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in this book Lt col sir mark sykes sets out to correct what he felt were the misguided impressions people had of the ottoman empire in 1915 from his own visits to the region he felt that there is nothing in our daily private life or public life today which is not directly or indirectly influenced by some human movement that took place in this zone he firstly discusses different periods from its history from the roman and persian influence to that of muhammad and the introduction of islam to sulaiman the magnificent s triumph in baghdad in this way sykes hopes to impart to the reader the extent of the important role played by the empire through time the tone then changes and becomes more personal as the reader is granted access to the colonel s own diaries and experiences in order to add more color and insight to the historical facts already relayed traveling with his dragoman a christian from jerusalem his english servant his greek cook five syrian muleteers and som

the encyclopaedia of islam first edition online ei1 was originally published in print between 1913 and 1936 the demand for an encyclopaedic work on islam was created by the increasing colonial interest in muslims and islamic

cultures during the nineteenth century the scope of the encyclopedia of islam first edition is philology history theology and law until early 20th century such famous scholars as houtsma wensinck gibb snouck hurgronje and levi provençal were involved in this scholarly endeavor the encyclopedia of islam first edition offers access to 9 000 articles

a history of the abbasid caliphate from its foundation in 750 and golden age under harun al rashid to the conquest of baghdad by the mongols in 1258 this study examines the caliphate as an empire and an institution and its imprint on the society and culture of classical islamic civilization

the very grubby coalface of foreign policy i found the entire book most horribly addictive independent one of the unexpected responses to reading this masterful study is amazement at the efforts the british and french each put into undermining the other spectator a fascinating insight into the untold story of how british french rivalry drew the battle lines of the modern middle east in 1916 in the middle of the first world war two men secretly agreed to divide the middle east between them sir mark sykes was a visionary politician françois georges picot a diplomat with a grudge they drew a line in the sand from the mediterranean to the persian frontier and together remade the map of the middle east with britain's mandates of palestine transjordan and iraq and france's in lebanon and syria over the next thirty years a sordid tale of violence and clandestine political manoeuvring unfolded told here through a stellar cast of politicians diplomats spies and soldiers including t e lawrence winston churchill and charles de gaulle using declassified papers from the british and french archives james barr vividly depicts the covert deadly war of intrigue and espionage between britain and france to rule the middle east and reveals the shocking way in which the french finally got their revenge

this book explores the decision by the grand national assembly of turkey in 1924 to abolish the caliphate the ottoman sultans had long borne the title of caliphs of islam with all the prestigious authority throughout the muslim world that went with it and in the aftermath of the first world war the caliphate still retained great symbolic relevance the book considers the questions that arose with its abolition including whether or not the caliphate should be revived reformed or replaced by other forms of political affiliation and organization it also assesses more general issues concerning identity and legitimate authority and how to reconcile time honoured religious institutions and concepts with modernity the nation state and affiliations of an ethnic and religious nature the book additionally addresses the debates within the pan islamic congresses concerning the fate of the caliphate and the implications of its abolition for kurdish turkish relations and for the british and french empires with their large muslim populations

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