

from people who participated in the Arab Spring. The contributors vary by socioeconomic class, type of political activism, experiences, and location. The book is divided into five sections, each presenting accounts from one of the five countries covered. The sections begin with a brief introduction that provides a political and chronological overview of the stories it contains. By bringing these individual stories into a collective, Al-Saleh highlights the shared sentiments of people that cross boundaries and differing backgrounds, such as the desire for participation in politics and universal freedoms. In giving individuals a platform, Al-Saleh opens the door for readers into a new understanding of the social, political, and cultural changes in the Arab world ushered in by the Arab Spring. *Voices of the Arab Spring* would do well as a supplemental text for courses discussing the Arab Spring as it provides students a more personal understanding of the impacts of the Arab Spring on the people. ✂

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2016.90](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2016.90)

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BANU BARGU. *Starve and Immolate: The Politics of Human Weapons*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2014. xvii + 459 pages, acknowledgments, abbreviations, notes, bibliography, index. Cloth US\$65.00 ISBN 978-0-231-16340-8.

Banu Bargu's *Starve and Immolate: The Politics of Human Weapons* seeks to “show the link between specifically self-destructive violence and the power of the state, or how fatal corporeal acts of insurgence reveal, communicate with, and perform a response to the continuing presence of sovereign power” (27). The book begins with accounts of the weaponization of life by leftist political prisoners in Turkey, and then relates them to situations across the globe with examples of organizations such as PKK, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, etc., and their global ramifications. Bargu wishes to communicate that self-destructive acts and the use of human weapons is a logical and premeditated political statement against the asymmetric distribution of political power and not an act of fanaticism or a psychotic break with reality. These traditional explanations for self-destructive behavior demonize these individuals, and ignore the meaning behind their actions. However, Bargu does not necessarily support the weaponization of life, and portrays it as a

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

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2016.142](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2016.142)

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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. ✂

DOI:[10.1017/rms.2016.76](https://doi.org/10.1017/rms.2016.76)

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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.