

For Islamic historians, Barak's discussion of insurance and rizq (wealth or livelihood) highlights the human opportunities and tragedies that accompanied coal-powered innovations to hajj transport by both land (railroads) and sea (steamships). He investigates the economic infrastructure that enabled many more to go on hajj. In one discussion of hajj journeys from Southeast Asia, he points out the inherent contradictions in the usury employed by hajj recruitment agents and steamship companies, which often purposefully underestimated the costs for their passengers in order to force them to labor on plantations in Singapore to pay off their debts.

For graduate students and their mentors, this book provides both immeasurable opportunities and challenges. The theoretical framework can be difficult to grasp, and the chapter sections occasionally feel forced. However, virtually every paragraph and section contain a thesis or dissertation waiting to be written, complete with a strong grounding in the literature to help you get started.

For world history specialists, particularly those interested in the nineteenth century, Barak's book both challenges and achieves what for decades others have been attempting. It is disruptive in the best possible way, challenging the reader to think about the complexities of history without the need to untangle every knot. It is a model in many ways that will help move the discipline forward and help its practitioners reconceptualize our fields' hard jurisdictional, geographical, and temporal boundaries.

With *Powering Empire*, Barak successfully writes an illustration that seeks to shift approaches in the field, loosening the binds to empires and states, and allowing scholars to see the wider historical processes without using a specific empire as the sole referent or privileging their historiography. His theoretical innovations and adaptations are generally useful both within the book's internal logic and to build upon by others. In sum, this volume has the potential to become the kind of required reading in which layers of insights reward multiple revisits.

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Islamic Knowledge and the Making of Modern Egypt. Hilary Kalmbach (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2020). Pp. 269. \$99.99 cloth. ISBN: 9781108423472

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In February 1926, government troops arrived at Dar al-'Ulum, an educational institution founded by the Khedival state in 1872, to train Egyptians to teach Arabic and Islam in the civil educational system. The reason for soldiers' presence was not a politically seditious plot nor the outbreak of violence among students. Rather, it stemmed from the fact that a segment of Dar al-'Ulum's students—who had previously studied in the Azhari system—insisted on their right to shed the scholarly robe and turban in favor of the suit and *tarbush*, a tasseled red brimless hat. Just a few weeks earlier, many students at Dar al-'Ulum had returned from their mid-year vacation in this alternative outfit in a protest against the government's efforts to categorize them as members of the scholarly establishment. Instead, these young men wished to be considered full-fledged members of the *effendiyya*, a sociocultural, middle-class formation that had emerged in the context of late nineteenth-century modernization efforts.

Why were government troops called to Dar al-'Ulum, and what can it teach us about modern Egyptian history? In her fascinating study of this teacher-training institution and its graduates, Hilary Kalmbach explores the "culture war" (2) that undergirded and shaped Egyptian experiences of modernity and nation building under both British colonial (1882–1923) and semi-colonial (1923–52) rule. Critiquing the tendency by historians of this period to focus on a tripartite battle between the monarchy, British officials, and nationalists of the Wafd and Liberal Constitutional Party, Kalmbach argues for the importance of

sociocultural history, in general, and a focus on the roots of mass movements such as Young Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood, in particular.

The monograph's core goal is to trace the roots of contemporary contestations over the role of Islam in education and public life during a crucial period between 1890 and 1952, when the Egyptian state first integrated Islam into the civil educational system through Dar al-'Ulum. To do so, Kalmbach focuses on this institution as a site for the transmission of a particular "hybrid" *habitus* (18–19) that equipped graduates to be perceived as both modern *and* authentically linked to a longer Islamic tradition. Unlike the traditional model of Islamic education, Dar al-'Ulum reflected both disciplinary models of education popular in Europe at this time and an "ocularcentric" (as opposed to "audiocentric") (46) approach to the transmission of knowledge. The author then traces how and why graduates of Dar al-'Ulum came to play crucial roles in the "revival of Arabic literature, the reform of Arabic language instruction, and the rejuvenation of Islamic practice through grassroots associations (*jam'iyyāt*)" (47). Far from a story of these graduates alone, this model of modern authenticity was crucial to the formation of Egyptian nationalism more broadly, as it reproduced colonial logics of the alleged backwardness of the 'ulama' while also distinguishing Egyptians from their colonial occupiers.

This story of Dar al-'Ulum and the ways that its graduates spread hybrid forms of knowledge and social practice is a welcome and well-argued challenge to scholarship on Islamic thought and Islamic movements alike, which often foregrounds ostensibly self-contained spaces of religious thought and practice. By contrast, Kalmbach shows the constant and dynamic development of Islamic knowledge in late nineteenth- through early twentieth-century Egypt and its linkage to both the state-sponsored modernization efforts and bottom-up social and economic transformations. Just as important, the history of Islamic knowledge cannot be divorced from social practice, and it is here that Kalmbach's analysis shines as she deftly draws on anthropological scholarship and social theory to detail the ways in which graduates of Dar al-'Ulum engage in "code switching" and "boundary straddling" (24–25). In doing so, she tells a vibrant and textured story of the diverse ways in which ideas are lived.

Over the course of this study, Kalmbach makes two linked arguments for the broader significance of Dar al-'Ulum and its graduates. The first is structural: Dar al-'Ulum's hybrid model equipped its students to emerge as leaders because Egyptian nationalism, transmitted through the civil education system, was premised on a fusion of modernity and authenticity. As the author argues, training at this institution "made it possible for them to adapt not only Islamic thought...but also Islamic practices to meet the demands of new circumstances and lifestyles" (180). It is for this reason that a school that enrolled a relatively small number of students (it peaked at 300 during the 1908–9 academic year) boasted influential graduates, most famously, leading Islamic movement figures such as Hasan al-Banna, Sayyid Qutb, and Taqi al-Din al-Nabhani. Just as important, she argues for the broader influence of Dar al-'Ulum's alumni within "the lower and mid-level ranks of the educational system, working as teachers, school directors, school inspectors, and teacher trainers" (125). In the conclusion, Kalmbach expands on the first argument, stating that "the long-term success of the Muslim Brotherhood is one of the most significant outcomes of the hybridisation of religious and civil knowledge at Dar al-'Ulum" (213).

Kalmbach's innovative and nuanced arguments also challenge us to better elaborate the relationship between educational institutions—whether those sponsored by the government or by Islamic movements—and religio-political formations. First, what is the relationship between education and religio-political leadership and mobilization? To what extent can we understand the rise of al-Banna and the Brotherhood as a function of *habitus*, and to what extent does it reflect the founder's charisma and preexisting social networks? How central is the provision of hybrid Islamic knowledge to the Brotherhood's appeal, and how does it relate to the organization's successful creation of a dynamic structure of internal socialization, on the one hand, and powerful mechanisms of socioeconomic service provision, on the other?

Just as important, this study leads to questions about how we are to make sense of Islamic movements led by Azharis who could not lay claim to such a hybrid *habitus*. Kalmbach notes the negative perceptions of al-Azhar and broader view of "religious knowledge and audiocentric pedagogies..." that it represented (148–49). It is precisely during this period, however, that Azhar graduates Mahmud Muhammad Khattab al-Subki (d. 1933) and Muhammad Hamid al-Fiqi (d. 1959) founded two major Islamic movements, al-Jam'iyya Shar'iyya li-Ta'wun al-'Amilin bi-l-Kitab wa-l-Sunna (The Lawful Society for the Cooperation of those who Work According to the Quran and Sunna, generally known as the Jam'iyya

Shar‘iyya) and Ansar al-Sunna al-Muhammadiyya (Proponents of the Muhammadan Model), respectively. In particular, al-Fiqi’s Salafi appeal to religious distinction and emulation of the first three generations of the Muslim community represented a polemical rejection of the values of modernity in favor of a model of authenticity that prizes continuity through theological rigor, legal precision, and embodied daily practice. These contrasting examples suggest the existence of multiple successful projects of Islamic subject formation in early-to-mid twentieth-century Egypt, and underscore the value of the author’s emphasis on the linkage between intellectual and social history.

In sum, Hilary Kalmbach has written a captivating, meticulous, and well-sourced study of a period of Egyptian history that is often neglected in studies of the relationship between Islam and politics in modern Egypt. This book will be of value to scholars of Egypt, Islamic thought, and education and can be used with students at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

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‘Aṣfūriyyeh: A History of Madness, Modernity, and War in the Middle East. Joelle M. Abi-Rached (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2020). Pp. 309. \$45.00 cloth. ISBN: 9780262044745344

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Joelle Abi-Rached’s monograph *‘Aṣfūriyyeh: A History of Madness, Modernity, and War in the Middle East* is a long-awaited work that thoroughly examines the institutional history of *Asfuriyyeh*, Lebanon’s first psychiatric institution founded in 1896. What is instantly impressive about the book is Abi-Rached’s extensive archival research from various sites in Lebanon, UK, and France; her analysis of diverse primary sources in medical and travel literature; and her use of aggregate and empirical data to build a topography of mental disorders in Lebanon from the 1900s to the 1970s. These rich data allow her to adopt a “long durée” lens, recounting an intricate and manifold biography of *Asfuriyyeh* and of its various visionaries, managers, and experts.

Abi-Rached insists that the story of *Asfuriyyeh* is not only a national one but also a telling of the circulating and connected knowledge on health, expertise and therapeutics, and of the global history of psychiatry and madness. Viewed as “a cosmopolitan institution” at the turn of the century, described as “the Lebanese *bimaristan*” (48) by Nahda intellectuals, and considered a model institution to many British psychiatric hospitals at the beginnings of the 1960s, *Asfuriyyeh* represents a “sampling device” (2) and “a window” (3) through which questions of modernity, war, migration, sectarianism, and health policy can be addressed, as well as the evolution of mental illness and its ethics and practices of care.

The text presents a comprehensive look at the various frictions, contestations, and interests accumulating around *Asfuriyyeh* as a site of therapeutic practice where sectarian relations, competing projects of modernity, health policies, and political violence were enacted amidst transformations in sociopolitical and economic contexts. A variety of actors emerge as part of the story of *Asfuriyyeh*, such as medical elites, missionaries, the institution’s executive committees, armed militants, superintendents and directors, psychiatrists, Ottoman, French and British forces, and the Lebanese state. A comparative approach is adopted where *Asfuriyyeh* is read in relation to other forms of psychiatric institutions in the region such as the preexisting *bimaristan* and the lunatic asylums in Constantinople and Cairo and, later, with regard to more contemporary institutions like Dayr al-Salib and Dar al-‘Ajaza al-Islamiyya in Lebanon. This contextualized and relational reading provides a rich and meticulous account of this institution’s distinctive role in the region, its nonsectarian health care policy, its patient population and the geopolitical, moral, and health economies that shaped its development, international influence, and eventually its downfall in 1982. It also traces the expansion of psychiatry in Lebanon, as a form of expertise, education