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Cover image: Nabil Anani, *Nostalgia*, 2016, acrylic on canvas, 120 x 105 cm. Courtesy of Zawyeh Gallery and the artist.

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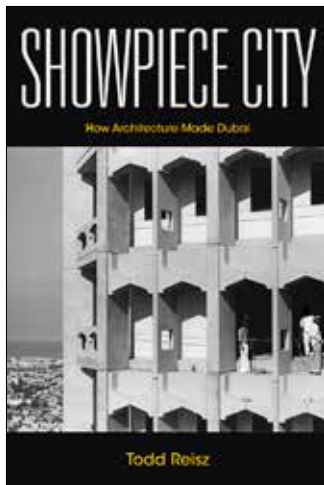
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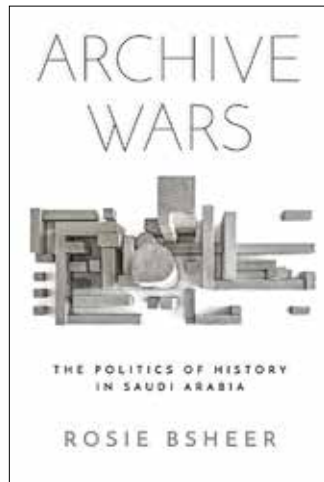
Showpiece City *How Architecture Made Dubai* Todd Reisz

In 1959, experts agreed that if Dubai was to become something more than an unruly port, a plan was needed. Specifically, a town plan was prescribed to fortify the city from obscurity and disorder. With the proverbial handshake, Dubai's ruler hired British architect John Harris to design Dubai's strategy for capturing the world's attention—and then its investments. Reisz explores the overlooked history of a city that did not simply rise from the sands. In the city's earliest modern architecture, he finds the foundations of an urban survival strategy of debt-wielding brinkmanship and constant pitch making. Dubai became a testing ground for the global city—and prefigured how urbanization now happens everywhere.

"Gripping and insightful, Showpiece City is a much-needed history of the making and remaking of Dubai. A must-read for anyone interested in architecture and urban planning."

—Rosie Bsheer,
Harvard University

416 pages, 2020
9781503609884 Cloth \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



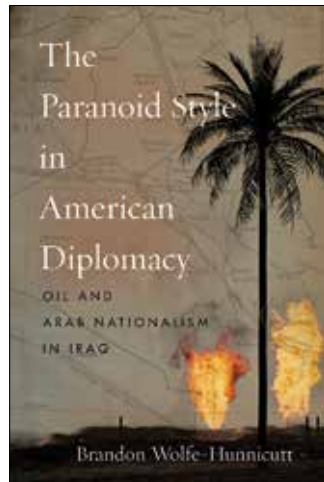
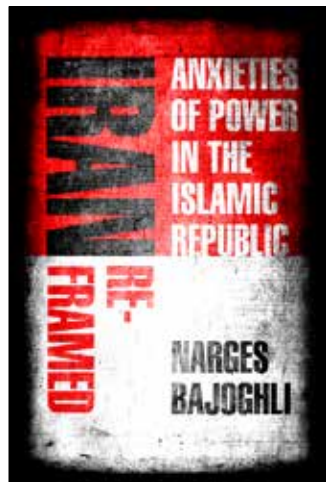
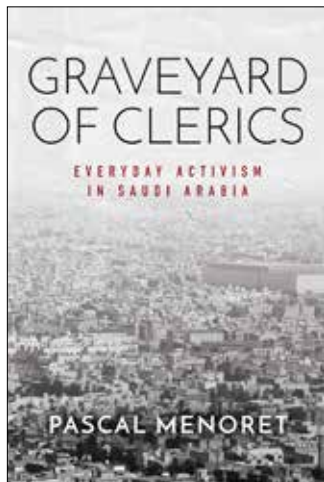
Archive Wars *The Politics of History in Saudi Arabia* Rosie Bsheer

The production of history is premised on the selective erasure of certain pasts and the artifacts that stand witness to them. From the elision of archival documents to the demolition of sacred and secular spaces, each act of destruction is also an act of state building. Following the 1991 Gulf War, political elites in Saudi Arabia pursued these dual projects of historical commemoration and state formation with greater fervor to enforce their vision for state, nation, and economy. *Archive Wars* shows how the Saudi state's response to post-war challenges, which manifested in Riyadh and Mecca, served to historicize a secular national space, territorialize this national history, and ultimately refract both through new modes of capital accumulation.

"Archive Wars is an instant classic. With incredible insight, creativity, and courage, Bsheer tells us remarkable new things about the exercise and meaning of power in today's Saudi Arabia."

—Toby Jones,
Rutgers University

416 pages, 2020
9781503612570 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



Graveyard of Clerics
Everyday Activism in Saudi Arabia
Pascal Menoret

Developed after World War II to encourage a society of docile, isolated citizens, Saudi suburbs instead opened new spaces for political action. Religious activists in particular turned homes, schools, mosques, and summer camps into resources for mobilization. With the support of suburban grassroots networks, activists won local elections and found opportunities to protest government actions—until they faced a new wave of repression under the current Saudi leadership. With this book, Menoret offers a cautionary tale: the ongoing repression from Saudi elites—achieved often with the complicity of the international community—is shutting down grassroots political movements with significant consequences for the country, and the world.

“A distinguished ethnographer, Menoret excavates the Islamic Awakening in Saudi Arabia with great empathy and understanding, bringing us face to face with the men of the movement, and their rise and demise in the Saudi state.”

—Madawi al-Rasheed,
London School of Economics

264 pages, 2020
9781503612464 Paper \$24.00 **\$19.20 sale**

Iran Reframed
Anxieties of Power in the Islamic Republic
Narges Bajoghli

Iran Reframed offers unprecedented access to those who wield power in Iran as they debate and define the future of the Republic. Over ten years, Bajoghli met with men in Iran’s Revolutionary Guard, Ansar Hezbollah, and Basij paramilitary organizations to investigate how their media producers developed strategies to court Iranian youth. Readers come to know these men—what the regime means to them and their anxieties about the future of their revolutionary project. Contestation over how to define the regime underlies all their efforts to communicate with the public. This book offers a multilayered story about what it means to be pro-regime in the Islamic Republic, challenging everything we think we know about Iran and revolution.

“Iran Reframed is incomparable. A must read on Iran’s media landscape and paramount for anyone who wants to understand Iran as it really is. Gripping and provocative.”

—Negar Mottahedeh,
Duke University

176 pages, 2019
9781503610293 Paper \$22.00 **\$17.60 sale**

The Paranoid Style in American Diplomacy
Oil and Arab Nationalism in Iraq
Brandon Wolfe-Hunnicut

This book weaves together histories of Arab nationalists, US diplomats, and Western oil execs to tell the parallel stories of the Iraq Petroleum Company and the resilience of Iraqi society—and to expose the origins of US intervention in Iraq over the arc of the twentieth century. As American policymakers inflated concerns about access to and potential scarcity of oil, they gave rise to a “paranoid style” in US foreign policy. Wolfe-Hunnicut deconstructs these policy practices to reveal how they fueled decades of American interventions, and shines a light on those places that America’s covert empire-builders might prefer we not look.

“The Paranoid Style in American Diplomacy is a gripping backstory that reveals the historical truths of US-Iraqi relations. American cold warriors inherited Britain’s imperial role but failed to stop Iraqis from pursuing natural resource sovereignty.”

—Nathan J. Citino,
Rice University

312 pages, June 2021
9781503627918 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



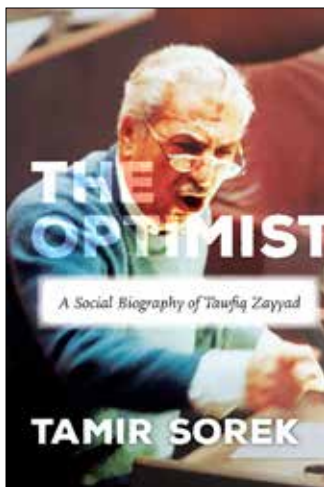
Dear Palestine
A Social History of the 1948 War
Shay Hazkani

This book offers a new history of the 1948 War, focusing on the people caught up in the conflict and its transnational reverberations. Through their letters home, the young men and women who fought the war come to life, writing about everything from daily life to nationalism, colonialism, race, and the character of their enemies. *Dear Palestine* also examines how the architects of the conflict worked to influence and indoctrinate key ideologies in these ordinary soldiers, by examining battle orders, pamphlets, army magazines, and radio broadcasts. Through two narratives—the official and unofficial, the propaganda and the personal letters—*Dear Palestine* reveals the fissures between sanctioned nationalism and individual identity.

“Hazkani makes a brilliant contribution to the literature on the 1948 Palestine War. Impeccably balanced and engagingly written, Dear Palestine is a remarkable book.”

—Eugene Rogan,
University of Oxford

320 pages, April 2021
9781503627659 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



The Optimist
A Social Biography of Tawfiq Zayyad

Tamir Sorek

Tawfiq Zayyad was a renowned Palestinian poet and a dominant figure in political life in Israel. With this book, Sorek offers the first biography of this charismatic figure. Zayyad’s life was one of balance and contradiction—between his revolutionary writings as Palestinian patriotic poet and his pragmatic political work in the Israeli public sphere. He was uncompromising in his protest of injustices against the Palestinian people, but always committed to a universalist vision of Arab-Jewish brotherhood. It was this combination of traits that made Zayyad an exceptional leader—and makes his biography larger than the man himself to offer a compelling story about Palestinians and the state of Israel.

“The Optimist is a deftly written biography. Sorek provides fresh insight into how someone can maintain hope in a region too often characterized as hopeless.”

—Maha Nassar,
University of Arizona

264 pages, 2020
9781503612730 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



Waste Siege
The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine

Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins

Waste Siege depicts the environmental, infrastructural, and aesthetic context in which Palestinians are obliged to forge their lives. Tracing their experiences of wastes over the past decade, Stamatopoulou-Robbins considers how multiple authorities governing the West Bank—including the Palestinian Authority, international aid organizations, and Israel—rule by waste siege, whether intentionally or not. Her work challenges common formulations of waste as “matter out of place,” by suggesting instead that waste siege be understood as an ecology of “matter with no place to go.” Waste siege thus not only describes a stateless Palestine, but also becomes a metaphor for our besieged planet.

“Taking the reader on a journey through landfills and rubbish markets, encounters with bags of bread left hanging on the sides of dumpsters, and the movement of sewage across political barriers, Stamatopoulou-Robbins brilliantly excavates the ambient politics of waste.”

—Ilana Feldman,
George Washington University

344 pages, 2019
9781503610897 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



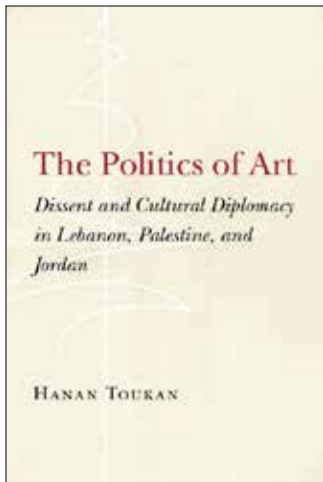
Screen Shots

State Violence on Camera in Israel and Palestine

Rebecca L. Stein

This book studies state violence on camera in the context of Israel's military occupation. Stein investigates the wide range of communities and institutions—Palestinian activists, Israeli and international human rights workers, Israeli military, and Jewish settlers—who have placed increasing value on photographic technologies and networked visuals as political tools. While these constituencies have dramatically divergent political aims, they all invested in the same camera dream: that the advances in photography of the digital age would not only capture reality with greater fidelity, but also deliver on their respective visions of justice and accountability. Palestinian and Israeli activists and human rights workers would painfully learn the lesson that even the most “perfect” visual evidence of state violence—even when shot from multiple angles, or when visible at the scale of the pixel—typically failed to persuade either the Israeli justice system or the Israeli public of military wrongdoing.

256 pages, August 2021
9781503628021 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



The Politics of Art

Dissent and Cultural Diplomacy in Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan

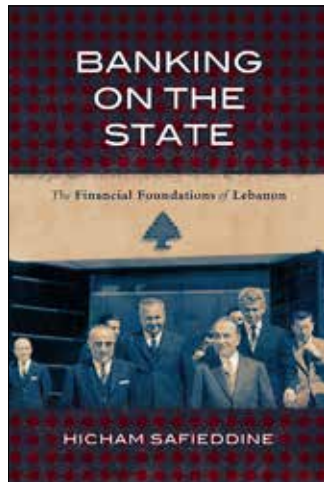
Hanan Toukan

This book considers the entanglement of art and international politics to understand the aesthetics of material production within liberal economies. Toukan outlines the political and social functions of transnationally connected and internationally funded arts organizations and initiatives, and reveals how the production of art within global frameworks can contribute to hegemonic structures even as it is critiquing them—or be counterhegemonic even when it first appears not to be. In so doing, Toukan proposes not only a new way of reading contemporary art practices as they situate themselves globally, but also a new way of reading the domestic politics of the region from the vantage point of art.

“There are few books out there that bring together a deep, critical knowledge of the arts in the Middle East with theoretical sophistication and shimmering ethnographic observations. The Politics of Art does this abundantly.”

—Laleh Khalili,
Queen Mary University of London

344 pages, June 2021
9781503627758 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



Banking on the State

The Financial Foundations of Lebanon

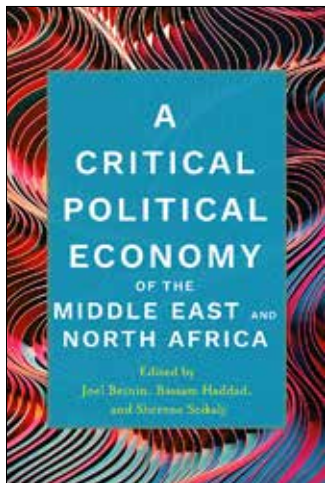
Hicham Safieddine

Banking on the State reveals how the financial foundations of Lebanon were shaped by the standardization of economic practices and financial regimes within the decolonizing world. The system of central banking that emerged was the product of a complex interaction of war, economic policies, international financial regimes, post-colonial state-building, global currents of technocratic knowledge, and private business interests. It served rather than challenged the interests of an oligarchy of local bankers. As Safieddine shows, the set of arrangements that governed the central bank thus was dictated by dynamics of political power and financial profit more than market forces, national interest, or economic sovereignty.

“A brilliant exploration of finance and banking. Hicham Safieddine rewrites the history of a misunderstood place. He challenges us to rethink sectarianism, exceptionalism, and civil strife.”

—Sherene Seikaly,
University of California,
Santa Barbara

272 pages, 2019
9781503609679 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa

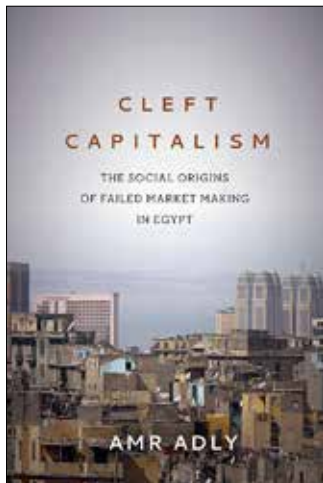
Edited by Joel Beinin, Bassam Haddad, and Sherene Seikaly

These cutting-edge essays illuminate historical and contemporary dynamics and contribute to political economy debates from the vantage point of the Middle East. Leading scholars, representing several disciplines, contribute both thematic and country-specific analyses, critically examine major issues in political economy—notably, the mutual constitution of states, markets, and classes; the co-constitution of class, race, and gender; varying modes of capital accumulation and the legal, political, and cultural forms of their regulation; relations among local, national, and global forms of capital, class, and culture; technopolitics; the role of war in the constitution of states and classes; and practices and cultures of domination and resistance.

“This new canonical text will open pathways for research and make the job of educators infinitely easier by reasserting the enduring value of political economy. A tour de force synthesis.”

—Brandon Wolfe-Hunnicut, California State University, Stanislaus

328 pages, February 2021
9781503614475 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



Cleft Capitalism *The Social Origins of Failed Market Making in Egypt*

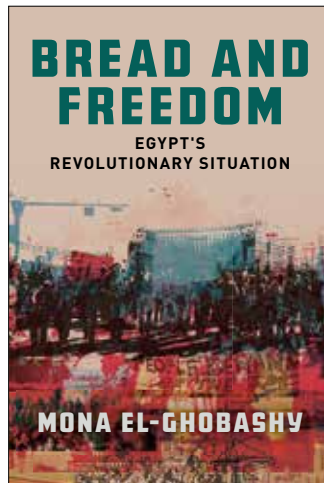
Amr Adly

Egypt has undergone significant economic liberalization, yet after more than four decades of economic reform, the Egyptian economy still fails to meet popular expectations for inclusive growth, better standards of living, and high-quality employment. *Cleft Capitalism* offers a new explanation for why market-based development can fail to meet expectations: small businesses are not growing into medium and larger businesses. The practical outcome of this missing middle syndrome is the continuous erosion of the economic and social privileges once enjoyed by the middle classes and unionized labor. With this book, Adly uncovers both an institutional explanation for Egypt's failed market making, and sheds light on the key factors of arrested economic development across the Global South.

“Richly detailed, theoretically insightful, Cleft Capitalism is essential reading for anyone interested in the Egyptian, Middle Eastern, and other political economies.”

—Robert Springborg, Naval Postgraduate School

336 pages, 2020
9781503612204 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**

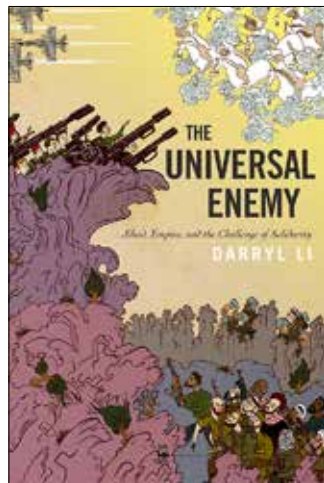
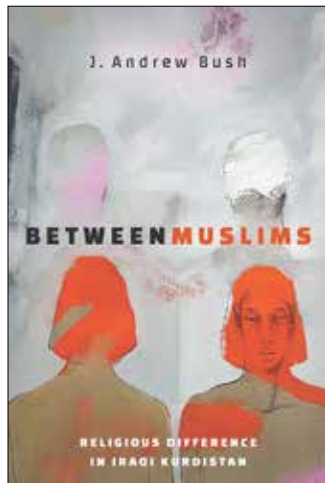
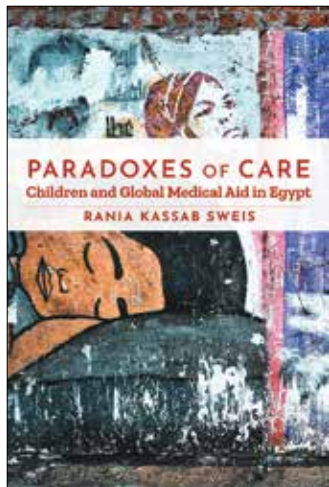


Bread and Freedom *Egypt's Revolutionary Situation*

Mona El-Ghobashy

Once celebrated as an awe-inspiring irruption of people power, Egypt's 2011 revolution is now often judged a tragic failure. Moving away from such sweeping judgments, *Bread and Freedom* argues that conceiving of a 'Revolution' propelled by revolutionaries is untenable—it is the uprising that made revolutionaries and their opponents, not the other way around—and takes seriously the political conflicts set into motion by the uprising. El-Ghobashy sifts through a documentary record hidden in plain sight—party manifestoes, military communiqués, open letters, constitutional contentions, protest slogans, parliamentary debates, and court decisions. The sources reveal not a mythical unity undone by schisms, but hordes of new and old actors clamoring over the state's material and symbolic power. On the tenth anniversary of the Arab uprisings' first wave, *Bread and Freedom* rethinks how we study revolutions, looking past causes and consequences to train its sights on the collisions of revolutionary politics.

304 pages, July 2021
9781503628151 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



Paradoxes of Care
Children and Global Medical Aid in Egypt

Rania Kassab Sweis

Paradoxes of Care examines how prominent global aid organizations attempt to care for vulnerable children in Egypt through biomedical interventions and global healthcare programs. Focusing on two main child recipients—street children and out-of-school village girls—this in-depth ethnographic study reveals how global aid fails to “save” these children according to its stated aims, but rather produces paradoxes of care for children and local aid workers. In capturing medical humanitarian encounters in real time, *Paradoxes of Care* illustrates how child recipients and local aid experts grapple with global aid’s shortcomings and its paradoxical outcomes in Egypt. By foregrounding vulnerable children’s responses to global medical aid, Sweis moves past an unquestioned benevolence of global health in the Middle East to demonstrate how children manage their bodies and lives both with and without the assistance of global medicine.

208 pages, May 2021
9781503628632 Paper \$26.00.00 **\$20.80 sale**

Between Muslims
Religious Difference in Iraqi Kurdistan

J. Andrew Bush

Between Muslims provides an ethnographic account of Iraqi Kurdish Muslims who turn away from devotional piety yet remain intimately engaged with Islamic traditions and with other Muslims. Bush offers a new way to understand religious difference in Islam, rejecting simple stereotypes about ethnic or sectarian identities. Integrating textual analysis of poetry, sermons, and Islamic history into accounts of everyday life in Iraqi Kurdistan, *Between Muslims* illuminates the interplay of attraction and aversion to Islam among ordinary Muslims.

“A refreshing departure from the focus on nationalist identity in studies of Iraqi Kurdistan, Between Muslims is a beautifully written and original work on the dynamics of Islamic traditions. Bush subtly explores how ‘fractures of difference’ are lived in everyday intimate relationships.”

—Sara Pursley,
New York University

240 pages, 2020
9781503614581 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**

The Universal Enemy
Jihad, Empire, and the Challenge of Solidarity

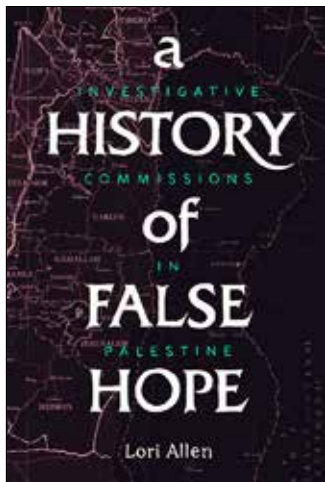
Darryl Li

No contemporary figure is more demonized than the Islamist foreign fighter. Spreading violence, disregarding national borders, and rejecting secular norms, so-called jihadists seem opposed to universalism itself. In a radical departure from conventional wisdom, *The Universal Enemy* argues that transnational jihadists are engaged in their own form of universalism: these fighters struggle to realize an Islamist vision directed at all of humanity, transcending racial and cultural difference. Li highlights the parallels between transnational jihads and other universalisms such as the War on Terror. Developed from more than a decade of research with former fighters in a half-dozen countries, *The Universal Enemy* explores the relationship between jihad and American empire to shed critical light on both.

“Original, authoritative, and broad in significance. This remarkable achievement is anchored in Darryl Li’s unique combination of skills and sensibilities, which are at once ethnographic, lawyerly, and linguistic.”

—Brinkley Messick,
Columbia University

384 pages, 2019
9781503610873 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



A History of False Hope
Investigative Commissions in Palestine

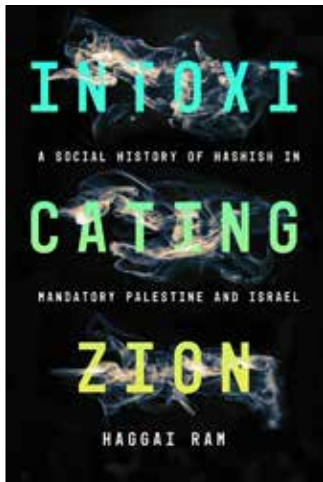
Lori Allen

This book offers a provocative retelling of Palestinian political history through an examination of the international commissions that have investigated political violence and human rights violations. Drawing on debates in the press, previously unexamined UN reports, historical archives, and ethnographic research, Allen explores six key investigative commissions over the last century. She highlights how Palestinians' persistent demands for independence have been routinely translated into the numb language of reports and resolutions. These commissions, Allen argues, operating as technologies of liberal global governance, yield no justice—only the oppressive status quo. *A History of False Hope* issues a biting critique of the captivating allure and cold impotence of international law.

“Allen has produced a fascinating, engaging, and innovative scholarly assessment of how international commissions have failed to deliver political results to the Palestinian people.”

—Richard Falk

400 pages, December 2020
9781503614185 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



Intoxicating Zion
A Social History of Hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel

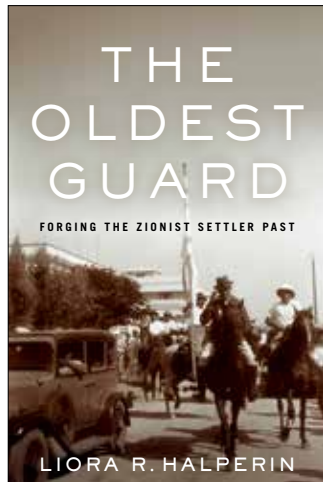
Haggai Ram

Intoxicating Zion is the first book to tell the story of hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel. Trafficking, use, and regulation; race, gender, and class; colonialism and nation-building all weave together in Haggai Ram's social history of the drug from the 1920s to the aftermath of the 1967 War. The hashish trade encompassed smugglers, international gangs, residents, law enforcers, and political actors, and Ram traces these flows through the interconnected realms of cross-border politics, economics, and culture. Hashish use was and is a marker of belonging and difference, and its history offers readers a unique glimpse into how the modern Middle East was made.

“Vividly written and drawing on a wide array of sources, Intoxicating Zion is packed with colorful characters. A fascinating and revelatory tale.”

—Ted R. Swedenburg,
University of Arkansas

272 pages, 2020
9781503613911 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**

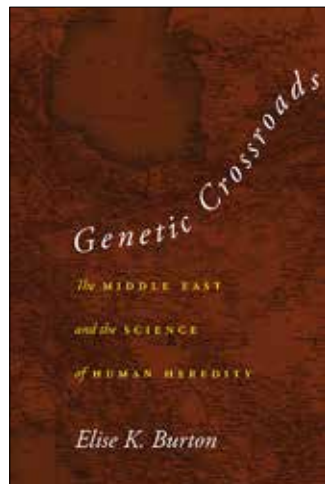
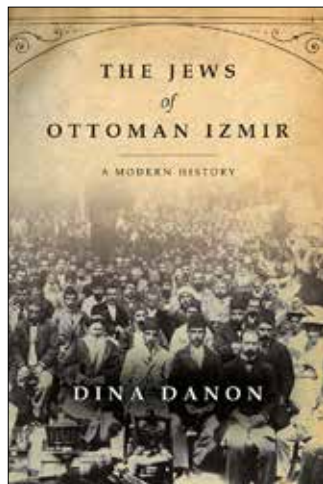
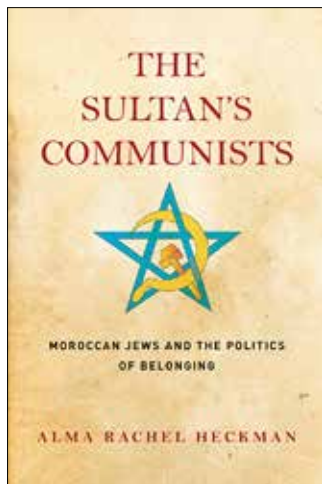


The Oldest Guard
Forging the Zionist Settler Past
Liora R. Halperin

This book is a history of local memory in and around the private agricultural colonies established by Jewish settlers in late nineteenth-century Palestine. Though they grew into the backbone of the wine and citrus industries of Mandate Palestine and Israel in the twentieth century, absorbed tens of thousands of Jewish immigrants, and became known retrospectively as the “first wave” (First Aliyah) of Zionist settlement, the local history and collective memory of these colonies was later eclipsed by rise of collectivist Zionist institutions such as kibbutzim. Drawing connections to memory practices in other settler societies, Halperin argues that these communities' ongoing commemoration of their own past served to promote a narrative of Zionism that appealed to an emerging array of non-socialist forces that would seek and increasingly claim a voice in Zionist politics over the course of the twentieth century.

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

312 pages, July 2021
9781503628700 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



The Sultan's Communists *Moroccan Jews and the Politics of Belonging*

Alma Rachel Heckman

The Sultan's Communists uncovers the history of Jewish radical involvement in Morocco's national liberation project and examines how Moroccan Jews envisioned themselves participating as citizens in a newly independent Morocco. The figures at the center of Heckman's narrative stood at the intersection of colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Zionism. Their stories unfolded in a country that upon independence allied itself with the United States during the Cold War, while attempting to claim a place for itself within the fraught politics of the post-independence Arab world. This book contributes to the growing literature on Jews in the modern Middle East and provides a new history of twentieth-century Jewish Morocco.

"With meticulousness and fervor, Heckman offers a unique historical entry to North Africa's Jewish communities. The Sultan's Communists provides a new and refreshing understanding of minority politics in colonial and post-colonial societies."

—Aomar Boum,
University of California, Los Angeles

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

344 pages, November 2020
9781503613805 Cloth \$65.00 **\$52.00 sale**

The Jews of Ottoman Izmir *A Modern History*

Dina Danon

Across Europe, Jews had been confronted with the notion that their religious and cultural distinctiveness was somehow incompatible with the modern age. Yet the view from Ottoman Izmir invites a different approach. Danon argues that while Jewish religious and cultural distinctiveness remained unquestioned in this late Ottoman port city, other elements of identity emerged as sites of tension, most notably poverty and social class. Through the voices of beggars and mercantile elites, shoe-shiners and newspaper editors, rabbis and housewives, this book argues that it was new attitudes to poverty and class that most significantly framed the Jewish encounter with the modern age.

"Dina Danon opens new windows onto the changing socioeconomic realities and values of Jews in a major port city of the late Ottoman Empire. Those interested in modern Jewish and Ottoman history alike have much to learn from this fascinating study."

—Julia Phillips Cohen,
Vanderbilt University

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE

272 pages, 2020
9781503610910 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**

Genetic Crossroads *The Middle East and the Science of Human Heredity*

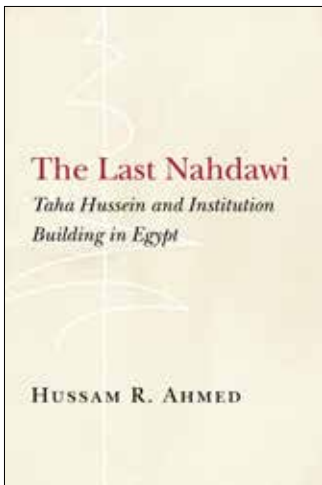
Elise K. Burton

Genetic Crossroads is an unprecedented history of human genetics in the Middle East, from its roots in colonial anthropology and medicine to recent genome sequencing projects. Early in the twentieth century, technological breakthroughs in human genetics coincided with the birth of modern Middle Eastern nation-states, who proclaimed that the region's ancient history as a cradle of civilizations was preserved in the bones and blood of their citizens. Burton illuminates how scientists from Turkey to Yemen, Egypt to Iran, transformed genetic data into territorial claims and national origin myths, and reveals the enduring foundations of international scientific interest in Middle Eastern populations to this day.

"Deeply researched and powerfully written, Genetic Crossroads is one of the most original books I have read in a decade. A must-read for historians of all fields."

—Eve M Troutt Powell,
University of Pennsylvania

360 pages, January 2021
9781503614567 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



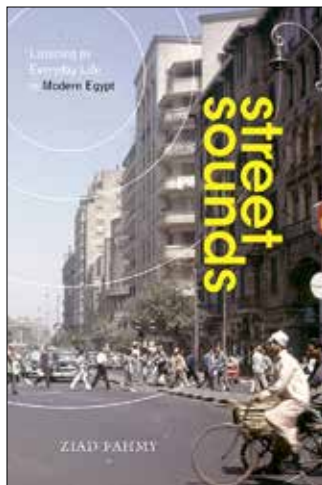
The Last Nahdawi

Taha Hussein and Institution Building in Egypt

Hussam R. Ahmed

Taha Hussein is one of Egypt's most iconic figures. A graduate of al-Azhar, Egypt's oldest university, a civil servant and public intellectual, and ultimately Egyptian Minister of Public Instruction, Hussein was an influential figure in Egypt during the parliamentary period. This book is the first biography of Hussein in which his intellectual outlook and public career are taken equally seriously. Examining Hussein's actions against the backdrop of his complex relationship with the Egyptian state, the religious establishment, and the French government, Ahmed reveals modern Egypt's cultural influence in the Arab and Islamic world. *The Last Nahdawi* offers both a history of modern state formation, revealing how the Egyptian state came to hold such a strong grip over culture and education—and a compelling examination of the life of the country's most renowned intellectual.

328 pages, June 2021
9781503627956 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



Street Sounds

Listening to Everyday Life in Modern Egypt

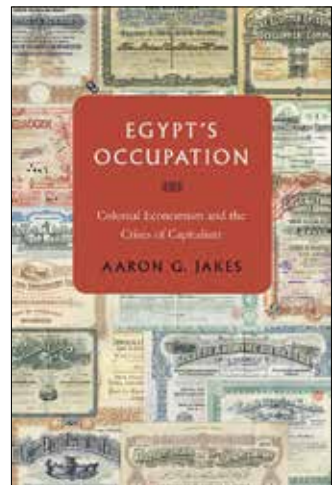
Ziad Fahmy

This book offers the first historical examination of the changing soundscapes of urban Egypt, highlighting the mundane sounds of street-life, while “listening” to the voices of ordinary people as they struggle with state authorities for ownership of the streets. Interweaving infrastructural, cultural, and social history, Fahmy analyzes the sounds of modernity, using sounded sources as an analytical tool for examining the past. *Street Sounds* also addresses the sensory class-politics of noise by demonstrating how the growing middle classes sensorially distinguished themselves from the Egyptian masses. This book contextualizes sound and layers historical analysis with a sensory dimension, bringing us closer to the Egyptian streets as lived and embodied by everyday people.

“Street Sounds brings the boisterous soundscape of modernizing Egypt to life. Fahmy has an ear for the noise of history in motion. He allows us to hear an Egypt we might otherwise discount.”

—Joel Gordon,
University of Arkansas

312 pages, 2020
9781503613034 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



Egypt's Occupation

Colonial Economism and the Crises of Capitalism

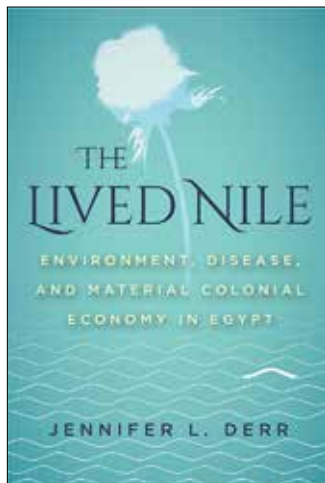
Aaron G. Jakes

The history of capitalism in Egypt has long been synonymous with cotton cultivation and dependent development. Obscured in such accounts, however, is Egypt's emergence as a colonial laboratory for financial investment and experimentation. Jakes offers a sweeping reinterpretation of both the historical geography of capitalism in Egypt and the role of political-economic thought in the struggles that raged over its occupation. Even as British officials claimed that “economic development” would be crucial to the political legitimacy of their rule, Egypt's early nationalists elaborated their own critical accounts of boom and bust. As Jakes shows, these Egyptian thinkers offered a set of sophisticated and troubling meditations on the deeper contradictions of capitalism and the very meaning of freedom in a capitalist world.

“Egypt's Occupation is a rare synthesis: a finely crafted regional study that grasps the worldwide movements of capital and empire at every turn.”

—Jason W. Moore,
Binghamton University

376 pages, 2020
9781503612617 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



The Lived Nile
*Environment, Disease, and
Material Colonial Economy
in Egypt*

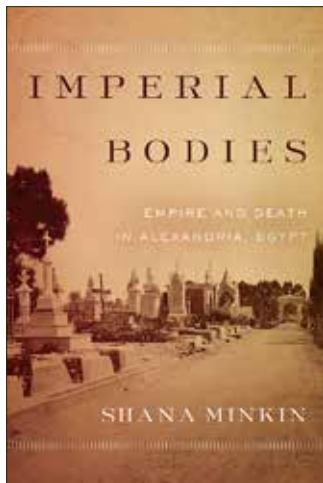
Jennifer L. Derr

This book follows the engineers, capitalists, political authorities, and laborers who built a new Nile River through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The river helped to shape the future of technocratic knowledge, and transformed the bodies of those who inhabited rural communities. As Derr argues, the Nile is not a singular entity, but a set of temporally, spatially, and materially specific relations that structured experiences of colonial economy. From the microscopic to the regional, the local to the imperial, *The Lived Nile* recounts the history and centrality of the environment to questions of politics, knowledge, and the lived experience of the human body itself.

"A brilliant book, The Lived Nile captures the complexities and unintended consequences of experts intervening in a river's flow—and the displaced and diseased bodies that result—in a most compelling story. This is history at its best."

—Beth Baron,
The Graduate Center, CUNY

264 pages, 2019
9781503609655 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



Imperial Bodies
*Empire and Death in
Alexandria, Egypt*

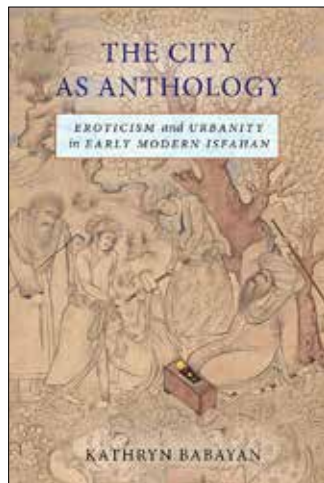
Shana Minkin

At the turn of the twentieth century, Alexandria was a transimperial port city, under nominal Ottoman and unofficial British imperial rule. Thousands of European subjects lived, worked, and died there. When they died, the machinery of empire negotiated for space, resources, and control with the nascent national state. *Imperial Bodies* shows how the mechanisms of death became a tool for exerting governance. Minkin investigates how French and British power asserted itself through local consular claims within the mundane caring for dead bodies, and reveals how European imperial powers did not so much claim Alexandria as their own, as they maneuvered, manipulated, and cajoled their empires into Egypt.

"Minkin offers the reader no less than an entirely new reading of the history of colonial Alexandria under British rule, and the reactions of its imperial subjects. Imperial Bodies is an outstanding accomplishment, innovative and insightful."

—Israel Gershoni,
Tel Aviv University

224 pages, 2019
9781503608924 Cloth \$60.00 **\$48.00 sale**

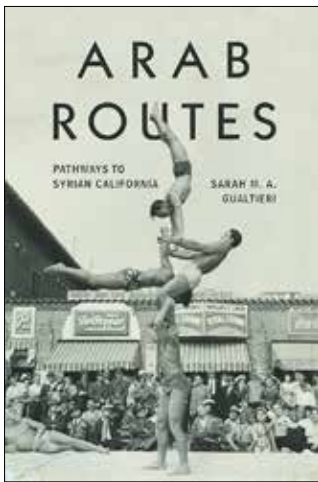


The City as Anthology
*Eroticism and Urbanity in
Early Modern Isfahan*

Kathryn Babayan

This book tells a new history of Isfahan, at the transformative moment it became a cosmopolitan center of imperial rule. For a city with no extant state or civic archives, Babayan reimagines an archive of anthologies to recover how residents shaped their communities and crafted their urban, religious, and sexual selves. She highlights eight residents—from king to widow, painter to religious scholar, poet to bureaucrat—who anthologized their city, writing their engagements with friends and family, divulging their social, cultural, and religious spheres of life. Through them, we see the gestures, manners, and sensibilities of a shared culture that configured their relations and negotiated the lines between friendship and eroticism. These entangled acts of seeing and reading, desiring and writing converge to fashion the refined urban self through the sensual and the sexual—and give us a new and enticing view of the city of Isfahan.

296 pages, May 2021
9781503613386 Cloth \$65.00 **\$52.00 sale**



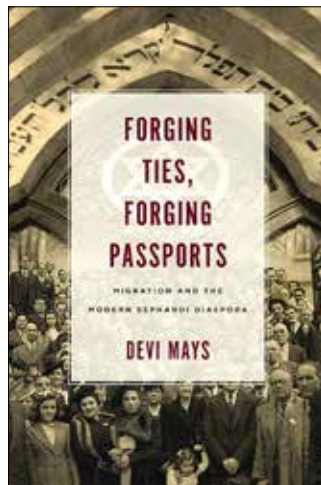
Arab Routes
Pathways to Syrian California
 Sarah M. A. Gualtieri

Los Angeles is home to the largest population of people of Middle Eastern descent in the United States. Since the late nineteenth century, Syrian and Lebanese migration to Southern California has been intimately connected to and through Latin America. *Arab Routes* uncovers the stories of this Syrian American community to reveal important cross-border and multiethnic solidarities in Syrian California. Gualtieri reinscribes Syrians into Southern California history through her examination of images and texts, augmented with interviews with descendants of immigrants. Telling the story of how Syrians helped forge a global Los Angeles, *Arab Routes* counters a long-held stereotype of Arabs as outsiders and underscores their longstanding place in American culture and in interethnic coalitions, past and present.

"Sarah Gualtieri complicates and revises our understanding of Arab immigration to the Americas. An expansive, cutting-edge, and much-needed book."

—Carol W.N. Fadda,
 Syracuse University

224 pages, 2019
 9781503610859 Paper \$24.00 **\$19.20 sale**



**Forging Ties,
 Forging Passports**
*Migration and the Modern
 Sephardi Diaspora*
 Devi Mays

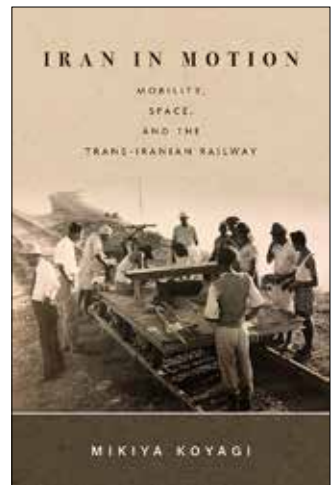
This book explores the history of Ottoman Sephardic Jews who emigrated to the Americas—and especially, to Mexico—in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the complex relationships they maintained to legal documentation as they settled into new homes. In the aftermath of World War I and the Mexican Revolution, migrants navigated new layers of bureaucracy and authority amidst changing political regimes. By making use of commercial and familial networks between formerly Ottoman lands, France, the United States, Cuba, and Mexico, these Sephardic migrants maintained a geographic and social mobility that challenged the physical borders of the state and the conceptual boundaries of the nation.

"A sparkling work of social history that prompts larger questions over citizenship and its meanings."

—Stacy D. Fahrenthold,
 University of California, Davis

**STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH
 HISTORY AND CULTURE**

360 pages, 2020
 9781503613218 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



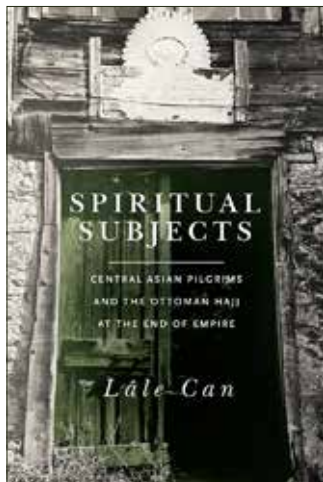
Iran in Motion
*Mobility, Space, and the
 Trans-Iranian Railway*
 Mikiya Koyagi

This book traces the contested imaginations and practices of mobility from the conception of a trans-Iranian railway project during the nineteenth-century global transport revolution to its early years of operation on the eve of Iran's oil nationalization movement in the 1950s. Weaving together various individual experiences, Koyagi considers how the infrastructural megaproject reoriented the flows of people and goods. The railway project simultaneously brought the provinces closer to Tehran and pulled them away from it, thereby constantly reshaping local, national, and transnational experiences of space among mobile individuals.

"Koyagi transports us through the various stations that dotted Iran's path to modernity. Much more than a narrative of the railway project, Iran in Motion reveals a deep understanding of the mobility networks that connected and divided Middle Eastern communities. A groundbreaking book."

—Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet,
 University of Pennsylvania

288 pages, April 2021
 9781503613133 Cloth \$65.00 **\$52.00 sale**



Spiritual Subjects
Central Asian Pilgrims and the Ottoman Hajj at the End of Empire

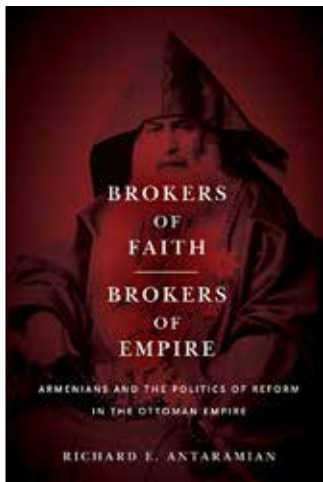
Lâle Can

Spiritual Subjects examines the paradoxes of nationality reform and pan-Islamic politics in late Ottoman history. Can unravels how imperial belonging was wrapped up in deeply symbolic instantiations of religion, as well as prosaic acts that paved the way to integration into Ottoman communities. A complex system of belonging emerged—one where it was possible for a Muslim to be both, by law, a foreigner and a subject of the Ottoman sultan-caliph. This panoramic story informs broader transregional developments, with important implications for how we make sense of subjecthood in the last Muslim empire and the legacy of religion in the Turkish Republic.

“A beautifully and imaginatively crafted history of the hajj as a social, cultural, political, and spiritual phenomenon. Lâle Can humanizes the Central Asian pilgrims, telling their stories with the same grace and veneration that they showed in the course of their spiritual journey.”

—Christine Philliou,
University of California, Berkeley

272 pages, 2020
9781503611160 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire
Armenians and the Politics of Reform in the Ottoman Empire

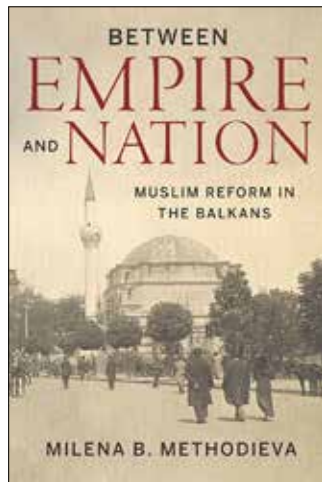
Richard E. Antaramian

The Ottoman Empire enforced imperial rule through its management of diversity. Non-Muslim religious institutions, such as the Armenian Church, were charged with guaranteeing their flocks' loyalty to the sultan. In so doing, Armenian elites became powerful brokers between factions in Ottoman politics—until the politics of nineteenth-century reform changed these relationships. This book presents a revisionist account of Ottoman reform, connecting internal contention within the Armenian community to broader imperial politics. Reform afforded Armenians the opportunity to recast themselves as partners of the state, rather than brokers among factions. And in the course of pursuing such programs, they transformed the community's role in imperial society.

“Antaramian provides a much-needed corrective to a historiography that often presents ‘Armenian’ and ‘Ottoman’ as mutually exclusive categories. An empirically rich work.”

—İpek Kocaömer Yosmaoğlu,
Northwestern University

224 pages, 2020
9781503612952 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



Between Empire and Nation
Muslim Reform in the Balkans

Milena B. Methodieva

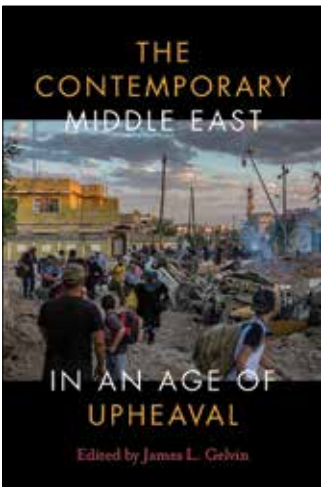
This book tells the story of the transformation of the Muslim community in modern Bulgaria during a period of imperial dissolution, conflicting national and imperial enterprises, and the emergence of new national and ethnic identities. Methodieva explores how former Ottoman subjects, now under Bulgarian rule, navigated between empire and nation-state, and sought to claim a place in the larger modern world. Using a wide array of primary sources and drawing on both Ottoman and Eastern European historiographies, Methodieva approaches the question of Balkan Muslims' engagement with modernity through a transnational lens, arguing that the experience of this Muslim minority provides new insight into the nature of nationalism, citizenship, and state formation.

“This important new book is set to redefine the entanglements of modern history of Europe and the Middle East.”

—Cemil Aydin,
University of North Carolina

STANFORD STUDIES ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

352 pages, January 2021
9781503613379 Cloth \$65.00 **\$52.00 sale**



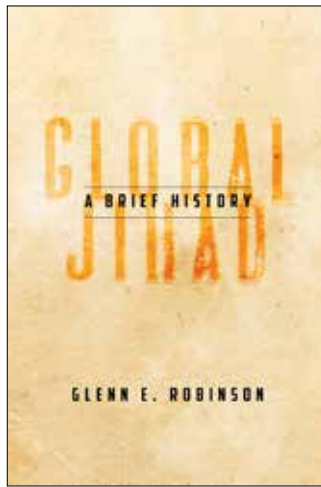
The Contemporary Middle East in an Age of Upheaval
Edited by James L. Gelvin

This book engages six themes to understand the contemporary Middle East—the spread of sectarianism, abandonment of principles of state sovereignty, the lack of a regional hegemonic power, increased Saudi-Iranian competition, decreased regional attention to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and fallout from the Arab uprisings—as well as offers individual country studies. With analysis from historians, political scientists, sociologists, and anthropologists, and up-to-date discussions of the Syrian Civil War, impacts of the Trump presidency, and the 2020 uprisings in Lebanon, Algeria, and Sudan, this book will be an essential guide for anyone seeking to understand the current state of the region.

“These essays are an indispensable guide to making sense of the Middle East’s current disorder and future direction. A must-read for academics, policy makers, and informed general audiences.”

—Frederic Wehrey,
Carnegie Endowment for
International Peace

344 pages, May 2021
9781503627697 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



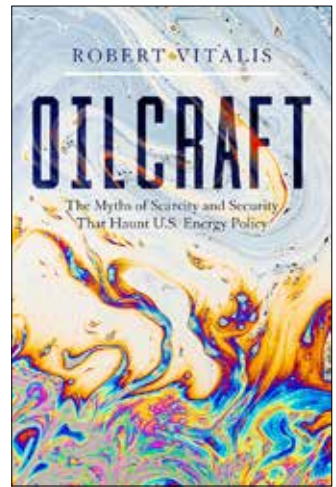
Global Jihad
A Brief History
Glenn E. Robinson

Most violent jihadi movements in the twentieth century focused on removing corrupt, repressive secular regimes throughout the Muslim world. But following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a new form of jihadism emerged—global jihad—turning to the international arena as the primary locus of ideology and action. With this book, Robinson tells the story of four distinct jihadi waves, each with its own program for achieving a global end. He connects the rise of global jihad to other “movements of rage”—such as the Nazi Brownshirts, White supremacists, Khmer Rouge, and Boko Haram—and develops a compelling and provocative argument about this violent political movement’s evolution.

“Robinson has produced a masterful book that is incisive, insightful, and comprehensive—a tour de force on the evolution of jihadism.”

—Mehran Kamrava,
Georgetown University

264 pages, November 2020
9780804760478 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



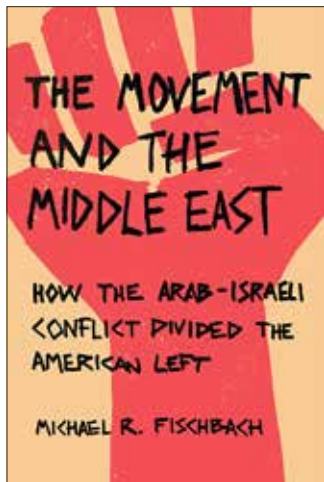
Oilcraft
The Myths of Scarcity and Security That Haunt U.S. Energy Policy
Robert Vitalis

There is a conventional wisdom about oil—that US military presence in the Gulf guarantees access to this strategic resource; that the “special” relationship with Saudi Arabia is necessary to stabilize an otherwise volatile market; and that these assumptions provide Washington enormous leverage. Except, the conventional wisdom is wrong. Vitalis debunks the myths to reveal “oilcraft,” a line of magical thinking closer to witchcraft than statecraft. He exposes the suspect fears of scarcity and conflict, and investigates the significant geopolitical impact of these false beliefs. In particular, Vitalis shows how we can reconsider the question of the US–Saudi relationship. Freeing ourselves from the spell of oilcraft won’t be easy—but the benefits make it essential.

“Vitalis has once again revealed that our conventional wisdom is filled with empty, and often dangerous, self-delusions. This book is a triumph of clear-eyed and courageous criticism.”

—Lisa Anderson,
Columbia University

240 pages, 2020
9781503600904 Cloth \$24.00 **\$19.20 sale**



The Movement and the Middle East

How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Divided the American Left

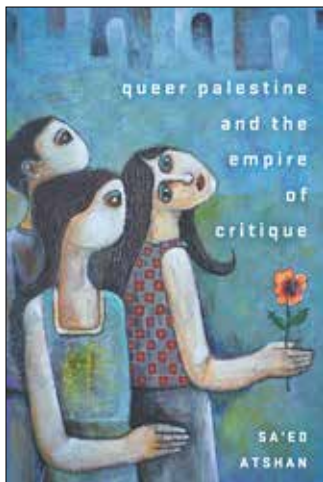
Michael R. Fischbach

The Arab-Israeli conflict constituted a serious problem for the American Left in the 1960s. *The Movement and the Middle East* offers the first assessment of the controversial and ultimately debilitating role of the conflict among activists. Fischbach draws on a deep well of original sources to present a story of the left-wing responses to the question of Palestine and Israel. He shows how, as the 1970s wore on, the cleavages emerging within the American Left widened, weakening the Movement and leaving a lasting impact that still affects progressive American politics today.

“Fischbach boldly takes us into the vexed heart of debates on the American Left over the Palestinian struggle against the state of Israel. His bracing message is of the perils of intransigence and the enduring ability of the Israel-Palestine debate to further divide an already weakened American Left.”

—Jeremy Varon,
The New School

312 pages, 2019
9781503611061 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique

Sa'ed Atshan

Solidarity with Palestinians has become a salient domain of global queer politics. Yet LGBTQ Palestinians are themselves often subjected to an “empire of critique” that has led to an emphasis within the movement on anti-imperialism over the struggle against homophobia. With this book, Atshan asks how social movements can balance struggles for liberation along more than one axis. He explores critical junctures in Palestinian LGBTQ activism, revealing a spirit of agency, defiance, and creativity, despite daunting pressures and forces working to constrict it. *Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique* explores the necessity of connecting the struggles for Palestinian freedom with the struggle against homophobia.

“Sa'ed Atshan brilliantly weaves together ethnography and personal experience in thoughtful, engaging, and emotionally captivating ways. A tour de force and a remarkable book for both its theoretical and empirical contributions.”

—Amaney A. Jamal,
Princeton University

296 pages, 2020
9781503612396 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**

ANNOUNCING
A NEW BOOK SERIES

WORLDING
THE
MIDDLE EAST

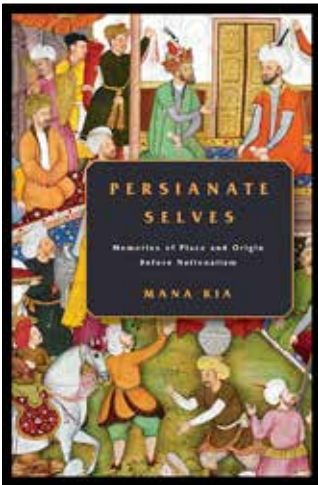
EDITED BY
Emily Gottreich
and Daniel Zoughbie

CENTER FOR
MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY

This series investigates the “worlding” of the Middle East and the ever-changing, ever-becoming dynamism of the region. It seeks to capture the ways in which the region is reimagined and unmade through flows of world capital, power, and ideas.

Complex historical and social phenomena require complex analyses. We encourage studies not only in traditional disciplines, but also those that push the boundaries into emerging areas of study. Books in this series will engage in three broad areas of consideration: rule, resilience, and religion. We have particular interest in studies that consider ethnic and religious minority populations, as well as works that embrace world places, networks, and communities that are inextricably linked to the geographical region and its peoples.

Spanning the modern period to the present, *Worlding the Middle East* will showcase critical and innovative books that develop new ways of thinking about the region and the wider world.



Persianate Selves
*Memories of Place and Origin
Before Nationalism*

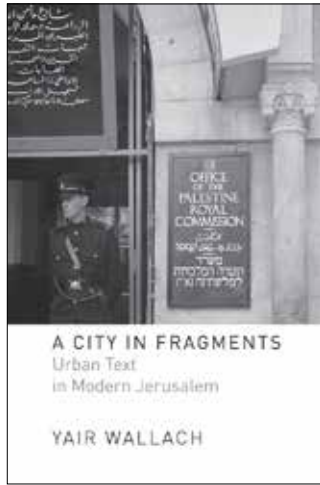
Mana Kia

For centuries, Persian was the language of power and learning across West and South Asia. This book sketches the contours of this Persianate world, historicizing place, origin, and selfhood through its tradition of proper form—*adab*. Proximities and similarities constituted a logic that distinguished between people while simultaneously accommodating plurality. *Adab* was the basis of cohesion for self and community over the eighteenth century, as populations dispersed and centers of power shifted, disrupting the circulations that interlinked Persianate regions. Challenging the bases of protonationalist community, *Persianate Selves* seeks to make sense of a transregional Persianate culture outside the anachronistic shadow of nationalisms.

“Few questions are more vexed in the study of early modern Asia than how people identified before nationalism. Persianate Selves is an invaluable vade mecum for navigating the transregional Persianate past.”

—Nile Green,
University of California, Los Angeles

336 pages, 2020
9781503611955 Paper \$30.00 **\$24.00 sale**



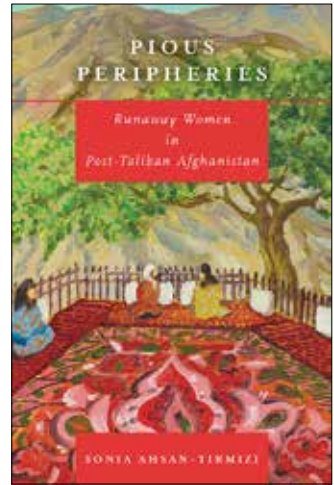
A City in Fragments
Urban Text in Modern Jerusalem
Yair Wallach

A City in Fragments tells the story of a city overwhelmed by its religious and symbolic significance. Wallach walked the streets of Jerusalem to consider the graffiti, inscriptions, signs, and ephemera that transformed the city over the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As these texts became a tool in the service of capitalism, nationalism, and colonialism, the affinities of Arabic and Hebrew were forgotten. Looking at the writing of—and literally on—Jerusalem, Wallach offers a creative and expansive history of the city, a fresh take on modern urban texts, and a new reading of the Israel/Palestine conflict through its material culture.

“Our understanding of the city’s history will forever be changed by this sensitive and lyrical description of the city—sacred and profane, spiritual and material, Arab and Jewish—and the fragmentary voices and lives of those who built it.”

—Michelle Campos,
University of Florida

344 pages, 2020
9781503611139 Paper \$28.00 **\$22.40 sale**



Pious Peripheries
*Runaway Women in Post-Taliban
Afghanistan*

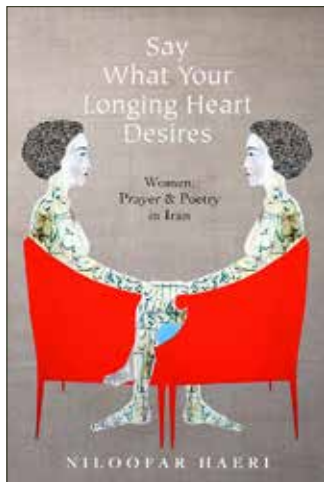
Sonia Ahsan-Tirmizi

Taliban made piety a business of the state, and thereby intervened in the daily lives and social interactions of Afghan women. *Pious Peripheries* examines women’s resistance through groundbreaking fieldwork at a women’s shelter in Kabul, home to runaway wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters of the Taliban. Whether running to seek marriage or divorce, enduring or escaping abuse, or even accused of singing sexually explicit songs in public, “promiscuous” women challenge the status quo—and once marked as promiscuous, women have few resources. Ahsan-Tirmizi explores how these women negotiate gendered power mechanisms and create a new supportive community, finding friendship and solidarity among the women who inhabit the margins of Afghan society.

“Pious Peripheries brings the reader into a diverse and opinionated world of Afghan women. Ahsan-Tirmizi’s willingness to step aside and allow these remarkable women to speak for themselves is a tremendous strength.”

—Thomas Barfield,
Boston University

232 pages, May 2021
9781503614710 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



Say What Your Longing Heart Desires

Women, Prayer, and Poetry in Iran

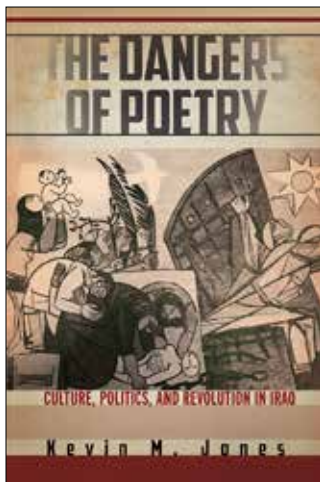
Niloofar Haeri

This book offers an elegant ethnography of religious debates among a group of educated, middle-class women whose voices are often muted in studies of Islam. Haeri follows them in their daily lives as they engage with the classical poetry of Rumi, Hafiz, and Saadi, illuminating a long-standing mutual inspiration between prayer and poetry. She recounts how different forms of prayer may transform into dialogues with God, and, in turn, illuminates the ways in which believers draw on prayer and ritual acts as the emotional and intellectual material through which they think, deliberate, and debate.

"A work that deserves to be widely read by all who are interested in understanding the different approaches to 'authentic' religion that exist in the Muslim world. A rich and detailed account, and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of religious practice."

—Talal Asad,
The Graduate Center, CUNY

224 pages, November 2020
9781503614246 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



The Dangers of Poetry

Culture, Politics, and Revolution in Iraq

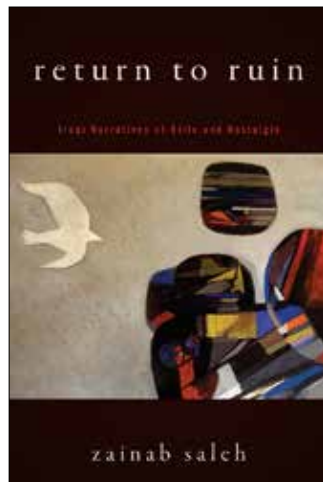
Kevin M. Jones

This is the first book to narrate the social history of poetry in the modern Middle East. Moving beyond the analysis of poems as literary and intellectual texts, Jones shows how poems functioned as social acts that critically shaped the cultural politics of revolutionary Iraq. He narrates the history of three generations of Iraqi poets who navigated the fraught relationship between culture and politics in pursuit of their own ambitions and agendas. Through this historical analysis of thousands of poems published in newspapers, recited in popular demonstrations, and disseminated in secret whispers, this book reveals the overlooked contribution of these poets to the spirit of rebellion in modern Iraq.

"Through beautiful translations and insightful commentary, The Dangers of Poetry demonstrates how poetic works expressed the hopes, desires, and anxieties of colonized subjects."

—Orit Bashkin,
University of Chicago

320 pages, 2020
9781503613393 Cloth \$70.00 **\$56.00 sale**



Return to Ruin

Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia

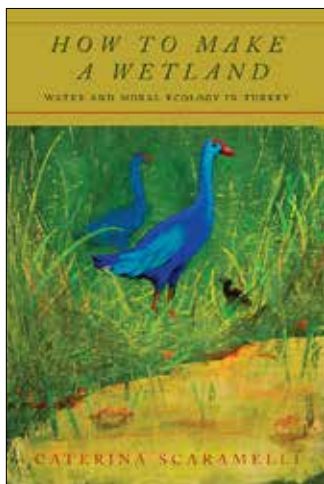
Zainab Saleh

With the US invasion of Iraq, Iraqis abroad, hoping to return one day to a better Iraq, became uncertain exiles. *Return to Ruin* tells the human story of this exile. Focusing on debates among Iraqi exiles about what it means to be an Iraqi after years of displacement, Saleh weaves a narrative that draws attention to a once-dominant, vibrant Iraqi cultural landscape and social and political shifts among the diaspora after decades of authoritarianism, war, and occupation in Iraq. She illuminates how Iraqis continue to fashion a sense of belonging and imagine a future, built on the shards of these shattered memories.

"In this outstanding book, we encounter the poignant life stories of Iraqis, stories too often reduced to statistics and stereotypes when they are visible at all. Return to Ruin is an illuminating study of Iraqi diasporic subjectivities."

—Sinan Antoon,
New York University

280 pages, 2020
9781503614116 Paper \$25.00 **\$20.00 sale**



How to Make a Wetland

Water and Moral Ecology in Turkey

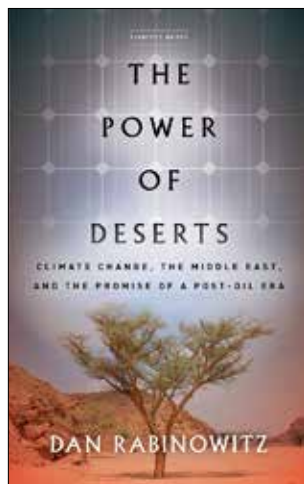
Caterina Scaramelli

This book tells the story of two Turkish coastal areas, both shaped by ecological change and political uncertainty. Farmers, scientists, fishermen, and families grapple with livelihoods in transition, as their environment is bound up in national and international conservation projects. Scaramelli offers an anthropological understanding of sweeping environmental and infrastructural change, and the moral claims made on livability and materiality. Beginning from a moral ecological position, she takes into account the notion that politics is not simply projected onto animals, plants, soil, and water. Rather, people make politics through them. Scaramelli highlights the aspirations, moral relations, and care practices in constant play in contestations and alliances over environmental change.

“Scaramelli’s lucid ethnography is a crucial addition to studies of lived environments and environmental infrastructure—a refreshing new take on anthropocentric development processes in Turkey and beyond.”

—Elif Babül,
Mount Holyoke College

256 pages, March 2021
9781503615403 Paper \$26.00 **\$20.80 sale**



The Power of Deserts

Climate Change, the Middle East, and the Promise of a Post-Oil Era

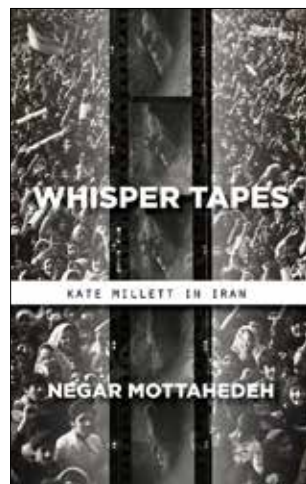
Dan Rabinowitz

Hotter and dryer than most parts of the world, the Middle East could soon see climate change exacerbate food and water shortages, aggravate social inequalities, and drive displacement and political destabilization. *The Power of Deserts* surveys regional climate models and identifies the potential impact on socioeconomic disparities, population movement, and political instability. Offering more than warning and fear, however, the book highlights a potentially brighter future—a recent shift across the Middle East toward renewable energy. With his deep knowledge of the region and knack for presenting scientific data with clarity, Rabinowitz makes a sober yet surprisingly optimistic investigation of opportunity arising from a looming crisis.

“An important argument detailing how the Middle East could be devastated by the impact of climate change—or could generate huge amounts of renewable energy. A provocative work.”

—Steven Cohen,
Columbia University

184 pages, 2020
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Whisper Tapes

Kate Millett in Iran

Negar Mottahede

Kate Millett was already an icon of American feminism when she went to Iran in 1979. She arrived just weeks after the Iranian Revolution, to join Iranian women in marking International Women’s Day. The event turned into a week of protests, and Millett, armed with equipment to record everything around her, found herself in the middle of demonstrations for women’s rights. Listening to the revolutionary soundscape of Millett’s audio tapes, Negar Mottahede offers a new interpretive guide to Revolutionary Iran, its slogans, habits, and women’s movement.

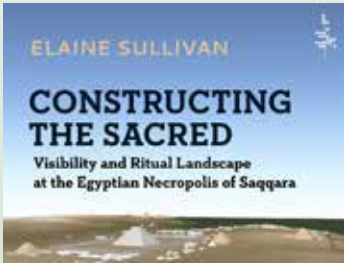
“Lyrical, intelligent, and passionately written, Whisper Tapes reignites a long dormant conversation about the urgency of global feminism. This book is intensely relevant as we continue to assess the aftermath of revolutions throughout the Middle East, and the ways they have been fueled by women’s rage on the one hand and unfulfilled hope for gender equity on the other.”

—Shilyh Warren,
University of Texas at Dallas

224 pages, 2019
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Constructing the Sacred

Visibility and Ritual Landscape at the Egyptian Necropolis of Saqqara

Elaine A. Sullivan

Utilizing 3D technologies, *Constructing the Sacred* addresses ancient ritual landscape from a unique perspective to examine development at the complex, long-lived archaeological site of Saqqara, Egypt. Sullivan focuses on how changes in the built and natural environment affected burial rituals at the temple due to changes in visibility. Flipping the top-down view prevalent in archeology to a more human-centered perspective puts the focus on the dynamic evolution of an ancient site that is typically viewed as static.



filmingrevolution.org

Filming Revolution

Alisa Lebow

Filming Revolution investigates documentary and independent filmmaking in Egypt since 2011, bringing together the collective wisdom and creative strategies of thirty filmmakers, artists, activists, and archivists. Rather than merely building an archive of video interviews, Lebow constructs a collaborative project, joining her interviewees in conversation to investigate questions about the evolving format of political filmmaking. The innovative constellatory interactive design of *Filming Revolution* makes an aesthetic commentary about the experience of the revolution, its fragmented development, and its shifting meanings, thereby advancing arguments about political documentary via both content and form.



whenmelodiesgather.org

When Melodies Gather

Oral Art of the Mahra

Samuel Liebhaber

The Mahra people of the southern Arabian Peninsula have no written language but instead possess a rich oral tradition. Liebhaber takes readers on a tour through their poetry, which he collected in audio and video recordings over the course of several years. Based on this material, Liebhaber develops a blueprint for poetry classification across the language family. Each poem is embedded in a conceptual framework that highlights formal similarities between them and recapitulates how Mahri poets craft poems and how their audiences are primed to receive them.



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