

The aim of this paper is to introduce the feminist interpretation of the Qur'ān in its main features and to try to define its key hermeneutical principles. First, the historical formation and development of Qur'ānic exegesis (tafsīr) is outlined with special attention to particular exegetical trends of the twentieth century. Second, the reader is introduced with the historical context of the origin of feminist movement in Muslim society and its basic characteristics and categorization (two types of feminism constituted in the course of time – secular and Islamic). The main chapter examines feminist interpretation of the Qur'ān based on the work of four leading feminist authors (Riffat Hassan, Azizah al-Hibri, Amina Wadud a Asma Barlas) and presents its central themes and methodology. An outline of Islamic feminist hermeneutics is given in conclusion.