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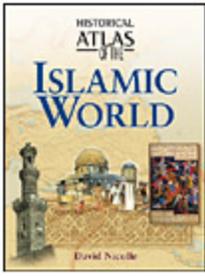
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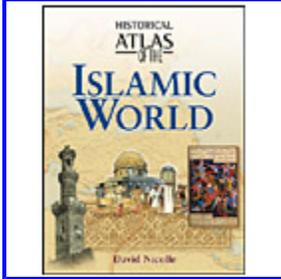
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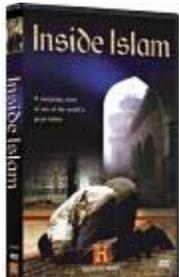


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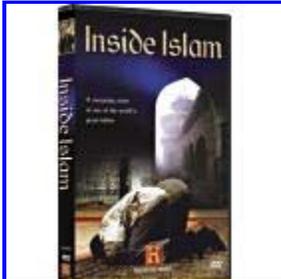


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□Alawite

Shī'ite sect Arabic □**Alawī**, plural □**Alawīyah**, also called **Nu□ayrī**, plural **Nu□ayrīyah**, or **Namīrī**, plural **Namīrīyah**, or **Ansari**, plural **Ansariyah**

Main

any member of a minority sect of Shī'ite Muslims living chiefly in Syria.

The roots of □Alawism lie in the teachings of Mu□ammad ibn Nu□ayr an-Namīrī (fl. 850), a Basran contemporary of the 10th Shī'ite imam, and the sect was chiefly established by □usayn ibn □amdān al-Kha□ībī (d. 957 or 968) during the period of the □amdānid dynasty (905–1004), at which time the □Alawites had great influence in Aleppo. With the fall of Shi'ite rule, however, the □Alawites, with other Shī'ites, became the victims of persecution. They were ill-treated by waves of Crusaders, by Mamlūks, and by Ottoman conquerors, in addition to fighting a number of internecine wars.

Considered by many Muslims to be heretics, the present-day □Alawites obtained a legal decision about their status as Muslims from the Lebanese leader of the Ithnā □Asharīyah (Twelver) sect of Shī'ite Islām. The □Alawite sect has become politically dominant in **Syria**, particularly since 1971, when □afiz al-Assad, an □Alawite, was elected president of the country. The sect is predominant in the Latakia region of Syria,

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and it extends north to Antioch (Antakya), Turkey. Many □Alawites also live around or in □im□ and □amāh. They are second in number within Syria to the Sunnite sect, which makes up about three-fourths of the Muslim population of mostly Muslim Syria.

The name □Alawī is more generally used to refer to all the groups affiliated with one of the □Alīs; thus the Muslims usually refer to the Syrian □Alawites as Nu□ayrīyah, or Namīrīyah. Though well established in Syria since the 12th century, the □Alawites were not able to fully adopt the name □Alawī until 1920, the time of French occupation of the area.

The basic doctrine of □Alawite faith is the deification of □Alī. He is one member of a trinity corresponding roughly to the Christian Father, Son, and **Holy Spirit**. □Alawites interpret the Pillars of Islām (the five duties required of every Muslim) as symbols and thus do not practice the Islāmic duties. They celebrate an eclectic group of holidays, some Islāmic, some Christian, and many □Alawite practices are secret. They consider themselves to be moderate Shī□ites, not much different from the Twelvers.

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...the influx of young migrants drawn by employment and educational opportunities that the average age of Damascenes has dropped below that of the national level. Among the religious minorities, the □Alawites from the coastal mountain region are notable for their prominence in the army and in the intelligence services (al-mukhābarāt). Other...

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Other groups associated with the Ithnā □Ashariyyah are the □Alawites (Nu□ayriyyah) of Syria (the dominant political group in Syria in the late 20th and early 21st centuries); the □Alī Ilāhīs or Ahl-e

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Haqq, who are mostly scattered herdsmen and farmers of Kurdistan, Turkey, and Iran; and the Bektāshī order of dervishes in Turkey and...

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...in the country except in the southern Al-Suwaydāh (governorate) and the Latakia governorate in the north. The Alawites (a Shi'ite subsect) are the next largest group, and most live in the Latakia governorate or in the governorates of Hama and Tartus. Most of the...

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With Alawite military officers in control, the Syrian Ba'ath Party crushed domestic opposition by setting up a police state and by appealing to the middle- and lower-class residents of small towns and villages, who had long resented the power of the politicians and large landowners in Damascus and Aleppo. Rivalry within the Ba'ath Party led to a coup d'état in February 1966...

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For a definition of "Alawite (Shi'ite sect)", visit **Merriam-Webster**.

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- **E**
- **F**
- **G**
- **H**
- **I**
- **J**
- **K**
- **L**
- **M**
- **N**
- **O**
- **P**
- **Q**
- **R**
- **S**
- **T**
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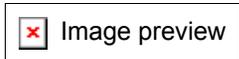
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