SAMIR KHALAF. *Lebanon Adrift: From Battleground to Playground*. London: Saqi Books, 2012. 296 pages, acknowledgments, bibliography, index. Paper US$27.95 ISBN 978-0-86356-434-5.

Sociologist Samir Khalaf utilizes scholarly articles and personally conducted interviews to examine Lebanon and its current sociological state of being "adrift," as the author deems it. Khalaf structures his book by first covering the basic history of the Lebanese war, and then examining different themes of Lebanon's post war state. He begins by examining the current state of Lebanon, stuck between a devastating war that continues to affect the people today, and an uncertain future that none of its people have much confidence in. He then examines the economic turmoil, ethnic conflicts, and terrorism still plaguing the country and exacerbating this feeling of being adrift. He goes on to propose that the Lebanese people attempt to alleviate these feelings of uncertainty through increased lethargy and indifference as a means to protect themselves from the terrors they have and are still experiencing. This is Khalaf's sociological contribution to the field of study on the effects of the Lebanese war. Khalaf concludes the book by looking toward the future and examining how the Lebanese people can still extricate themselves from this state of being adrift by unlearning the detrimental and even destructive behaviors they have adopted. He dedicates the book to his newly born grandson, with the hope that he will see a Lebanon that is a more tolerant, cosmopolitan society in his lifetime. ❧

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DAVID MOTADEL. *Islam and Nazi Germany's War*. Cambridge, MA: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2014. 500 pages, introduction, note on sources, notes, acknowledgments, index. US$25.82 ISBN 978-0-674-72460-0.

David Motadel uses various collections of primary sources from fourteen different countries to illustrate how Nazi Germany used the Islamic world to its own political advantage in 1941 and 1942. The author argues that although scholars have tended to focus on the role of Germany's alliance with the Islamic world during World War I, such alliances also were an important part of Berlin's strategy during World War II. In the first part of the book, Motadel contends that Nazi Germany viewed Muslims as instrumental political forces that could help defeat the Allied powers by causing turmoil in the Allied

colonies in the Middle East. In the second part of the book, he discusses the ways in which Nazis disregarded their racial philosophy's imperative to create an Aryan master race in order to adopt a "strategic pragmatism" that could recruit Muslim volunteers from the Middle East, North Africa, Crimea, the Caucasus, the Balkans, and the Eastern Front. Finally, in part three, Motadel describes how the SS and the Wehrmacht recruited Muslim soldiers by using propaganda to manipulate their views about Germany's enemies and using Islamic scripture to justify violence. ✣

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Middle East historian Jason Pack has compiled the work of scholars, ambassadors, military leaders, and a former Al-Qaeda commander in an examination of the forces behind the Libyan uprising and rebuilding. Pack and his contributors focus on the constant friction between central and peripheral forces in the country based on various tribal, political, and religious allegiances. Pack attributes Qadhafi's fall initially to his own economic and foreign policy reforms, followed by the organized resistance mounted by separate local and regional movements operating on the outskirts of the country. In the aftermath of the revolution, as Libya rebuilds, Pack identifies the difficulty in managing Libya's periphery as a critical problem. Libya is at once a collection of tribes with competing power struggles, secular political groups organized in local councils, and an Islamic emirate, and cohesion depends on balancing these multiple interests. The difficulty for the new government, Pack contends, will be in creating a unified national identity out of all these disparate groups. Pack suggests installing a central political structure with the aid of Western allies while localizing power in peripheral strongholds to build a stable government to support an expanded economy based on oil revenue and further investments. ✣

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