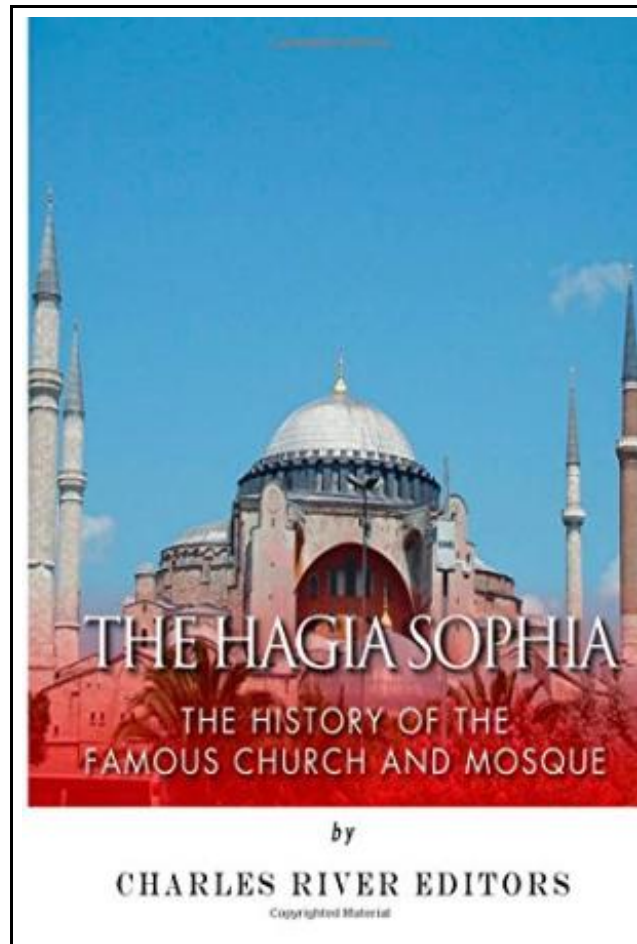


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Createspace, United States, 2014. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 214 x 149 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.\*Includes pictures \*Includes contemporary accounts of the construction of the Hagia Sophia and its appearance \*Includes a bibliography for further reading So the church has been made a spectacle of great beauty, stupendous to those who see it and altogether incredible to those who hear of it. Its breadth and length have been so fittingly proportioned that it may without impropriety be described as being both very long and extremely broad. And it boasts of an ineffable beauty, for it subtly combines its mass with the harmony of its proportions, having neither any excess nor any deficiency, inasmuch as it is more pompous than ordinary [buildings] and considerably more decorous than those which are huge beyond measure; and it abounds exceedingly in gleaming sunlight. You might say that the [interior] space is not illuminated by the sun from the outside, but that the radiance is generated within, so great an abundance of light bathes this shrine all round. - Procopius The Hagia Sophia, built from 532-537, is inarguably the masterpiece of Byzantine architecture and one of the greatest buildings ever constructed. Upon its completion, the Hagia Sophia remained the largest enclosed space in the world for nearly a thousand years, a reign that only ended after the rebuilding of St. Peter s in Rome. Fittingly, the rebuilding of St. Peter s was partly inspired by the conversion of Hagia Sophia into a mosque in 1453. The building of Hagia Sophia itself was shocking and transformational. Beginning with Procopius of Caesarea, Justinian s court historian, visitor after visitor noted that the giant dome seems to hover on air, and it s unquestionably true that the arches, vaults, semidomes, and domes...

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