

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

emerge in these countries. Noueihed and Warren emphasize the fluid and unpredictable nature of the movements, and share their thoughts about the region's uncertain future. ✂

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DAFNA HOCHMAN RAND. *Roots of the Arab Spring: Contested Authority and Political Change in the Middle East.* Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2013. vii + 171 pages, notes, index, acknowledgements. Cloth US\$47.50 ISBN 978-0-8122-4530-1.

A senior policy planner in the U.S. State Department at the time of the uprisings, Dafna Hochman Rand takes a retrospective look at the Arab Spring in order to trace the progression of public frustration and political insecurities of regimes and to offer an explanation for the origins of the Arab Spring. Drawing on three years of research in Morocco, Tunisia, and Bahrain before the Arab Spring, Rand identifies and discusses three factors occurring during the 1990s and 2000s that fueled the political upheaval in the Middle East. First, rising demands for free expression created a public forum for discussion that the states could not regulate. Second, top-down de-democratization efforts by ruling groups restricted people's personal freedoms. Third, new leaders coming into power halted liberalizing reforms promised by their predecessors. Each of these was a catalyst of the Arab Spring, fifteen years in the making. Following the emergence of these three forces, the relationship between states and societies as well as authorities and citizens began to transform. The fourth and final chapter of the book lays out the U.S. response and the challenges pro-democratic policy makers will face in the wake of the Arab Spring. ✂

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BARBARA ANN RIEFFER-FLANAGAN. *Evolving Iran: An Introduction to Politics and Problems in the Islamic Republic.* Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2013. xii + 231 pages, bibliography, index. Paperback US\$28.95 ISBN 978-1-58901-978-2.