

way to change that exclusion model is to face their history of violence and creation. ✧

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HOLGER ALBRECHT. *Raging against the Machine: Political Opposition under Authoritarianism in Egypt.* Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University Press, 2013. xxvi + 224 pages, glossary, bibliography, index. Cloth US\$39.95 ISBN 978-0-8156-3320-4.

In *Raging against the Machine*, Albrecht examines the existence of political opposition groups under the authoritarian rule of Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. He examines the effects the opposition groups have on the regime and visa versa. How did these opposition groups survive for thirty years under the oppressive regime of Mubarak? And to what extent, if any, were they successful in advancing political reform within the regime? Albrecht attempts to answer these questions by first examining the structure and strategies of the political opposition groups. Albrecht describes their personnel, their funding and resources, and their political ideology in an effort to understand the make-up of these groups. He discusses the role human rights groups and NGOs played in opposition groups' campaigns. He analyzes groups, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, and the tactics taken to disrupt the authoritarian rule of Mubarak. Albrecht also details the range of strategies that Mubarak's regime routinely employed to contain opposition groups, including surveillance and military and police harassment. Albrecht argues that efforts made by the opposition groups to thwart Mubarak's regime only fueled the regime's fire by solidifying the authority Mubarak maintained. He concludes by discussing the transition Egypt has experienced, as efforts have been made for democratic systems. But he identifies an issue in a hybrid system of democratic reform rooted in authoritarianism. He finalizes his statement of uncertainty stating the future for Egypt is simply that: uncertainty. ✧

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JASON MOKHTARIAN. *Rabbis, Sorcerers, Kings, and Priests: The Culture of the Talmud in Ancient Iran.* Oakland: University of California Press, 2015. 296 pages,