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analysis has even less on women, who, of course, will become increasingly important for any modernizing Islamic movement.

This important study finishes with a conclusion, notes, bibliography, and index. The overall result is a well-written, first-rate analysis that will lead one to empathize with its subject, appreciate its strengths, and even tolerate its very few weaknesses.

Michael M. Gunter is a professor at Tennessee Technological University and the Secretary-General of the EU Turkey Civic Commission, which advocates Turkish accession to the EU as a way to create a stronger, more democratic Turkey.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Prepared with assistance from Alexandra BetGeorge and Courtney Jolene.

AFGHANISTAN

Working Toward Peace and Prosperity in Afghanistan, ed. by Wolfgang Danspeckgruber. Liechtenstein Colloquium Report, Volume 5. 272 pages. \$32.50. The goal of this work is to transform Afghanistan into “a state of tranquility” by providing policy recommendations and exploration of the systemic issues that continue to plague development initiatives. The authors discuss the roles of Afghan women and tribes, as well as the successes and challenges faced by the country’s budding civil society. (CJ)

Above the Din of War: Afghans Speak About Their Lives, Their Country, and Their Future — And Why America Should Listen, by Peter Eichstaedt. Chicago: Lawrence Hill Books, 2013. 304 pages. \$26.95. Journalist Peter Eichstaedt furnishes readers with a glimpse of the daily realities of ordinary Afghans in his latest work, based on interviews gathered in 2010 across Afghanistan. As the war in Afghanistan begins to wind down ahead of the planned 2014 US troop withdrawal, this book challenges the normative discourse perpetuated by Western media and attempts to give voice to a population that continues to remain elusive to many Americans, including tribal members, women who have overcome adversity, emerging politicians, religious and community leaders, and various other actors. The author focuses on the complexity of the state and its inhabitants, as well as on the various domestic and external challenges they face. (CJ)

[HTTP://DX.DOI.ORG/10.3751/67.3.4](http://dx.doi.org/10.3751/67.3.4)

ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT

The Lingering Conflict: Israel, the Arabs, and the Middle East 1948–2012, by Itamar Rabinovich. Washington, D.C: Brookings Institution Press, 2013. 312 pages. \$24.95. As Israel’s ambassador to the United States from 1993–1996 and chief negotiator with Syria from 1992–1995, Itamar Rabinovich is in a position to explore the tenuous and complex relationship and interconnectedness between Israel and the region, especially its Arab neighbors. The current ramifications and ongoing developments surrounding the Arab Spring have created new challenges and opportunities for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but it is still important to reflect on the historiography of the conflict, diplomatic overtures, and past failures and successes. In a comprehensive breakdown of different political periods since the opening of the Madrid Conference in 1991, he analyzes the underlying complexities, personalities, and geo-strategic realities that led to the current trends in the conflict. Through in-depth analyses of Israeli prime ministers, conferences, and overtures, the book concludes with a summary of the current challenges, regional ramifications of the Arab Spring and introduction of new regimes, and potential means of moving a resolution forward. (CJ)

EGYPT

Egypt’s Tahrir Revolution, by Dan Tshirgi, Walid Kazziha, and Sean F. McMahon. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2013. 278 pages. \$61.75. American University of Cairo professors Tshirgi, Kazziha, and McMahon provide in this volume an in-depth analysis of the antecedents, process, and implications of former President Husni Mubarak’s overthrow. The chapters are grouped into four thematic categories: the causes of and themes present in the revolution; the revolution’s broader historical context; the implications of the revolution for the evolution of political science theory; and suggestions to address key concerns in the ongoing revolutionary process. The editors conclude that Egypt’s January 2011 revolution requires changes in the field of political science to include youth as a new unit of analysis and to account for the dynamics of technology in organizing populations. (ABG)

IRAN

German Foreign Policy Towards Iran Before World War II: Political Relations, Economic Influence, and the National Bank of Persia, by Rashid Khatib-Shahidi. New York: I.B. Taurus & Co. Ltd., 2013. 223 pages. \$46.60. Doctor Khatib-Shahidi of Oxford University analyzes recently released documents of German government agencies

regarding German involvement in Iran during the years between the First and Second World Wars. The research aims to provide a firsthand German perspective on selected events in German-Iranian relations during the interwar years through opinions of German diplomats in key government agencies expressed in their written communications. The documents reveal the National Bank of Persia as the primary mechanism through which Germany implemented its economic influence in Iran, through contracts with German companies and the establishment of trade deals with Iran. German involvement in the Bank, including tenure of the director and other leading positions by German nationals, climaxed in a trade contract of 1935 that established Germany as Iran's principal trade partner until 1941. (ABG)

Iran and the Challenges of the 21st Century: Essays in Honor of Mohammad-Reza Djalili, ed. by H.E. Chehabi, Farhad Khosrokhavar, and Clement Therme. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, Inc., 2013. 308 pages. \$45. This edited volume features leading Iranian scholars from around the world discussing the most critical issues currently facing Iran in both the domestic and foreign policy arenas, as well as historical narratives on Iran before the Islamic Revolution. Chapter topics range from a discussion of the 2009 Green Movement to the politics of the Shah prior to the Revolution, and the geostrategic relationship between Iran and Syria. (CJ)

IRAQ

Democracy in Iraq: History, Politics, Discourse, by Benjamin Isakhan. Surrey, England: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2012. 200 pages. \$90. Dr. Isakhan of Deakin University exposes Iraq's long legacy of democracy to counter Western media coverage of its democratic transition since 2005, which has centered on sectarian discord and portrayed the country as lacking democratic precedent. An exploration into Iraq's democratic endeavors extending back to Mesopotamian assemblies and Islamic philosophy reveals the country's long journey of democratic progress. The author then evaluates various democratic efforts in Iraqi history by applying Marxist, Toquevillian, and other critiques to each. While Isakhan concludes that Iraq's efforts in democratic reform do not constitute true democracy, he contends that the current discourse on Iraq's democratic transition should acknowledge this history of reform to provide a more complete understanding of the country's current political status. (ABG)

SYRIA

The Battle for Syria: 1918–1920, by John D. Grainger. Suffolk, UK: Boydell and Brewer Ltd., 2013. 261 pages. \$35.50. *The Battle for Syria* presents integral historical context to understanding the

contemporary boundaries of the Middle East in a detailed military account of the turning point in the British military campaign, the 1918 Battle of Megiddo, in which the British conquered Palestine, then Damascus, Aleppo, and Lebanon. In September 1918, the British imperial forces under General George Allenby won a series of battles near Jaffa, collectively known as the Battle of Megiddo. The successful victory prompted Allenby to take Damascus, sought by Britain's Arab allies, along with Lebanon and Aleppo, which both Britain's French and Arab allies had wanted. The way in which the battle was fought, and its significant outcome established modern state borders in the Middle East, most notably, that between Syria and Turkey. Military historian John Grainger provides a recounting of a historical event integral to understanding the borders in which the current Syrian civil conflict is fought. (ABG)

TUNISIA

Youth and Revolution in Tunisia, by Alcinda Honwana. London: CPI Group Ltd., 2013. 235 pages. \$22.95. Doctor Alcinda Honwana of Open University conducts a series of interviews articulating a narrative of youth participation in the 2011 overthrow of Tunisian president Zine El-Abidine Ben 'Ali, from its antecedents to the National Constituent Assembly's preparation for the 2013 presidential and legislative elections. The interviews indicate an absence of youth in formal politics after the revolution, and the failure of political parties to integrate youth concerns in their platforms. Young activists instead address the democratic transition's political establishment through street protests, sit-ins, online social networks, and their own civil society organizations. The author's research illustrates that widespread distrust of government and political parties among Tunisian youth motivates them to engage politically by creating their own political culture outside of these structures. (ABG)

MEDIA

Back Stories: US News Production & Palestinian Politics, by Amahl A. Bishara. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2012. 344 Pages. \$24.95. A professor and anthropologist, Amahl A. Bishara explores news production through the experience of Palestinians. Bishara finds that Palestinians are both facilitators and recipients of news from outside sources, which, affects their identity. The book is interspersed with brief summaries and analyses of articles through personal interviews with Palestinians. Bishara's book provides a free space to critique Western news sources and the connection between journalism and identity formation. With an analysis on objectivity and the intersection of identity and news production, Bishara provides deeper insight into the process of journalism and the creation of knowledge in a tense and dynamic

environment. Using the experiences of locals in the aftermath of the Second Intifada and the post-9/11 climate, Bishara aims to determine the elements of information production and how news can reinforce or challenge assumptions about a specific community, thereby affecting policymaking and diplomatic overtures. (CJ)

MODERN HISTORY AND POLITICS

After Bin Laden: Al Qaeda, the Next Generation, by Abdel Bari Atwan. New York: New Press, 2013. 304 Pages. \$27.95. Abdel Bari Atwan, the editor in chief of the *al-Quds al-'Arabi* newspaper, is in a unique position to comment on the position of al-Qa'ida in the aftermath of Usama bin Ladin's death. Using interviews and other primary resources, Atwan makes the case that al-Qa'ida has adapted to foreign and local challenges, creating new leadership structures that are becoming increasingly focused on regional and state-centered concerns. Atwan explores the growth of Islamist movements in North Africa following the Arab Awakening, and discusses new challenges for international forces who face a younger generation of leaders with technological prowess, new grievances, and the ability to bounce back quickly and effectively from standard US anti-terror practices. Challenging conventional wisdom about the goals and strategies of the al-Qa'ida, Atwan attempts to create a new academic paradigm for the study of al-Qa'ida's infrastructure. (CJ)

Scripting Middle East Leaders: The Impact of Leadership Perceptions on US and UK Foreign Policy, edited by Lawrence Freedman and Jeffrey H. Michaels. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing, 2012. 192 pages. \$34.95 In this collection of essays, the contributors describe the connection between perceptions of the most vocal Arab leaders of the 20th and 21st centuries, and how the opinions of Western leaders on their regional counterparts directly affected policy-making and strategic planning. Freedman and Michaels, through the profiles of Nasser, Mubarak, and Qadhafi, put forth a challenge to leaders and scholars to reevaluate common perceptions of such leaders to ensure that policy is aligned with actual realities on the ground. According to the authors, reorienting policymakers' focus to broader themes and beyond the personality of one individual, will ensure domestic concerns and the personalities of popular leaders do not distort analysis of the region. (CJ)

Time in The Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies, by Laleh Khalili. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2013. 386 pages. \$27.95. A lecturer at SOAS, Laleh Khalili focuses on the strategies of confinement and detention in modern-day and past conflicts to discuss the shifting theory surrounding modern warfare. Khalili analyzes the strategies that have been at the cornerstone of Western war

policies throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, using case studies from the French intervention in Algeria to the controversy surrounding Abu Ghraib, to formulate an analysis of the "neo-colonial" approach to military conduct abroad. Her central thesis is that despite liberal ideals surrounding modern-day military activity, there is a paradoxical situation in which warfare is increasingly relied upon as a policy standard. Khalili explains that while the key players and motives have changed, tactics and aims remained constant throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. Ultimately, she seeks to challenge the discourse surrounding wartime policies and reevaluate common perceptions and explanations that have reverberations throughout the Middle East and beyond. (CJ)

Alliance Formation in Civil Wars, by Fotini Christia. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. 356 Pages. \$32.99. In this study, Fotini Christia, an associate professor at MIT, explores how interests drive either cooperation or betrayal in different conflicts, and aims to reinforce better policy-making that reflects the actual realities on the ground and understated social complexities. "Power considerations" and postwar realities have a significant impact on how alliances are formed and direct a conflict's trajectory. Christia moves past the traditional sociopolitical communal markers and refocuses the narrative to fit into modern-day conflict resolution. Power and shared identity are at the heart of Christia's research, which affects the end of a conflict. As seen through the case studies of the 1992–98 and 1978–89 conflicts between Afghan mujahideen and the Bosnian civil wars of 1941–45 and 1992–95, Christia shows that a conflict's trajectory is contingent on postwar considerations. (CJ)

The Arab Revolts: Dispatches on Militant Democracy in the Middle East, edited by David McMurray and Amanda Ufheil-Somers. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2013. 272 pages. \$28. The essays comprising this volume, which originally appeared as individual articles in the *Middle East Report*, highlight the phenomenon leading up to the Tunisian, Egyptian, Yemeni, Syrian, and Bahraini uprisings, as well as emerging factors that arose during and after the seminal events in each state. Through the lens of civil society, security, and socioeconomic developments, authors from around the world and from different academic specializations discuss Islamism in Tunisia, Egyptian security forces, and the southern separatist movement in Yemen. (CJ)

Avoiding Armageddon: America, India, and Pakistan To the Brink of War and Back, by Bruce Riedel. Washington: Brookings Institution Press, 2013. 220 pages. \$27.95. In this study, Bruce Riedel explores the trilateral relationship between India, Pakistan, and the United States. His analysis starts with a discussion on the Mum-

bai massacres in 2008, which led to the brink of war, and follows with a discussion that starts with the first years of the Cold War era, and concluding with a discussion on the Obama administration. The United States' relationship with these two "rising powers" is at a critical juncture, and the region of South Asia will become one of great interest to current and future policy-makers. This book frames the historical ties, as well as the high and low points of the relationships, and serves as a springboard for future study. (CJ)

Civil Society in Syria and Iran: Activism in Authoritarian Contexts, edited by Paul Aarts and Francesco Cavatorta. Boulder, Colorado and London: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2013. 257 pages. \$23. This anthology explores the relationships between civil society actors and authoritarian regimes in each country through the adoption of a new definition for civil society. The authors aim to depoliticize civil society by removing the term's association with activists who focus exclusively on the pursuit of democratic freedoms, and by discussing nontraditional activists who operate outside of formal organizations. This shift in definition allows the anthology's contributors to analyze the influence of a wide spectrum of nontraditional Syrian and Iranian actors, including Islamists and individual bloggers, and the authoritarian regimes' reactions to their activities. Professors Aarts and Cavatorta, of the University of Amsterdam and Dublin City University, contend that study of the relationships between the civil societies and authoritarian regimes in Syria and Iran, where the "power of the state to dominate society seemed strongest," reveals vital knowledge behind the progress of the Arab Spring across the Middle East and North Africa. (ABG)

WOMEN

Gulf Women, edited by Amira El-Azhary Sombol. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 2012. 464 pages. \$39.95. This anthology focuses on the Gulf region. Traditionally, women have been "imagined... pushed into an imaginary space," and through the use of new resources, the authors explore the dynamic, yet understated, role of women in the Gulf. Going beyond the standard Western narrative, the authors attempt to generate specific portrayals of women at different points in time, including the early years of Islam, the Ottoman Empire, and the colonial period. A "call to revisit history," this book takes into account legal codification, Islamic jurisprudence, and the role of colonialism in creating a modern Islamic social system that created the context in which women live in today. (CJ)

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