Remnants
Embodying Archives of the Armenian Genocide
Elyse Semerdjian

In Remnants, tattooed and scar-bearing bodies reveal a larger history, as the lived trauma of genocide is understood through bodies, skin, and—in what remains of those lives a century afterward—bones. Semerdjian offers a feminist reading of the Armenian Genocide. She explores how the Ottoman Armenian communal body was dis-membered, disfigured, and later re-membered by the survivor community. Gathering individual memories and archival fragments, she writes a deeply personal history, and issues a call to break open the archival record in order to embrace affect and memory. Traces of women and children rescued during and after the war are reconstructed to center the quietest voices in the historical record. This daring work embraces physical and archival remnants, the imprinted negatives of once living bodies, as a space of radical possibility within Armenian prosthetic memory and a necessary way to recognize the absence that remains.

424 pages, August 2023
9781503636125 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Horrors of Adana
Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century
Bedross Der Matossian

In April 1909, twin massacres shook the province of Adana, killing more than 20,000 Armenians and 2,000 Muslims. This book offers one of the first close examinations of these events, analyzing sociopolitical and economic transformations that culminated in a cataclysm of violence. Der Matossian provides voice and agency to all involved in the massacres—perpetrators, victims, and bystanders. Drawing on primary sources in a dozen languages, he develops an interdisciplinary approach to understand the rumors and emotions, public spheres and humanitarian interventions that together informed this complex event. Through consideration of the Adana Massacres in micro-historical detail, this book offers an important macrocosmic understanding of ethnic violence, illuminating how and why ordinary people can become perpetrators.

“A truly groundbreaking and highly nuanced exploration of intercommunal, sectarian, and nationalist violence in the late Ottoman Empire.”

—Ussama Makdisi, Rice University

360 pages, 2022
9781503631021 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
Losing Istanbul
*Arab-Ottoman Imperialists and the End of Empire*

Mostafa Minawi

This book offers an intimate history of empire, following the rise and fall of a generation of Arab-Ottoman imperialists. Minawi shows how these men and women negotiated their loyalties and guarded their privileges through a microhistorical study of the changing social, political, and cultural currents. He narrates lives lived in these turbulent times, while focusing on the complex dynamics of ethnicity and race in an increasingly Turco-centric imperial capital. An alternative history of the last decades of the Ottoman Empire, *Losing Istanbul* frames global pivotal events through the experiences of Arab-Ottoman imperial loyalists who called Istanbul home.

“A masterful and captivating account. Losing Istanbul teaches us how to rescue late Ottoman history from Turkish nationalist narratives and gain a much richer understanding of global intellectual and political history of the high age of imperialism.”

—Cemil Aydin, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Famine Worlds
*Life at the Edge of Suffering in Lebanon’s Great War*

Tylor Brand

The Great Famine was a catastrophe for the lands that would become Lebanon. The deadly crisis reshaped society, killing untold thousands and transforming how people lived. Brand draws on memoirs, diaries, and correspondence to explore how people negotiated the famine and its traumas. But more than simply a chronicle of the event, this book offers a profound meditation on what it means to live through collective trauma, and how doing so shapes the character of a society. A crisis like the Great Famine not only reshapes the lives and social worlds of those who suffer, it creates a particular rationality that touches the most fundamental parts of our being, down to the ways we interact with each other. We often assume that if we were thrust into historic calamity that we would continue to behave compassionately. *Famine Worlds* questions such confidence, providing a lesson that could not be more timely.

272 pages, August 2023
9781503636163 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

In the Shadow of the Wall
*The Life and Death of Jerusalem’s Maghrebi Quarter, 1187–1967*

Vincent Lemire

This book offers the first history of the Maghrebi Quarter—spanning 800 years from its founding in 1187 through to its destruction in 1967. To bring this vanished district back to life, Lemire gathers its now-scattered documentation in the archives of Muslim pious foundations in Jerusalem and the Red Cross in Geneva, in Ottoman archives in Istanbul and Israeli state archives. He engages testimonies of former residents and looks to recent archaeological digs that have resurfaced household objects buried during the destruction. Today, the Western Wall Plaza extends over the former Maghrebi Quarter. It is one of the most identifiable places in the world—yet one of the most occluded in history. This book offers a new point of entry to understand this consequential place.

“Lemire re-establishes the long-forgotten Maghrebi Quarter of the Old City to its rightful place in history. A fascinating and timely narrative.”

—Roberto Mazza, University of Limerick

352 pages, April 2023
9781503634206 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
Undesirables
A Holocaust Journey to North Africa
Aomar Boum, Illustrated by Nadjib Berber

This historical graphic novel follows one man’s journey, telling a lesser-known story of the traumas wrought by the Holocaust. Hans Frank is a Jewish journalist who flees Germany. Through connections with a transnational network of activists, he lands in French Algeria. The Vichy regime soon designates all foreign Jews as “undesirables,” and Hans is detained by Vichy authorities and interned in camps in the deserts of Morocco and Algeria. Through bold storytelling and illustration that convey the tension of the coming war and the grimness of the camps, Boum and Berber capture the experiences of thousands of refugees in the fictional Hans, and chronicle how the traumas of the Holocaust extended far beyond the borders of Europe.

“Connects the histories of Jews and North Africans, of antisemitism and racism, of the Holocaust and colonialism in innovative and surprising ways. An eye-opening book in the literal sense of the word.”
—Michael Brenner, American University

9781503632912 Paper $20.00 $16.00 sale

Wartime North Africa
A Documentary History, 1934–1950
Edited by Aomar Boum and Sarah Abrevaya Stein

This book offers the first-ever collection of primary documents on North African and Holocaust history. Translated from French, Arabic, North African Judeo-Arabic, Spanish, Hebrew, Moroccan Darija, Tamazight (Berber), Italian, and Yiddish, or transcribed from their original English, these sources are like the dots of a pointillist painting. Taken together, these writings shed light on how war, occupation, race laws, internment, and Vichy French, Italian fascist, and German Nazi rule were experienced day by day across North Africa. Though some selections are drawn from published books, including memoirs, diaries, and collections of poetry, most have never been published before, nor previously translated into English.

“Essential and groundbreaking. With great care and intelligence, Boum and draw an intimate picture of the region. This is a book as beautiful as the people it portraits.”
—Laila Lalami

9781503631991 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Diary of a Black Jewish Messiah
The Sixteenth-Century Journey of David Reubeni through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe
Alan Verskin

This book offers the first English translation of Reubeni’s diary, detailing his travels and personal travails. In 1524, Reubeni appeared in Venice, claiming to be the ambassador of a powerful Jewish kingdom that looked to deliver Jews to the Holy Land. He spent a decade shuttling between European rulers seeking support. Reubeni’s grand ambitions were halted when he was turned over to the Inquisition and, in 1538, likely burned at the stake. Written unlike other literary works of the period, Reubeni’s diary reveals the dramatic desperation of Renaissance Jewish communities and the struggles of the diplomat, trickster, and dreamer who wanted to save them.

“Verskin has once again proven himself to be a master translator with this rendering of the Hebrew diary … and no less a master storyteller who vividly recreates the historical setting of Reubeni’s activity in his detailed introduction, which is eminently scholarly yet fully accessible.”

9781503634435 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
The Oldest Guard
Forging the Zionist Settler Past
Liora R. Halperin
This book tells the story of Zionist settler memory in and around the private Jewish agricultural colonies established in late nineteenth-century Ottoman Palestine. Treating the “First Aliyah” as a symbol created and deployed only in retrospect, Halperin offers a richly textured portrait of commemorative practices between the 1920s and the 1960s. She demonstrates how private agriculturalists and their advocates in the Zionist center and on the right celebrated and forged this past as a model of private ownership, political impartiality, and hierarchical relations with hired rural Palestinian labor. The Oldest Guard reveals the centrality of settlement to Zionist collective memory and the politics and erasures of Zionist settler “firstness.”

“In this extremely important work, Halperin’s insightful reading of the first Aliyah colonies unpacks the complex relationship between Ashkenazim, Mizrahim, and Palestinians in the modern state of Israel.”
—Orit Bashkin, University of Chicago

368 pages, 2021
9781503628700 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

A History of False Hope
Investigative Commissions in Palestine
Lori Allen
This book offers a provocative retelling of Palestinian political history through an examination of the international commissions that have investigated political violence and human rights violations. Drawing on debates in the press, previously unexamined UN reports, historical archives, and ethnographic research, Allen explores six key investigative commissions over the last century. She highlights how Palestinians’ persistent demands for independence have been routinely translated into the numb language of reports and resolutions. These commissions, Allen argues, operating as technologies of liberal global governance, yield no justice—only the oppressive status quo. A History of False Hope issues a biting critique of the captivating allure and cold impotence of international law.

“Allen has produced a fascinating, engaging, and innovative scholarly assessment of how international commissions have failed to deliver political results to the Palestinian people.”
—Richard Falk

432 pages, 2020
9781503614185 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Last Nahdawi
Taha Hussein and Institution Building in Egypt
Hussam R. Ahmed
This book is the first biography of Taha Hussein in which his intellectual outlook and public career are taken equally seriously. Examining Hussein’s actions against the backdrop of his complex relationship with the Egyptian state, the religious establishment, and the French government, Ahmed reveals modern Egypt’s cultural influence in the Arab and Islamic world. The Last Nahdawi offers both a history of modern state formation, revealing how the Egyptian state came to hold such a strong grip over culture and education—and a compelling examination of the life of the country’s most renowned intellectual.

“The Last Nahdawi is a breakthrough biography of one of the most important figures of modern Arab thought. A masterful, original, and important critical assessment of this towering intellectual.”
—Khaled Fahmy, University of Cambridge

312 pages, 2021
9781503627956 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
The City as Anthology
Eroticism and Urbanity in Early Modern Isfahan
Kathryn Babayan

This book tells a new history of Isfahan at the transformative moment it became a cosmopolitan center of imperial rule. Babayan reimagines an archive of anthologies to recover how residents shaped their communities and crafted their urban, religious, and sexual selves. Through them, we see the gestures, manners, and sensibilities of a shared culture that configured their relations and negotiated the lines between friendship and eroticism. These entangled acts of seeing and reading, desiring and writing converge to fashion the refined urban self through the sensual and the sexual—and give us a new and enticing view of the city of Isfahan.

“The City as Anthology is a landmark of early modern history, both a generative model for future scholars and among the best portals to understanding Iran for readers at any level.”

—Shahzad Bashir, Brown University

280 pages, 2021
9781503613386 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

The Persian Prince
The Rise and Resurrection of an Imperial Archetype
Hamid Dabashi

With a title borrowed from Machiavelli, Dabashi articulates a bold new idea of the Persian Prince—a metaphor of political authority, a figurative ideal deeply rooted in the collective memories of multiple nations, and a literary construct that connected Muslim empires across time and space. Drawing on works from Classical Antiquity and the vast Persianate worlds from India to the Mediterranean, as well as the Hebrew Bible and European medieval mirrors for princes, Dabashi reveals the construction of the Persian Prince as a potent archetype. He traces this archetype through its varied historic gestations and finds it resurfacing in postcolonial political thought as a rebel, a prophet, a poet, and a nomad.

“A unique and formidable text that encapsulates the brilliance, vivacity, and political ferocity of Dabashi’s mind.”

—Jeanne Morefield, University of Oxford

328 pages, June 2023
9781503636231 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Discovery of Iran
Taghi Arani, a Radical Cosmopolitan
Ali Mirsepassi

This book examines the history of Iranian nationalism afresh through the life and work of Taghi Arani, the founder of Donya, Iran’s first Marxist journal. In his quest to imagine a future for Iran, Arani combined Marxist materialism and a cosmopolitan ethics of progress. He and his contemporaries engaged vibrant debates about national identity, history, and Iran’s place in the modern world. As Mirsepassi shows, Arani’s cosmopolitanism complicates the conventional wisdom that racial exclusivism was an insoluble feature of twentieth-century Iranian nationalism. In exploring Arani’s short but remarkable life and writings, Mirsepassi challenges the image of Interwar Iran as dominated by the Pahlavi state to uncover fertile intellectual spaces in which civic nationalism flourished.

“A powerful and engaging intellectual biography which weaves Taghi Arani’s life into the broader tapestry of modern Iranian nationalism and modernism.”

—Stephanie Cronin, University of Oxford

232 pages, 2021
9781503629914 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale
Iran in Motion
Mobility, Space, and the Trans-Iranian Railway
Mikiya Koyagi

This book traces the contested imaginations and practices of mobility from the conception of a trans-Iranian railway project during the nineteenth-century global transport revolution to its early years of operation on the eve of Iran's oil nationalization movement in the 1950s. Weaving together various individual experiences, Koyagi considers how the infrastructural megaproject reoriented the flows of people and goods. The railway project simultaneously brought the provinces closer to Tehran and pulled them away from it, thereby constantly reshaping local, national, and transnational experiences of space among mobile individuals.

“Koyagi transports us through the various stations that dotted Iran’s path to modernity. Much more than a narrative of the railway project, Iran in Motion reveals a deep understanding of the mobility networks that connected and divided Middle Eastern communities. A groundbreaking book.”
—Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, University of Pennsylvania

The Unsettled Plain
An Environmental History of the Late Ottoman Frontier
Chris Gratien

This book studies agrarian life over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the environmental transformation of the Ottoman countryside became intertwined with migration and displacement. Drawing on both Ottoman Turkish and Armenian sources, Gratien brings rural populations into the momentous events of the period: Ottoman reform, Mediterranean capitalism, the First World War, and Turkish nation-building. Through the ecological perspectives of everyday people in Çukurova, he charts how familiar facets of quotidian life like malaria, cotton cultivation, labor, and leisure attained modern manifestations. As the history of this pivotal region reveals, the remarkable ecological transformation of late Ottoman society configured the trajectory of the contemporary societies of the Middle East.

“Environmental history at its finest. Gratien tells the story of an empire, meticulously researched, exceptionally insightful—all grounded in the lives and lands of Çukurova.”
—Sam White, Ohio State University

Bedouin Bureaucrats
Mobility and Property in the Ottoman Empire
Nora Elizabeth Barakat

This book examines how tent-dwelling, seasonally migrating Bedouin engaged in processes of Ottoman state transformation on local, imperial, and global scales. As the “tribe” became a category of Ottoman administration, Bedouin in the Syrian interior used this category both to gain political influence and to organize community resistance to maintain control over land. Narrating the lives of Bedouin individuals, Barakat brings this population to the center of modern state-making, while also placing the Syrian interior in a global context of imperial expansion into regions formerly deemed marginal. She illuminates Ottoman state formation attempts and the unique trajectory of Bedouin in Syria, who maintained their control over land.

“Bedouin Bureaucrats is a marvel. It is necessary reading for anybody interested in the complexities of state-building, governance, and sovereignty. Nora Barakat has given us a book that will be debated and admired for years to come.”
—Pekka Hämäläinen, University of Oxford
The Lives and Deaths of Jubrail Dabdoub
*Or, How the Bethlehemites Discovered Amerka*
Jacob Norris

This book tells the fantastical, yet real, story of Jubrail Dabdoub, from his childhood in rural Bethlehem to his travels as a merchant across Europe, East Asia, and the Americas, culminating in a recorded miracle: in 1909, Jubrail was brought back from the dead. To tell such a tale is to delve into realms the historian rarely treads. Through the story of Jubrail’s life, Norris explores the porous lines between history and fiction, the normal and the paranormal, the everyday and the extraordinary. Drawing on aspects of magical realism combined with elements of Palestinian folklore, Norris recovers the atmosphere of late nineteenth-century Bethlehem as scores of young men set off for faraway lands, and offers an original approach to historical writing, capturing a fantastic story of global encounter and exchange.

“A most original treatise on local knowledge. Norris weaves an astute combination of historical discourse and magical realism.” —Salim Tamari

290 pages, January 2023
9781503633759 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

Transnational Palestine
*Migration and the Right of Return before 1948*
Nadim Bawalsa

Tens of thousands of Palestinians migrated to the Americas in the final decades of the nineteenth century and early decades of the twentieth. This is the first book to explore the history of Palestinian immigration to Latin America, the struggles Palestinian migrants faced to secure Palestinian citizenship in the inter-war period, and the ways in which these challenges contributed to the formation of a Palestinian diaspora and to the emergence of Palestinian national consciousness. Bawalsa considers the migrants’ strategies for economic success in the diaspora, for preserving their heritage, and for resisting British mandate legislation, including citizenship rejections meted out to thousands of Palestinian migrants.

“A significant contribution to the history of Palestinian transnational activism. Bawalsa amplifies the diasporic dimension of the ‘right of return.’ A must read for scholars of the modern Middle East, inter-war politics, and national liberation struggles.”

—Sarah M.A. Gualtieri, University of Southern California

296 pages, 2022
9781503632264 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

A House in the Homeland
*Armenian Pilgrimages to Places of Ancestral Memory*
Carel Bertram

Survivors of the Armenian Genocide took refuge across the globe, and the idea of returning to their homeland was unthinkable. But decades later, some children and grandchildren felt compelled to travel back. Hoping to satisfy spiritual yearnings, this new generation called themselves pilgrims—and their journeys, pilgrimages. Bertram joined scores of these pilgrims on over a dozen pilgrimages and amassed accounts from hundreds more who made these journeys. In telling their stories, this book documents how pilgrims encountered the ancestral house or town as both real and metaphorical centerpieces of family history. These Armenian stories reflect the resilience of diaspora in the face of trauma, separation, and exile in ways that each of us, whatever our history, can recognize.

“Bertram’s gifts of empathy and storytelling make for a book that is at once heartbreaking and inspiring. Essential for anyone interested in place, memory, and mass violence.”

—Heghnar Watenpaugh, University of California, Davis

312 pages, 2022
9781503631649 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
Western Privilege
Work, Intimacy, and Postcolonial Hierarchies in Dubai
Amélie Le Renard
Nearly 90 percent of residents in Dubai are foreigners with no Emirati nationality. Le Renard explores how race, gender, and class backgrounds shape experiences of privilege, and investigates the processes that lead to the formation of Westerners as a social group. Through an ethnography informed by postcolonial and feminist theory, she reveals the diverse experiences and trajectories of white and non-white, male and female Westerners to understand the shifting and contingent nature of Westernness—and also its deep connection to whiteness and heteronormativity. This book offers a singular look at the lived reality of structural racism in cities of the global South.

“A must-read for those interested in race and racialization. Le Renard shows us how these structuring categories are both integral to Gulf social hierarchies and have an enduring global influence.”
—Neha Vora, Lafayette College

256 pages, 2021
9781503629233 Paper $26.00  $20.80 sale

Years of Glory
Nelly Benatar and the Pursuit of Justice in Wartime North Africa
Susan Gilson Miller
This book offers a rich biography and a deeper understanding of the complex currents that shaped Jewish, North African, and world history over the course of the Second World War. The traumas of genocide, the struggle for anti-colonial liberation, and the eventual Jewish exodus from Arab lands all take on new meaning when reflected through the interstices of Benatar's life. A courageous woman with a deep moral conscience and an iron will, Nelly Benatar helped to lay the groundwork for crucial postwar efforts to build a better world over Europe's ashes.

“Years of Glory illuminates major themes: that period's refugee crisis, resistance in Morocco to the Vichy regime, a talented woman's professional advancement in a traditional society, and the life of a once-vibrant Jewish community in North Africa. An exemplary unearthing of the remarkable legal career of Nelly Benatar.”
—Robert O. Paxton, Columbia University

248 pages, 2021
9781503628458 Cloth $30.00  $24.00 sale

Maghreb Noir
Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik
This book dives into the personal and political lives of the militant-artists who collectively challenged the neo-colonialist structures and authoritarianism of African states. Drawing on Arabic, Spanish, Portuguese, French, and English sources, as well as interviews with the artists themselves, Tolan-Szkilnik expands our understanding of Pan-Africanism geographically, linguistically, and temporally. This network of militant-artists argued for the creation of a new ideology of continued revolution—one that was transnational, trans-racial, and in defiance of the emerging nation-states. Maghreb Noir establishes the importance of North Africa in nurturing these global connections—and uncovers a lost history of grassroots collaboration among militant-artists from across the globe.

“Maghreb Noir takes us from Rabat to Algiers to Tunis to demonstrate how 1960s North Africa was an epicenter of Pan-Africanism and black radicalism. A meticulously researched, effortlessly transnational work.”
—Hisham Aidi, Columbia University

288 pages, July 2023
9781503635913 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale
Cassette Culture in Modern Egypt
Andrew Simon
This book investigates the social life of the cassette tape to offer a multisensory history of modern Egypt. Over the 1970s and 1980s, cassettes became a ubiquitous presence in Egyptian homes and stores. Enabling an unprecedented number of people to participate in the creation of culture and circulation of content, cassette players and tapes soon informed broader cultural, political, and economic developments and defined "modern" Egyptian households. Drawing on a wide array of audio, visual, and textual sources that exist outside the Egyptian National Archives, Simon demonstrates how cassettes and cassette players did not simply join other twentieth century mass media like records and radio; they were the media of the masses.

“Simon’s masterful history of the cassette crystallizes the crucial importance of technology. Important for historians of modern Egypt, and a stellar contribution to the history of new media.”
—Walter Armbrust, University of Oxford

Cassette Culture in Modern Egypt
304 pages, 2022
9781503631441 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale

Alternative Iran
Contemporary Art and Critical Spatial Practice
Pamela Karimi
Alternative Iran offers a unique contribution to the field of contemporary art, investigating how Iranian artists engage with space and site amid the pressures of the art market and the state’s regulatory regimes. Attending to nonconforming curatorial projects, independent guerrilla installations, escapist practices, and tacitly subversive performances, Karimi discloses the push-and-pull between the art community and the authorities, and discusses myriad instances of tentative coalition as opposed to outright partnership or uncompromising resistance. Illustrated with more than 120 full-color images, this book provides entry into unique artistic experiences without catering to voyeuristic curiosity around Iran’s often-perceived “underground” culture.

“A fascinating analysis of the continuing cultural effervescence observable in Iranian society.”
—Houchang Chehabi, University of St. Andrews

Alternative Iran
Contemporary Art and Critical Spatial Practice
452 pages, 2022
9781503631809 Paper $35.00  $28.00 sale

Arabic Glitch
Technoculture, Data Bodies, and Archives
Laila Shereen Sakr
This book explores an alternative origin story of twenty-first century technological innovation in digital politics—one centered on the Middle East and the 2011 Arab uprisings. Developed from an archive of social media data collected over the decades following the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq, Arabic Glitch interrogates how the logic of programming technology influences and shapes social movements. Sakr formulates a media theory that advances the concept of the glitch as a disruptive media affordance. She employs data analytics to analyze tweets, posts, and blogs to describe the political culture of social media, and performs the results under the guise of the Arabic-speaking cyborg VJ Um Amel. This book teaches us how a region under transformation became a vanguard for new thinking about digital systems: the records they keep, the lives they impact, and how to create change from within.

224 pages, August 2023
9781503635883 Paper $26.00  $20.80 sale

Arabic Glitch
Technoculture, Data Bodies, and Archives
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Media of the Masses
Cassette Culture in Modern Egypt
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ARABIC GLITCH
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STANFORD STUDIES IN MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC SOCIETIES AND CULTURES
304 pages, 2022
9781503631441 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale
Unknown Past
Layla Murad, the Jewish-Muslim Star of Egypt
Hanan Hammad

Hammad writes a story centered on Murad’s persona and legacy, and broadly framed around a gendered history of twentieth-century Egypt. Murad was a Jew who converted to Islam in the shadow of the first Arab-Israeli war. Her career blossomed under the Egyptian monarchy, gave a singing voice to the Free Officers and the 1952 Revolution, and ended on the eve of the 1956 Suez War. Egyptians have long told their national story through interpretations of Murad’s life, intertwining the individual and Egyptian state and society to better understand Egyptian identity. As Unknown Past recounts, there’s no life better than Murad’s to reflect the tumultuous changes experienced over the dramatic decades of the mid-twentieth century.

“Just as Layla’s life was bigger than the screen, this book goes beyond the history of cinema to illuminate questions about religion, society, gender, and politics.”

—Beth Baron, The Graduate Center, CUNY

Recording History
Jews, Muslims, and Music across Twentieth-Century North Africa
Christopher Silver

If twentieth-century stories of Jews and Muslims in North Africa are usually told separately, Recording History demonstrates that we have not been listening to what brought these communities together: Arab music. Popular songs broadcast on radio, performed in concert, and circulated on disc carried with them the power to send Jewish-Muslim audiences into a frenzy—or French colonial officials into a fury. With this book, Silver provides the first history of the music scene and recording industry across Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, and offers striking insights into Jewish-Muslim relations through the rhythms that animated them. He recovers a world of many voices—of daring female stars, cantors turned composers, and national and nationalist icons—whose music still resonates well into our present.

“Analyzing the silences, echoes, and sounds of Jewish-Muslim relations, this delightful book is a classic in the making.”

—Aomar Boum, University of California, Los Angeles

States of Cultivation
Imperial Transition and Scientific Agriculture in the Eastern Mediterranean
Elizabeth R. Williams

The final decades of the Ottoman Empire and the period of the French mandate coincided with a critical period of transformation in agricultural technologies and administration. This book examines the processes and effects of agrarian transformation as Ottoman, Syrian, Lebanese, and French officials grappled with these new technologies, albeit with different end goals. Williams investigates the increasingly fragmented natures produced by these contrasting priorities and the results of their intersection with regional environmental limits. Not only did post–World War I policies realign the economic space of the mandate states, but they shaped an agricultural legacy that continued to impact Syria and Lebanon post-independence. Williams offers the first comprehensive account of the shared technocratic ideals that animated these policies and the divergent imperial goals that not only reshaped the region’s agrarian institutions, but produced representations of the region with repercussions well beyond the mandate’s end.

464 pages, July 2023
9781503634688 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale
Dear Palestine
A Social History of the 1948 War
Shay Hazkani
This book offers a new history of the 1948 War, focusing on the people caught up in the conflict and its transnational reverberations. Through their letters home, the young men and women who fought the war come to life, writing about everything from daily life to nationalism, colonialism, race, and the character of their enemies. Dear Palestine also examines how the architects of the conflict worked to influence and indoctrinate key ideologies in these ordinary soldiers, by examining battle orders, pamphlets, army magazines, and radio broadcasts. Through two narratives—the official and unofficial, the propaganda and the personal letters—Dear Palestine reveals the fissures between sanctioned nationalism and individual identity. “Hazkani makes a brilliant contribution to the literature on the 1948 Palestine War. Impeccably balanced and engagingly written, Dear Palestine is a remarkable book.”
—Eugene Rogan, University of Oxford
352 pages, 2021
9781503627659 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

Screen Shots
State Violence on Camera in Israel and Palestine
Rebecca L. Stein
Stein investigates the wide range of communities and institutions—Palestinian activists, Israeli and international human rights workers, Israeli military, and Jewish settlers—who have placed increasing value on photographic technologies and networked visuals as political tools. While these constituencies have dramatically divergent political aims, they all invested in the same camera dream: that the advances in photography of the digital age would not only capture reality with greater fidelity, but also deliver on their respective visions of justice and accountability. Activists and human rights workers would painfully learn the lesson that even the most “perfect” visual evidence of state violence typically failed to persuade either the Israeli justice system or the Israeli public of military wrongdoing.
“Screen Shots instructs as it unsettles. Stein’s lucid account of photographic encounters with Israeli state violence strikes precisely and pointedly at witnessing that misses its mark.”
—Ann Stoler, The New School
248 pages, 2021
9781503628021 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

Colonizing Palestine
The Zionist Left and the Making of the Palestinian Nakba
Areej Sabbagh-Khoury
Based on extensive empirical research in local colony and national archives, this book offers a microhistory of frontier interactions between Zionist settlers and indigenous Palestinians within the British imperial field. Even as left-wing kibbutzim of Hashomer Hatzair helped lay the groundwork for settler colonial Jewish sovereignty, its settlers did not conceal the prior existence of the Palestinian villages and their displacement, which became the subject of enduring debate in the kibbutzim. Juxtaposing history and memory, examining events in their actual time and as they were later remembered, Sabbagh-Khoury demonstrates that the dispossession and replacement of the Palestinians in 1948 was not a singular catastrophe, but rather a protracted process instituted over decades. Colonizing Palestine traces social and political mechanisms by which forms of hierarchy, violence, and supremacy that endure into the present were gradually created.
352 pages, July 2023
9781503602700 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale
The Politics of Art
Dissent and Cultural Diplomacy in Lebanon, Palestine, and Jordan
Hanan Toukan

This book considers the entanglement of art and international politics to understand the aesthetics of material production within liberal economies. Toukan outlines the political and social functions of transnationally connected and internationally funded arts organizations and initiatives, and reveals how the production of art within global frameworks can contribute to hegemonic structures even as it is critiquing them—or be counterhegemonic even when it first appears not to be. Toukan proposes not only a new way of reading contemporary art practices as they situate themselves globally, but also a new way of reading the domestic politics of the region from the vantage point of art.

“Toukan brilliantly reveals a critical, often hidden component of art-making in the Middle East: how powerful political and economic interests have shaped what kinds of art are even possible. A brave intervention and required reading.”
—Jessica Winegar, Northwestern University

Revolutions Aesthetic
A Cultural History of Ba'thist Syria
Max Weiss

This book offers the first cultural and intellectual history of Ba'thist Syria, from the coming to power of Hafiz al-Asad through the Syria War, and reconceptualizes contemporary Syrian politics, authoritarianism, and cultural life. Engaging rich original sources—novels, films, and cultural periodicals—Weiss highlights themes crucial to the making of contemporary Syria: heroism and leadership, gender and power, comedy and ideology, surveillance and the senses, witnessing and temporality, and death and the imagination. Revolutions Aesthetic places front and center the struggle around aesthetic ideology that has been key to the constitution of state, society, and culture in Syria over the course of the past fifty years.

“Innovative, meticulous, and brilliantly written, Revolutions Aesthetic will serve as the standard bearer for studies on the modern cultural history of the Arab world and the broader Middle East”
—Kamran Rastegar, Tufts University

Showpiece City
How Architecture Made Dubai
Todd Reisz

In 1959, experts agreed that if Dubai was to become something more than an unruly port, a plan was needed. Specifically, a town plan was prescribed to fortify the city from obscurity and disorder. With the proverbial handshake, Dubai’s ruler hired British architect John Harris to design Dubai’s strategy for capturing the world’s attention—and then its investments. Reisz explores the overlooked history of a city that did not simply rise from the sands. In the city’s earliest modern architecture, he finds the foundations of an urban survival strategy of debt-wielding brinkmanship and constant pitch making. Dubai became a testing ground for the global city—and prefigured how urbanization now happens everywhere.

“Gripping and insightful, Showpiece City is a much-needed history of the making and remaking of Dubai. A must-read for anyone interested in architecture and urban planning.”
—Rosie Bsheer, Harvard University

336 pages, 2021
9781503627758 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

456 pages, 2022
9781503631953 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

416 pages, 2020
9781503609884 Cloth $30.00 $24.00 sale
Protesting Jordan
Geographies of Power and Dissent
Jillian Schwedler
This book considers how space and geography influence protests and repression, and offers the first in-depth study of rebellion in Jordan. Based on twenty-five years of field research, it examines protests as they are situated in the built environment, bringing together considerations of networks, spatial imaginaries, space and placemaking, and political geographies at local, national, regional, and global scales. Schwedler considers the impact of time and temporality in the lifecycles of individual movements. She illuminates the geographies of power and dissent, highlighting the political stakes of competing narratives about Jordan’s past, present, and future.

“This superbly researched, Protesting Jordan provides a fascinating and groundbreaking alternative history of Jordan. Jillian Schwedler skillfully unpacks and challenges traditional accounts of state-making in Jordan as a top-down process. An essential read for those seeking to better understand Jordan’s history and how protests maintain state power.”
—Janine Clark, University of Toronto

States of Subsistence
The Politics of Bread in Contemporary Jordan
José Ciro Martínez
Despite the ubiquity of bread in accounts of Middle East politics and society, rarely do we consider how it is prepared and consumed—and what this represents. This book considers the welfare program that ensures bread’s widespread availability. Following bakers and bureaucrats, Martínez offers an immersive examination of social welfare provision. He argues that the state is best understood as the product of routine practices and actions, through which it becomes a stable truth in the lives of citizens. This book not only describes logics of rule in contemporary Jordan—and the place of bread within them—but also unpacks how the state endures through forms, sensations, and practices.

“States of Subsistence sets aside dominant questions of bread riots, food security, regime survival, and economic reforms to craft a uniquely important and absolutely fascinating look into the political meaning of the lived experience of subsidized bread.”
—Marc Lynch, George Washington University

Street-Level Governing
Negotiating the State in Urban Turkey
Elise Massicard
This book is the first to investigate how muhtars, the lowest level elected political position in Turkey, carry out their role. Muhtars exist at the intersection of everyday life and the exercise of power. Their position offers a personalized point of contact between citizens and state institutions, enabling close oversight of the citizenry, yet simultaneously projecting the sense of an accessible state to individuals. Challenging common theories of the state, Massicard outlines how the position of the muhtar throws into question an assumed dichotomy between domination and social resistance, and suggests that considerations of circumvention and accommodation are normal attributes of state-society functioning.

“One of the most interesting and original recent books I have read on contemporary Turkey. Massicard gives us a vivid and up-close account of the muhtarlık in the context of state-society relations.”
—Resat Kasaba Kasaba, University of Washington

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368 pages, 2022
9781503631328 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

344 pages, 2022
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Bread and Freedom
Egypt’s Revolutionary Situation
Mona El-Ghobashy

Once celebrated as an awe-inspiring irruption of people power, Egypt’s 2011 revolution is now often judged a tragic failure. Moving away from such sweeping judgments, Bread and Freedom argues that conceiving of a “Revolution” propelled by revolutionaries is untenable—it is the uprising that made revolutionaries and their opponents, not the other way around—and takes seriously the political conflicts set into motion by the uprising. El-Ghobashy sifts through a documentary record hidden in plain sight to reveal not a mythical unity undone by schisms, but hordes of new and old actors clamoring over the state’s material and symbolic power. This book rethinks how we study revolutions, looking past causes and consequences to train its sights on the collisions of revolutionary politics.

“A must-read for anyone concerned with deeper conceptual questions surrounding the entanglement of revolution and democracy”
—Omnia El Shakry, University of California, Davis

Paradoxes of Care
Children and Global Medical Aid in Egypt
Rania Kassab Sweis

Billions are spent on global humanitarian efforts intended to care for suffering bodies, especially those of distressed children living in poverty. But global medical aid can also unintentionally prolong the very conditions that hurt children and undermine local aid givers. This book illustrates how child aid recipients and local aid experts grapple with global aid’s shortcomings and its paradoxical outcomes. Sweis reveals how global aid fails to “save” these children according to its stated aims, and often maintains social disparities in children’s lives. Foregrounding vulnerable children’s responses, Sweis demonstrates how children manage their own bodies and lives, and engages with the question of what medical caregivers and donors alike gain from such global humanitarian transactions.

“Sweis’ clear analysis demonstrates the inherent paradoxes of seeking to save the ‘vulnerable’, while leaving unchanged the structural conditions that produce those very vulnerabilities.”
—Sherine Hamdy, University of California, Irvine

Between Dreams and Ghosts
Indian Migration and Middle Eastern Oil
Andrea Wright

More than one million Indians travel annually to work in oil projects in the Gulf. This book follows their migration, across sites in India, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, from villages to oilfields. Engaging the migrants themselves, the recruiting agencies that place them, the government bureaucrats that regulate their emigration, and the corporations that hire them, Wright examines labor migration as a social process, one deeply informed both by workers’ dreams for the future and the ghosts of colonial capitalism. Placing migrants at the center of global capital, Wright shows how migrants are not passive bodies at the mercy of abstract forces—and reveals a new understanding of contemporary resource extraction, governance, and global labor.

“A landmark contribution that pushes our understanding of oil, labor, and migrant lives in new and unexpected directions.”
—Adam Hanieh, SOAS University of London
On Salafism
Concepts and Contexts
Azmi Bishara

On Salafism offers a compelling new understanding of this phenomenon, both its development and contemporary manifestations. Bishara critically deconstructs claims of continuity between early Islam and modern militancy and makes a counterargument: Salafism is a wholly modern construct informed by specific sociopolitical contexts. He distinguishes reformist from regressive Salafism, and examines patterns of modernization in the development of contemporary Islamic political movements and associations.

In deconstructing the assumptions of linear continuity between traditional and contemporary movements, Bishara details various divergences in both doctrine and context of modern Salafisms, plural. On Salafism is a crucial read for those interested in Islamism, jihadism, and Middle East politics and history.

“Provocative, incisive, grounded in lived realities, the book delivers a powerful antidote to those who see Lebanon simplistically through the lens of religion. A necessary read.”

—Suad Joseph, University of California, Davis

Practicing Sectarianism
Archival and Ethnographic Interventions on Lebanon
Edited by Lara Deeb, Tsolin Nalbantian, and Nadya Sbaiti

This book explores the imaginative and contradictory ways how sectarianism, and reveals the many ways sectarianism is used to exhibit, imagine, or contest power. Essays analyze how people experience sectarianism, sometimes pushing back, sometimes evading it, sometimes deploying it strategically, to a variety of effects and consequences. The collection advances an understanding of sectarianism simultaneously constructed and experienced. Even as the book’s focus is Lebanon, its analysis fractures the association of sectarianism with the nation-state and suggests possibilities that can travel to other sites.

“Provocative, incisive, grounded in lived realities, the book delivers a powerful antidote to those who see Lebanon simplistically through the lens of religion. A necessary read.”

—Suad Joseph, University of California, Davis
Sextarianism
Sovereignty, Secularism, and the State in Lebanon
Maya Mikdashi

This book offers a new way to understand state power, theorizing how sex, sexuality, and sect shape and are shaped by law, secularism, and sovereignty. Mikdashi shows how political difference is entangled with religious, secular, and sexual difference. She presents state power as inevitably contingent, focusing on the regulation of religious conversion, the curation of legal archives, state and parastatal violence, and secular activism. Sextarianism locates state power in the experiences, transitions, uprisings, and violence that people in the Middle East continue to live.

“A tour de force by one of the most dynamic, iconoclastic, and original socio-political analysts of the Arab world of this generation. Maya Mikdashi’s Sextarianism will transform the way Lebanon has been understood; more radically, it will force everyone to rethink how religious and sexual differences work at/as the nexus of states and citizenship.”
—Lila Abu-Lughod, Columbia University

Crossing a Line
Laws, Violence, and Roadblocks to Palestinian Political Expression
Amahl Bishara

Palestinians living on different sides of the Green Line assert that they share a single political struggle for national liberation. Yet, obstacles and geopolitical boundaries inhibit their ability to speak to each other and as a collective. Crossing a Line enters these distinct environments and considers how Palestinian political expression is differently impacted by dispossession, settler colonialism, and militarism. Bishara looks to sites of political practice—journalism, commemorations, demonstrations, social media, in prison—to analyze how Palestinians create collectivities in these varied circumstances. In considering different environments for political expression and action, Bishara illuminates how expression is always grounded in place—and how a people can struggle together for liberation even when they cannot join together in protest.

“Offering a sensitive reading of Palestinian peoplehood and political difference, Crossing a Line brings social movement theory into critical engagement with settler colonial and native studies.”
—Rema Hammami, Birzeit University

The Contemporary Middle East in an Age of Upheaval
Edited by James L. Gelvin

This book engages six themes to understand the contemporary Middle East—the spread of sectarianism, abandonment of principles of state sovereignty, the lack of a regional hegemonic power, increased Saudi-Iranian competition, decreased regional attention to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and fallout from the Arab uprisings—as well as offers individual country studies. With analysis from historians, political scientists, sociologists, and anthropologists, and up-to-date discussions of the Syrian Civil War, impacts of the Trump presidency, and the 2020 uprisings in Lebanon, Algeria, and Sudan, this book will be an essential guide for anyone seeking to understand the current state of the region.

“These essays are an indispensable guide to making sense of the Middle East’s current disorder and future direction. A must-read for academics, policy makers, and informed general audiences.”
—Frederic Wehrey, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
How to Make a Wetland
Water and Moral Ecology in Turkey
Caterina Scaramelli
This book tells the story of two Turkish coastal areas, both shaped by ecological change and political uncertainty. Farmers, scientists, fishermen, and families grapple with livelihoods in transition, as their environment is bound up in national and international conservation projects. Scaramelli offers an anthropological understanding of sweeping environmental and infrastructural change, and the moral claims made on livability and materiality. Beginning from a moral ecological position, she takes into account the notion that politics is not simply projected onto animals, plants, soil, and water. Rather, people make politics through them. Scaramelli highlights the aspirations, moral relations, and care practices in constant play in contestations and alliances over environmental change.

“Scaramelli’s lucid ethnography is a crucial addition to studies of lived environments and environmental infrastructure—a refreshing new take on anthropocentric development processes in Turkey and beyond.”
—Elf Babül, Mount Holyoke College

Return to Ruin
Iraqi Narratives of Exile and Nostalgia
Zainab Saleh
With the US invasion of Iraq, Iraqis abroad, hoping to return one day to a better Iraq, became uncertain exiles. Return to Ruin tells the human story of this exile. Focusing on debates among Iraqi exiles about what it means to be an Iraqi after years of displacement, Saleh weaves a narrative that draws attention to a once-dominant, vibrant Iraqi cultural landscape and social and political shifts among the diaspora after decades of authoritarianism, war, and occupation in Iraq. She illuminates how Iraqis continue to fashion a sense of belonging and imagine a future, built on the shards of these shattered memories.

“In this outstanding book, we encounter the poignant life stories of Iraqis, stories too often reduced to statistics and stereotypes when they are visible at all. Return to Ruin is an illuminating study of Iraqi diasporic subjectivities.”
—Sinan Antoon, New York University

Afterlives of Revolution
Everyday Counterhistories in Southern Oman
Alice Wilson
This book considers the “social afterlives” of revolutionary values and networks in Oman where veteran militants have used kinship and daily socializing to reproduce networks of social egalitarianism and commemorate the revolution in unofficial ways. These afterlives highlight lasting engagement with revolutionary values, the agency of former militants in postwar modernization, and the limitations of government patronage for eliciting conformity. Recognizing that those typically depicted as coopted can still reproduce counterhegemonic values, this book considers a condition all too common across Southwest Asia and North Africa: the experience of defeated revolutionaries living under the authoritarian state they once contested.

“Advances a brilliant critique of reductionist perceptions that often define revolutions merely with references to their success or failure. Ethnographically rich and theoretically sophisticated.”
—Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Princeton University
Pious Peripheries
Runaway Women in Post-Taliban Afghanistan
Sonia Ahsan-Tirmizi

Taliban made piety a business of the state, and thereby intervened in the daily lives and social interactions of Afghan women. Pious Peripheries examines women’s resistance through groundbreaking fieldwork at a women’s shelter in Kabul, home to runaway wives, daughters, mothers, and sisters of the Taliban. Whether running to seek marriage or divorce, enduring or escaping abuse, or even accused of singing sexually explicit songs in public, “promiscuous” women challenge status quo—and once marked as promiscuous, women have few resources. Ahsan-Tirmizi explores how these women negotiate gendered power mechanisms and create a new supportive community, finding friendship and solidarity among the women who inhabit the margins of Afghan society.

“Pious Peripheries brings the reader into a diverse and opinionated world of Afghan women. Ahsan-Tirmizi’s willingness to step aside and allow these remarkable women to speak for themselves is a tremendous strength.”
—Thomas Barfield, Boston University

Between Muslims
Religious Difference in Iraqi Kurdistan
J. Andrew Bush

Between Muslims provides an ethnographic account of Iraqi Kurdish Muslims who turn away from devotional piety yet remain intimately engaged with Islamic traditions and with other Muslims. Bush offers a new way to understand religious difference in Islam, rejecting simple stereotypes about ethnic or sectarian identities. Integrating textual analysis of poetry, sermons, and Islamic history into accounts of everyday life in Iraqi Kurdistan, Between Muslims illuminates the interplay of attraction and aversion to Islam among ordinary Muslims.

“A refreshing departure from the focus on nationalist identity in studies of Iraqi Kurdistan, Between Muslims is a beautifully written and original work on the dynamics of Islamic traditions. Bush subtly explores how ‘fractures of difference’ are lived in everyday intimate relationships.”
—Sara Pursley, New York University

Say What Your Longing Heart Desires
Women, Prayer, and Poetry in Iran
Niloofar Haeri

This book offers an elegant ethnography of religious debates among a group of educated, middle-class Iranian women whose voices are often muted in studies of Islam. Haeri follows them in their daily lives as they engage with the classical poetry of Rumi, Hafez, and Saadi, illuminating a long-standing mutual inspiration between prayer and poetry. She recounts how different forms of prayer may transform into dialogues with God, and, in turn, illuminates the ways in which believers draw on prayer and ritual acts as the emotional and intellectual material through which they think, deliberate, and debate.

“A work that deserves to be widely read by all who are interested in understanding the different approaches to ‘authentic’ religion that exist in the Muslim world. A rich and detailed account, and a valuable contribution to our knowledge of religious practice.”
—Talal Asad, The Graduate Center, CUNY
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