

Karen Armstrong
author of

*The Great Transformation:
The Beginning of Our Religious Traditions*

Karen Armstrong spent seven years as a Roman Catholic nun in the 1960s, but left her teaching order in 1969. She studied English literature at Oxford University, earning the degrees of B.A. and M.Litt. Since then she has taught modern literature at the University of London, headed the English department in a girls' public school, and taught part-time at the Leo Baeck College for the Study of Judaism and the Training of Rabbis and Teachers. Since 1982, she has devoted her life to writing, lecturing, and broadcasting on religious affairs.



Her books include *Through the Narrow Gate*; *Holy War: The Crusades and Their Impact on Today's World*; *Muhammad: A Biography of the Prophet*; *A History of God*; *Jerusalem: One City, Three Faiths*; *In the Beginning: A New Interpretation of Genesis*; *The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism*; *Islam: A Short History*; *Buddha*, and *The Spiral Staircase*. Her work has been translated into forty languages. She is also the author of three television documentaries and took part in Bill Moyers's television series *Genesis*. In 1999 she was awarded the Muslim Public Affairs Council Media Award.

Since September 11, 2001, she has been a frequent contributor to conferences, panels, newspapers, periodicals, and throughout the media on both sides of the Atlantic on the subject of Islam and fundamentalism. She lives in London.