

The Yacoubian Building

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the yacoubian building holds all that egypt was and has become over the 75 years since its namesake was built on one of downtown cairo s main boulevards from the pious son of the building s doorkeeper and the raucous impoverished squatters on its roof via the tattered aristocrat and the gay intellectual in its apartments to the ruthless businessman whose stores occupy its ground floor each sharply etched character embodies a facet of modern egypt where political corruption ill gotten wealth and religious hypocrisy are natural allies where the arrogance and defensiveness of the powerful find expression in the exploitation of the weak where youthful idealism can turn quickly to extremism and where an older less violent vision of society may yet prevail

alaa al aswany s novel caused an unprecedented stir when it was first published in 2002 and has remained the world s best selling novel in the arabic language since

a look at some of the raging debates in the arts in egypt

artfully combining social and literary history this unique study explores the dual loyalties of contemporary egyptian authors from the 1952 revolution to the present day egypt s writers have long had an elevated idea of their social mission considering themselves the conscience of the nation at the same time modern egyptian writers work under the liberal conception of the writer borrowed from the european model as a result each egyptian writer treads the tightrope between authority and freedom social commitment and artistic license loyalty to the state and to personal expression in an ongoing quest for an elusive literary ideal with these fundamentals in mind conscience of the nation examines egyptian literary production over the past fifty years surveying works by established writers as well as those of dozens of other authors who are celebrated in egypt but whose writings are largely unknown to the foreign reader novelists and poets scriptwriters and playwrights critics and journalists all have battled with and tried to resolve the tensions inherent in the conflicting forces of self and society

that africa is at a crossroads in an increasingly globalised world is indisputable equally unassailable is the fact that the humanities as a broad field of intellect research and learning in africa appears to have been pigeonholed in debates of relevance in the development aspirations of many african nations historical experiences and contemporary research outputs indicate however that the humanities in its various shades is critical to africa s capacity to respond effectively to such problems as security corruption political ineptitude poverty superstition and hiv aids among many other mounting challenges which confront the people of africa the vibrancy and resilience of africa s cultures against these and other odds of globalisation episodes in the course of our history demand the focused attention of academia to exploit their relevance to contemporary issues this collection provides a comprehensive overview of issues in the humanities at the turn of the 21st century which create a veritable platform for the global redefinition and understanding of africa s rich cultures and traditions such areas covered include ruminations in metaphysics and psychology pathos and ethos cinematic and literary connections and historical conceptualisations

revised and expanded papers from the international workshop representations and visions of homeland in modern arabic prose literature and poetry held june 30 july 1 2011 at the lichtenberg kolleg for advanced studies university of geottingen

narrating postcolonial arab nations significantly enhances the interface between postcolonial literary studies and the hitherto under studied arab world lindsey moore brings together canonical and less familiar arab novels and memoirs from the last half century to consider colonial continuities and consequences literary narratives are shown to oppose repressive versions of nationalism and to track desire lines toward more hospitable nations the literatures discussed in this book enable a deeper historical understanding of twenty first century arab uprisings and their aftermaths the book analyzes four rich sites of literary production egypt algeria lebanon and palestine moore explores ways in which authors critique particular nation state formations and decolonizing histories engage the general problematic of the nation and redefine repurpose and transcend national literary canons chapter one contrasts egyptian literary representations of popular revolt with official revolutionary discourse chapter two addresses the enduring legacy of anti colonial violence in algeria and the place of albert camus in its literature chapter three uses narratives of gender violence on the beirut front line to reveal the divisibility and intersectional identity politics of postcolonial nation states chapter four emphasizes ways in which palestinian memoirs insist upon remembering towards a postcolonial future the book provides detailed analysis of literary narratives by etel adnan rabih alameddine alaa al aswany rachid boudjedra albert camus rashid al daïf assia djebbar ghada karmi naguib mahfouz jean said makdisi edward said boualem sansal raja shehadeh miral al tahawy and latifa al zayyat it is an indispensable volume for students and scholars of postcolonial arab and world literatures

without readers and audiences viewers and consumers the postcolonial would be literally unthinkable and yet postcolonial critics have historically neglected the modes of reception and consumption that make up the politics and pleasures of meaning making during and after empire thus while recent criticism and theory has made large claims for reading as an ethical act as a means of establishing collective quasi political consciousness as identification with difference as a mode of resistance and as an impulsion to the public imagination the reader in postcolonial literary studies persists as a shadowy figure this collection answers the now pressing need for a distinctively postcolonial take on the rapidly expanding area of reader and reception studies written by some of

the top scholars in the field these essays reveal readers and reception to be varied and profoundly unstable subjects that challenge many of our assumptions and preconceptions of the postcolonial from the notion of reading as national fellowship to the demands of an ethics of reading

no detailed description available for minorities in the contemporary egyptian novel

winner of the anthony leeds prize in urban anthropology by the american anthropological association corruption plots illuminates how corruption is fundamental to global storytelling about how states and elites abuse entrusted power in late capitalism the millennial city of the global south is a charged setting for allegations of corruption with skyscrapers land grabs and slum evictions invoking outrage at deepening economic polarization drawing on ethnography in bengaluru and mumbai and a cross section of literary and cinematic stories from cities around the world malini ranganathan david l pike and sapana doshi pay close attention to the racial caste class and gender locations of the narrators spaces and publics imagined to be harmed by corruption corruption plots demonstrates how corruption talk is leveraged to make sense of unequal spatial change and used opportunistically by those who are themselves implicated in wrongdoing offering a wide ranging analysis of urban worlds the authors reveal the ethical spatial and political stakes of storytelling and how vital it is to examine the corruption plot in all its contradictions

this new go to reference book for global melodrama assembles contributions by experts from a wide range of disciplines including cultural studies film and media studies gender and queer studies political science and postcolonial studies the melodramas covered in this volume range from early 20th century silent movies to contemporary films from independent arthouse productions to hollywood blockbusters the comprehensive overview of global melodramatic film in the lexicon constitutes a valuable resource for scholars and practitioners of film teachers film critics and anyone who is interested in the past and present of melodramatic film on a global scale the lexicon of global melodrama includes essays on all that heaven allows bombay casablanca die büchse der pandora in the mood for love nosotros los pobres terra sonâmbula and tokyo story

friendly fire the first collection of short stories from alaa al aswany acclaimed author of chicago and the yacoubian building deftly

explores the lives of contemporary egyptians here are stories of generational conflict corruption repression infidelity and the dangerous clashing of western and arab ideals all beautifully rendered by al aswany a true modern master and one of egypt s most exciting literary exports minneapolis star tribune

as dubai builds unprecedeted realms of new luxury other parts of the middle east grapple with physical and symbolic histories relics come up against reinvention and revolution and micromutations in middle eastern politics and economics have become part of our shared local news around the globe brought to us by the publishers of bidoun the critically acclaimed quarterly with without is an anthology that casts an eye across broad swathes of the middle east today featuring an intriguing mock archival design this equally text and image heavy publication is divided into 14 chapters each of which takes on an architectural or institutional typology the museum the villa the street the skyscraper etc and illustrates it with essays interviews and documentary photographs featuring more than 30 contributions from writers artists designers and architects including rem koolhaas armin linke and keller easterling it takes on subjects as diverse as the redevelopment of martyr s square in beirut gated communities in istanbul dubai s mall culture bridge building in mecca and the creation of a new iraqi flag in the post saddam era the underlying question in all of these inquiries is how do spaces and territories form fundamental ideas about individuals communities and worlds

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