

contrary to belief, Islamist parties are not as uniform as they may seem. They argue that these groups represent a diverse set of interests and political behaviors that are specific to their given domestic context. ✂

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2017.16](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2017.16)

Patrick Castello
Virginia Tech

YAIR AURON. *Israeli Identities: Jews and Arabs Facing the Self and the Other.* New York: Berghahn Books, 2012. xvi + 240 pages, contents, preface, epilogue, selected bibliography, Cloth US\$120.00 ISBN 978-0-85745-305-1.

Israeli author Yair Auron seeks to define the different Israeli identities as well as question his own Israeli-Jewish identity. In the text Auron refers to and discusses two studies he developed and tested that were undertaken eighteen years apart; one in 1990 and the other in 2008. Auron states that the comprehensive studies were carried out on Israeli college students studying to be teachers in the Israeli educational system. He chose young Israelis to study because he believes that they were not given the tools to develop their own Jewish-Israeli identity. In the studies he creates three groups: Religious, Traditional, and Non-religious and he then asked the young Israeli scholars questions that might direct towards one of these three identities. Auron then put his findings in charts for each question he asked. He then presented his data in a greater chart and compared his data from 1990 and 2008. He concludes that his data does not present much of a difference in young Israeli identity from 1990 to 2008. ✂

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2017.14](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2017.14)

Katherine Talley
Virginia Tech

PAUL AMAR AND VIJAY PRASHAD. *Dispatches from the Arab Spring: Understanding the New Middle East.* Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013. 363 pages, acknowledgments, contributors, index. Cloth US\$22.95 ISBN 978-0-8166-9012-1.

In *Dispatches from the Arab Spring*, editors Paul Amar and Vijay Prashad combined various correspondents to form a comprehensive and riveting account of the revolutionary uprisings that helped shape the future of Northern Africa and the Middle East. The book is divided into fourteen sections where each section describes the unraveling of the revolution and

counter-revolution in a single country. Additionally, a specific contributor, who is well versed in his or her specific country, compiled the information for each section into an analysis that the West misinterpreted. The first section is that of Tunisia where the revolution first began and went on to spread across the region. Amar and Prashad claim that the Arab revolution, although consisting of several and separate events, can be contextualized by three moments—Arab Spring, Arab Winter, and Arab Resurgence. Each moment, as detailed by the editors, consists of several events in several locations and during various time periods. The Spring can be characterized by revolutions, the Winter with cooperation with NATO, repression in Syria, and land grabbing in the West Bank, while the Resurgence is characterized by new regimes that failed its people in their attempt to establish democracy in a culture for which it was unfit. All in all, *Dispatches from the Arab Spring* is a comprehensive introduction to the ever-changing Arab world. ✂

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2017.13](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2017.13)

Salwa Sadiq-Ali
Virginia Tech

HASSAN ABBAS. *The Taliban Revival: Violence and Extremism on the Pakistan-Afghanistan Frontier*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2014. viii + 268 pages, notes, bibliography, list of illustrations, acknowledgements, index. Cloth US\$30.00 ISBN 978-0-300-17884-5.

This work scrutinizes the Taliban's decade-long effort to regain its foothold in Pakistan and Afghanistan following NATO's offensive in 2001 and builds a case for still viewing the Taliban as a formidable force in the world today. As a fundamental overview of the Taliban, it analyzes the various factors that led to the regime's resurgence, including failed nation-building attempts of Western democracies as well as the ineffective management and injudicious policies of Pakistani and Afghan governments. Hassan Abbas, one of the world's leading experts on Middle Eastern militant groups, uses the first four chapters to provide an in-depth cross-section of the Taliban: its cultural and political history, deeply-embedded nuances, ideological motivations and aspirations for the future. Chapters 5 through 7 shift the narrative, giving a framework assessment of how the 2001 incursion dismantled the Taliban's command system, causing disarray and demoralization amongst its cadres, and how, despite being pushed to the brink of eradication, it managed to endure. Chapters 8 and 9 map their reorganizing efforts: unifying the many disparate insurgent groups throughout the region and expanding their