major role in the development of Christian theology and spirituality for many centuries. By the seventh century evangelization from Iraq had brought Christianity to China, Central Asia and India. Yet few people in the West are aware of Christianity's vibrant past in this region, or of the fact that Christianity has continued to be a significant cultural and religious presence in Iraq right up to the present day.

The story of the Churches in Iraq, their mutual relations with each other and their varied fortunes under successive Parthian, Sassanid, Arab, Mongol and Ottoman rule, is told here with consummate skill. Suha Rassam guides the reader seemingly effortlessly through complex issues of doctrinal issues and ecclesiastical politics. She helps us to explore the ancient heritage of these Churches, and the major contribution they have made to the intellectual development of the region and the wider world. The detailed account of the Churches in the twentieth century, under British rule, the monarchy and then the Ba'athist regime and Saddam Hussein, is particularly useful. It sheds much-needed light on the current dire situation for Christians in Iraq, under occupation and transitional rule through to the present day.



Suha Rassam was born in 1941 in Mosul to a medical family. Assistant Professor of Medicine in the University of Baghdad, she came to England in 1990 to do further research. Since that time she has worked in hospitals in London, studied Eastern Christianity at London University and is now retired.

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