

The Middle East And Islamic World Reader

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the many facets of middle eastern history and politics are admirably represented in this far ranging anthology publishers weekly in this insightful anthology historians marvin e gettleman and stuart schaar have assembled a broad selection of documents and contemporary scholarship to give a view of the history of the peoples from the core islamic lands from the golden age of islam to today with carefully framed essays beginning each chapter and brief introductory notes

accompanying over seventy readings the anthology reveals the multifaceted societies and political systems of the islamic world selections range from theological texts illuminating the differences between shiite and sunni muslims to diplomatic exchanges and state papers to memoirs and literary works to manifestos of islamic radicals this newly revised and expanded edition covers the dramatic changes in the region since 2005 and the popular uprisings that swept from tunisia in january 2011 through egypt libya and beyond the middle east and islamic world reader is a fascinating historical survey of complex societies that now more than ever are crucial for us to understand ambitious a timely work it focuses mainly on sociopolitical texts dating from the rise of islam to the debates concerning u s foreign policy in the post 9 11 world choice

ties between southeast asia and the middle east have been extremely important for well over seven hundred years but historical linkages between the two regions have attracted little attention and assessments of their significance are curiously lacking southeast asia and the middle east addresses this omission by exploring political economic familial educational and religious bonds connecting these areas both historically and in the contemporary world islam in southeast asia is conventionally understood as a synthesis of middle eastern and local ideas while accepting that such a distinction exists this volume shows how ongoing interactions have helped determine the character of both regions and southeast asia in particular the pervasiveness of these influences makes it clear that they will continue to shape political and economic relations migration patterns the dissemination of knowledge and radicals of islamic militancy for a long time to come such relationships contribute to regional and global events in many crucial ways making the present volume timely and important not only for scholars but also for anyone interested in the future of asia and the middle east

the turmoil and strife of the middle east raises serious questions about the security of the world s oil supply oil turmoil and islam in the middle east is a hard hitting indictment of opec and oapec arguing that these organizations can no longer afford to impose indiscriminate price increases on the marketplace because they hurt not only themselves but oil poor third world nations as well the author analyzes the importance of middle eastern oil in world politics he emphasizes that any consideration of the forces influencing development in the middle east should take islamic tradition into account each chapter is organized around a current middle eastern problem oil politics in relation to international energy needs the ramifications of the new oil wealth and power of the middle east the iran iraq war muslim insurgency in afghanistan the arab israeli conflict turmoil in lebanon palestinian nationalism and the middle east as a superpower

orientalism has traditionally dominated discourse on the middle east and thus

obscured the human realities of the region this monograph addresses the inadequacy and validity of existing theoretical perspectives on the middle east the critique presented offers islam as a unifying constant rather than a sporadic phenomenon correlated to the flux of social political and economic conditions and argues that islam should be conceptually incorporated into any analysis of the region the book defines the essence of islamic civilization and highlights aspects of the colonial encounter as a background for understanding contemporary dynamics against a subtle leitmotiv of contrasting imagery it profiles the islamic view of the state the role of the faith as well as that of the community useful distinctions are made between the islamic and western approaches to the area which should prove illuminating to both the area specialist and the lay reader

this volume traces the second great expansion of the islamic world eastwards from the eleventh century to the eighteenth as the faith crossed cultural boundaries the trader and the mystic became as important as the soldier and the administrator distinctive islamic idioms began to emerge from other great linguistic traditions apart from arabic especially in turkish persian urdu swahili malay and chinese the islamic world transformed and absorbed new influences as the essays in this collection demonstrate three major features distinguish the time and place from both earlier and modern experiences of islam firstly the steppe tribal peoples of central asia had a decisive impact on the islamic lands secondly islam expanded along the trade routes of the indian ocean and the south china sea thirdly islam interacted with asian spirituality including hinduism sikhism buddhism taoism and shamanism it was during this period that islam became a truly world religion

the west's actions in the middle east are based on a fundamental misunderstanding political islam is repeatedly assumed to be the main cause of conflict and unrest in the region the idea that we can decipher jihadist radicalization or problems in the middle east simply by reading the qur'an has now become symptomatic of our age this dangerous over simplification and the west's obsession with islam dominates media and policy analysis ultimately skewing intervention and preventing long term solutions and stability in the region Ömer taspınar who has 20 years research and policymaking experience explains here what is really going on in the middle east the book is based on three of the most pressing cases currently under the spotlight the role of erdoğan and the unrest in turkey the sectarian clashes in iraq syria yemen and lebanon and the existence of the so called islamic state islam is often seen as the root cause of the challenge associated with these cases but by unpacking the real issues such as entrenched authoritarianism vast energy resources excessive defense spending and the youth bulge the book demystifies what is happening and cites governance and nationalism as the main drivers of conflict the book shows the importance of treating the causes which are economic social and institutional rather than the symptom the continued and growing success of islamist parties and jihadist

movements in assessing the middle east in revealing exactly how islamism is activated and by analyzing the structural challenges of the region this unique insider's account provides a map to understanding middle eastern wars and conflicts and the prospects for the future

opposing a binary perspective that consolidates ethnicity religion and nationalism into separate spheres this book demonstrates that neither nationalism nor religion can be studied in isolation in the middle east religious interpretation like other systems of meaning production is affected by its historical and political contexts and the processes of interpretation and religious translation bleed into the institutional discourses and processes of nation building this book calls into question the foundational epistemologies of the nation state by centering on the pivotal and intimate role islam played in the emergence of the nation state showing the entanglements and reciprocities of nationalism and religious thought as they played out in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century middle east

the islamic middle east is a rare thought provoking account of the origins nature and evolution of islam that provides a historical perspective vital to understanding the contemporary middle east

this concise book offers a nuanced introduction to islam in the middle east it presents islam as both a unified tradition of theological dogma and practices that transcends cultural differences and as a dynamic tradition that is historically informed locally shaped and continually reinterpreted offers numerous ethnographic examples from the middle east and north africa explores key concepts including the doctrinal foundations of islam the role of religious scholars the five pillars and islamic orthodoxy includes discussion of spirit possession cults as integral part of islamic tradition introduces politics and current affairs as key elements in understanding contemporary islamic discourse

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Introduction

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