

Frank Holt's *Lost World of the Golden King* describes the quest to discover Bactria, one of the largest civilizations in the Hellenistic Period, located in modern Afghanistan. Prior to the eighteenth century, knowledge of Bactria was limited to written accounts from other peoples. It was during the eighteenth century, however, that the collection of ancient coins by Europeans incentivized the search for further knowledge of Bactria. Recounting the struggle of searching for coins during multiple Afghan wars, Holt brings insight into the unique role of numismatics in Bactrian history, as coins were the easiest artifacts to smuggle from the region. Holt's narrative, informed by his experience as both a historian and an archaeologist, includes the historical significance of the discovery of Bactria, as well as the value of specific artifacts. Detailing all of the findings from Bactrian coins over time, Holt details the difficulty of piecing together the history of a people based primarily on coins, citing multiple cases of misinterpretation. Holt also discusses more recent archaeological discoveries related to Bactria, such as the 1960s discovery of the remains of a Bactrian city in northern Afghanistan. Holt's book is a thorough discussion of how the search for Bactrian history in a politically unstable land has progressed.

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RICHARD G. HOVANNISIAN, ed. *Armenian Smyrna/Izmir: The Aegean Communities*. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2012. xxi + 301 pages, maps, illustrations, contributors, footnotes, index. Paper US\$35.00 ISBN 978-1-5685-9158-2.

Armenian *Smyrna/Izmir* is a collection of fourteen papers about the city of Smyrna/Izmir, located in current-day Turkey. These papers come from the "Historic Armenian Cities and Provinces" series of international conferences that have been held since 1997. The book strives to contribute to a more robust history of the city, offering perspective on the city and its people through historical, economic, social, and cultural lenses. The editor has preserved the integrity of these papers, enriching the text with the addition of relevant photographs at the end of each section. The authors explore different aspects of the city, using journals, photographs, and recent oral histories to provide context in demonstrating the city's significance during the height of its power in the 1840s and the influence of the city and its expatriates on Armenia today. The book begins with two chapters on the general history of Smyrna, followed by chapters on specific topics such as

American missionary publishing and Armenian “Enlightener-Translators,” and ends with an analysis of the lives and societal influence of Smyranean Armenians in Argentina, a country with large Armenian communities. The authors and the editor have identified a void of Smyrna/Izmir studies in Western languages that this book is a valuable first step towards filling.

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AMANEY A. JAMAL. *Of Empires and Citizens: Pro-American Democracy or No Democracy at All?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2012. xv + 276 pages, figures and tables, acknowledgments, note on transliterations, bibliography, index. Cloth US\$27.95 ISBN 978-0-691-14965-3.

Amaney A. Jamal examines reasons for the lack of democratic governments in the Middle East in comparison to other regions throughout the world in the post-Cold War era in *Of Empires and Citizens*. Analyzing a variety of data—polls, interviews, scholarly research, and qualitative and quantitative data—Jamal associates the lack of democratic governments in the Middle East with strong anti-Americanism throughout the region. Jamal’s analysis focuses on Kuwait and Jordan as examples of her premise of pro-American democracy or no democracy. She proposes that although strong anti-American attitudes exist, Jordanian sentiment supports the idea of a democratic government; the rise of an anti-American democracy would be detrimental to their relationship with the United States upon which Jordan relies for security and wellbeing. Jordan’s reliance on the United States renders democracy elusive with the understanding that strong anti-American movements could achieve power through democratic means and threaten the country’s stability. In contrast, Kuwait lacks strong anti-American movements and harbors pro-American political parties. As a result, the Kuwaiti government has become more democratic over the years as citizens demand more reforms without fear of an anti-American regime coming to power and damaging necessary relations with the U.S.

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