

violent and radical political statement, analyzing both the pros and cons of such action. ✂

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**JULIA PHILLIPS COHEN.** *Becoming Ottomans: Sephardi Jews and Imperial Citizenship in the Modern Era.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2014. xxi + 219 pages, notes, bibliography, index. Paper US\$35.00 ISBN 978-0-1993-4040-8.

**In** *Becoming Ottomans*, Julia Phillips Cohen examines the transformation of the Ottoman Jewish community from an inactive, invisible minority within the Empire to a model community of loyal imperial citizens (or *millet*) during the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries. Using primary sources such as Ottoman Jewish newspapers, consular documents, and photographs, Cohen depicts this transformation as a complex, ongoing process of negotiation carried out by Ottoman Jews, who often had to sacrifice tradition in order to better assimilate. In addition to introductory and concluding chapters, the book contains four chronological chapters. The first focuses on the Tanzimat reforms that emancipated the empire's non-Muslim residents and the Jewish community's early attempts to gain political recognition by embracing the Turkish language and culture. These efforts continue into chapter two, as Ottoman Jews emphasize their strong historical bond with the Turks. In the third chapter, set during the Empire's 1897 War with Christian Greeks, Jewish leaders emphasized their unrivaled loyalty to the sultan and the Muslim majority to distance themselves from religious minority groups who were seen as unpatriotic and experienced persecution as a result. The fourth chapter discusses the rise of rival political factions within the Jewish community in the twentieth century. These factions used patriotism as a way to compete for the sultan's favor. ✂

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**LEILA TARAZI FAWAZ.** *A Land of Aching Hearts.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2014. xiv + 384 pages, preface, notes, acknowledgments, and index. Cloth US\$35.00 ISBN 9780674735491.

In this work, Leila Tarazi Fawaz exposes the human side of conflict. She does this by exploring the stories and experiences of a diverse group of people through World War I, focusing on the Middle East—an area which is often overlooked in this regard. In particular, the topics of living conditions during World War I, the economic impact on businessmen, the experience of soldiers, and the role of South Asians in the war, as well as others, are explored. Fawaz is able to portray human experience which is often lost in the numbers, or ignored. Using primary sources such as memoirs, Fawaz constructs the narratives and provides photographic documentation such that readers feel they are in the midst of the event, and thus able to empathize with the experiences of those who were in the midst of battle and those who were impacted by the side effects of war. Fawaz does a service to humanity by humanizing and relating the stories and experiences of those often forgotten in the shadows of war. ✂

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LIN NOUEIHED AND ALEX WARREN. *The Battle for the Arab Spring: Revolution, Counter-Revolution and the Making of a New Era*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2013. ix + 350 pages, notes, bibliography, index. Paper US\$25.00 ISBN 978-0-300-18086-2.

This book examines the Arab Spring revolutions that occurred in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Yemen, Bahrain, and Syria. The first of the book's three sections discusses the catalysts of the Arab Spring movement. Noueihed and Warren discuss unemployment, political oppression, lack of opportunity, and a dissatisfied youth population as some of the factors. They also examine the role of increased technology usage in the Middle East—mainly for accessing diverse satellite television programs and social media websites like Twitter and Facebook—in allowing revolutionary ideas to grow in countries where censorship had historically been the norm. In the second section, the authors take a look at how the revolutions played out in the various countries. They explain that although the causes of the Arab Spring may have been similar, the differing political, social, economic, and religious environments, and variable foreign interests in each of the countries are likely to lead to different outcomes. In the final section, the authors address the future, discussing the fate of leaders in the region, the resurgence of Islamist groups, and providing an analysis of the types of governments that could eventually