MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

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Coca Cola, Black Panthers, and Phantom Jets
Israel in the American Orbit, 1967–1973
Oz Frankel

This book shows how the emergence of an American-inflected consumer modernity profoundly shaped Israeli life in a moment of great transition, exposing social cleavages, forging a consumerist order, and transforming Jewish identities. By taking an expansive view of Israeli–American encounters, Frankel reveals their unexpected consequences, including the ripple effects that the rise of Black Power had on both extremes of Israeli politics, the consumerist ideologies that ensnared IDF soldiers and Palestinians in the newly occupied territories, and cultural performances that lured Israelis to embrace previously shunned diasporic culture. In ten topical chapters, this book demonstrates that the American presence in Israel back then, as it is today, was multifaceted and often contradictory.

344 pages, July 2024
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The Labor of Hope
Meritocracy and Precarity in Egypt
Harry Pettit

In Egypt, a new generation of young men desires fulfilling employment, meaningful relationships, and secure family life, yet finds few paths to achieve this. This book follows these educated but underemployed men as they engage a booming training, recruitment, and entrepreneurship industry that sells the cruel meritocratic promise that a good life is realizable for all. Pettit considers the various ways individuals cultivate distraction and hope for future mobility: education, migration, consumption, and prayer. These hope-filled practices are a form of emotional labor for young men, placing responsibility on the individual rather than structural issues in Egypt's economy. Illuminating this emotional labor, Pettit reveals the lived contradiction at the heart of capitalist systems—the expansive dreams they encourage and the precarious lives they produce.

“An important, original, and truly laudable addition to the emerging literature on contemporary labor in Egypt.”
—Nefissa Naguib, University of Oslo

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**Struggling for Time**

*Environmental Governance and Agrarian Resistance in Israel/Palestine*

Natalia Gutkowski

This book examines how time is used as a mechanism of control by the Israeli state and a site of mundane resistance among Palestinian agriculture professionals. Gutkowski unpacks power structures to show how a settler society lays moral claim on indigenous time through agrarian environmental policies, science, technologies, landscapes, and bureaucracy. Traveling across both policymaking arenas and Palestinian citizens' agrarian fields, Gutkowski follows the multiple ways that state officials, agronomists, planners, environmentalists, and agriculturalists use time as a tool of collective agency. Through investigations of wetland drainage in Galilee, transformations in olive agriculture, sustainable agrarian development, and regulation of the *shmita* biblical commandment, the “year of release” for agricultural fields, this work highlights how Palestinian citizens’ agriculture has become a site for the state to settle and mediate time conflicts to justify its existence.

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**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. This book enters these distinct environments and considers how Palestinian political expression is differently impacted by dispossession, settler colonialism, and militarism. Bishara looks to varied sites of political practice—journalism, commemorations, demonstrations, social media, in prison—to analyze how Palestinians create collectivities. 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

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**My Brother, My Land**

*A Story from Palestine*

Sami Hermez

In 1967, Sireen Sawalha’s mother, with her young children, walked back to Palestine against the traffic of exile. This book is the story of Sireen’s family in the decades that followed and their lives in the Palestinian village of Kuf r Ra’i. From Sireen’s early life growing up in the shadow of the ’67 War, to the involvement of her brother in armed resistance in the First and Second Intifada, Hermez crafts a rich story of intertwining voices, mixing genres of oral history, memoir, and creative nonfiction. This book confronts readers with the politics and complexities of armed resistance and the ethical tensions and contradictions that arise, as well as with the dispossession and suffocation of people living under occupation and their ordinary lives in such times.

“A breathtaking display of literary prowess that tells the story of an entire homeland through the frame of one woman’s life.”

—Hala Alyan

304 pages, March 2024  
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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.

“This 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

336 pages, 2023
9781503635784 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Sufi Civilities
Religious Authority and Political Change in Afghanistan
Annika Schmeding

Afghanistan has a complex and varied religious landscape where a broad spectrum of religious beliefs vie for a place in society. This book, based on long-term ethnographic field research among multiple Sufi communities, examines navigational strategies employed by Sufi leaders to weather periods of instability and persecution over the past four decades. Schmeding shows how they have adapted in novel ways to changing conditions to craft Sufism as a force in the civil sphere. This book offers a rare on-the-ground view into how Sufi leaders react to moments of transition within a highly insecure environment, and how humanity shines through the darkness during times of turmoil.

“Through astute anthropological observation, Schmeding shows how Sufis became important players in the contests for religious authority that emerged from the cultural whirligig of a NATO-supported Islamic Republic. A major contribution.”

—Nile Green, University of California, Los Angeles

348 pages, 2023
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How Sanctions Work
Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare
Narges Bajoghli, Vali Nasr, Djamal Salehi-Isfahani, and Ali Vaez

Sanctions, when imposed by a country with the influence of the United States, can induce clear shockwaves in the economy and political culture of the targeted state. But do economic sanctions induce the behavioral changes intended? This book highlights Iran, the most sanctioned country in the world, where comprehensive sanctions were meant to induce uprisings or pressures to weaken the ruling establishment. But, after four decades, the opposite is true: sanctions strengthened the Iranian state, impoverished its population, increased state repression, and escalated Iran’s military posture toward the US and its allies in the region. Instead of offering an ‘alternative to war,’ sanctions have become a cause of war. This book reveals how necessary it is to understand how sanctions really work.

“An indispensable book. This volume shifts our understandings of what sanctions do—in Iran and beyond.”

—Arzoo Osanloo, University of Washington

200 pages, February 2024
9781503637801 Paper $24.00 $19.20 sale
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 that people live 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

258 pages, 2022
9781503633865 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

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

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SUP welcomes new series editors to our long-standing book series. This book series promotes work that centers the Middle East and North Africa as a site of social, political, economic, cultural, and racial formation. It showcases grounded knowledge production that is rigorous in method, empirically rich in sources, and emanating from and through the languages of the Middle East and North Africa. Focusing on the long twentieth century, from the far west of Morocco to the far east of Iran, the series is interested in the everyday lives of people and what they teach us about history, the present, and the future.

Laleh Khalili is the Al-Qasimi Professor of Gulf Studies at the University of Exeter, and author of Time in the Shadows: Confinement in Counterinsurgencies (Stanford, 2013), among other books.

Sherene Seikaly is Associate Professor of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and author of Men of Capital: Scarcity and Economy in Mandate Palestine (Stanford, 2016).
The Incarcerated Modern
Prisons and Public Life in Iran
Golnar Nikpour

The prison system is a foundational institution of Iranian political modernity. This book traces the transformation of Iran from a decentralized empire with few imprisoned persons into a modern nation-state with over a quarter million prisoners today. Nikpour explores the interplay between the concrete space of the Iranian prison and the role of prisons in producing new public cultures and political languages—from prison writings of 1920s leftist prisoners and communiqués of 1950s militant Islamists, to paintings of 1970s revolutionary guerrillas and mapping projects organized by contemporary dissident prisoners. In policing the line between “bad criminal” and “good citizen,” the carceral system has shaped modern Iranian political movements and reshaped Iranian understandings of citizenship, freedom, and political belonging.

“The Incarcerated Modern is one of those exceptionally rare, original books that transcends academic disciplines and opens up myriad terrains of inquiry.”

—Shahla Talebi, Arizona State University

456 pages, 2022
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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

456 pages, 2022
9781503631953 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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. 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. 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. She traces social and political mechanisms by which forms of hierarchy, violence, and supremacy that endure into the present were gradually created.

“A must-read for anyone who wants to understand exactly how tensions between socialism and Zionism played out on the ground.”

—Maha Nassar, University of Arizona

376 pages, 2023
9781503602700 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale
Elastic Empire
Refashioning War through Aid in Palestine
Lisa Bhungalia
This book traces how foreign aid, on which much of the Palestinian population is dependent, has multiplied the sites and means through which Palestinian life is regulated, surveilled, and policed—this book tells the story of how aid has also become war. The US war chronicled here is not one of tanks, grenades, and guns, but a quieter one waged through the interlacing of aid and law. It emerges in the infrastructures of daily life and indelibly transfigures lives. Situated in a landscape where the lines between humanitarianism and the global war on terror are increasingly blurred, Elastic Empire reveals the shape-shifting nature of contemporary imperial formations, their realignments and reformulations, their haunted sites, and their obscured but intimate forms.

“Essential reading for anyone interested in the intimacies of US empire and the topological tentacles of counterterrorism law.”
—Alison Mountz, Wilfrid Laurier University

288 pages, 2023
978150363637511 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

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

288 pages, 2021
978150363630199 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

Unruly Labor
A History of Oil in the Arabian Sea
Andrea Wright
In the mid-twentieth century, the Arabian Peninsula emerged as a key site of oil production. International companies recruited workers from across the Middle East and Asia to staff their expanding oil projects. This book considers the working conditions, hiring practices, and worker actions and strikes at these oil projects. Wright highlights the increasing associations between oil, governance, and racialized management practices to map how labor was increasingly depoliticized. From the 1940s to 1971, citizenship became both an avenue for workers to advocate for their rights, while simultaneously, a way to limit other solidarities. Examining the interests of workers, government officials, and oil company managers alike, Wright offers a new history of Middle Eastern oil and twentieth-century capitalism—a history that illuminates how labor management and national security concerns have shaped state governance and economic policy priorities.

264 pages, Forthcoming 2024
9781503639423 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
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.

“A timely, erudite account. Bishara provides important correctives to recent scholarly approaches, and forcefully demonstrates that modern articulations of Salafism are facets of ideological projects, not natural culminations of classical Islamic traditions.”
—Ahmad Dallal, American University in Cairo

$48.00 sale

346 pages, 2022
9781503630352 Cloth $60.00

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, University of Washington

344 pages, 2022
9781503631854 Paper $32.00 $25.60 sale

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

368 pages, 2022
9781503631328 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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 Western-ness—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

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.

“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

392 pages, 2022
9781503631588 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Making Space for the Gulf
Histories of Regionalism and the Middle East
Arang Keshavarzian

This book offers a new history of the Gulf that places Iran, Iraq, and the Arab Peninsula together within global processes. Keshavarzian connects moments more often treated as ruptures—the discovery of oil, the Iranian Revolution, the rise and decline of British empire, the emergence of American power—and crafts a narrative populated by a diverse range of people—migrants and ruling families, pearl-divers and star architects, striking taxi drivers and dethroned rulers, protectors of British India and stewards of globalized American universities. Tacking across geographic scales, he reveals how the Gulf has been globalized through transnational relations, regionalized as a geopolitical category, and cleaved along national divisions and social inequalities. When understood as a process, not an object, the Persian Gulf reveals much about how regions and the world have been made in modern times.

312 pages, April 2024
9781503638877 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
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. 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, 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 interwar 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 scholar-activists 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.”
—Hegnar Watenpaugh, University of California, Davis

312 pages, 2022
9781503631649 Paper $25.00 $20.00 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

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. 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. 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. She establishes the importance of North Africa in nurturing 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-African thought and Black radicalism. A meticulously researched, effortlessly transnational work.”
—Hisham Aidi, Columbia University

Monuments Decolonized
Algeria’s French Colonial Heritage
Susan Slyomovics
“Statuomania” overtook Algeria beginning in the nineteenth century as the French affinity for monuments placed thousands of war memorials across the French colony. Following Algeria’s hard-fought independence in 1962, these monuments took on different meaning. This book follows the afterlives of French-built war memorials in Algeria and those taken to France. Drawing on extensive fieldwork in both countries and interviews with French and Algerian heritage actors and artists, Slyomovics analyzes the colonial nostalgia, dissonant heritage, and ongoing decolonization and iconoclasm of these works of art. Monuments emerge here as objects with a soul, offering visual records of the colonized Algerian native, the European settler colonizer, and the contemporary efforts to engage with a dark colonial past. Richly illustrated with more than 100 color images, Monuments Decolonized offers a fresh aesthetic take on the increasingly global move to fell monuments that celebrate settler colonial histories.

248 pages, 2021
9781503628458 Cloth $30.00 $24.00 sale

272 pages, 2023
9781503639485 Paper $35.00 $28.00 sale
Country of Words
A Transnational Atlas for Palestinian Literature
Refqa Abu-Remaileh

Country of Words is a digital-born project that seeks to retrace and remap the global story of Palestinian literature in the twentieth century, from the Arab world to Europe, North America, and Latin America. At the intersection of literary history, periodical studies, and digital humanities, this project creates a networked meeting place for the data and narrative fragments of a literature-in-motion, weaving porous, interrupted, disconnected, and discontinuous fragments into an elastic, open-ended literary history. The story of Palestinian literature resembles the story of its people, one fragmented across countries and continents. As a case study, Palestinian literary history invites us to “read together” national and exilic, encouraging a transnational comparative perspective. It offers new ways to write nonlinear, nonconventional literary histories of displacement and movement, exposing new constellations, networks, trajectories, relationships, and collaborations.

Available Fall 2023
STANFORD DIGITAL PUBLISHING INITIATIVE
sup.org/digital

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 two decades, 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, and employs data analytics to analyze tweets, posts, and blogs to describe the political culture of social media. This book teaches us how a region under transformation became a vanguard for new thinking about digital systems.

“Innovative and original, Arabic Glitch interrupts the theoretical silence around Arab technocultures. Channeling the academic, artistic, activist, and technologist, Laila Shereen Sakr embodies the contemporary hybridity of Arab cultural production, inaugurating a rightful place for it in the canon.”
—Adel Iskandar, Simon Fraser

194 pages, 2023
9781503635883 Paper $26.00 $20.80 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

452 pages, 2022
9781503631809 Paper $35.00 $28.00 sale
Media of the Masses
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 homes and stores. Enabling an unprecedented number of people to participate in the creation of culture and circulation of content, cassette players and tapes informed broader cultural, political, and economic developments and defined “modern” Egyptian households. Drawing on an 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

Unknown Past
Layla Murad, the Jewish-Muslim Star of Egypt
Hanan Hammad

Hammad writes a story centered on Layla 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. 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

STANFORD STUDIES IN MIDDLE EASTERN AND ISLAMIC SOCIETIES AND CULTURES
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The Order and Disorder of Communication
Pamphlets and Polemics in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Empire
Nir Shafir
The seventeenth-century Ottoman Empire was rife with polemical debate. Fueling these debates was a new style of writing circulating the empire—the pamphlet. Through the example of the pamphlet, Shafir investigates the political and cultural institutions used to navigate, regulate, and encourage the circulation of information. He sketches an ecology of books examining how books were produced, the movement of texts regulated, education administered, reading conducted, and publics cultivated. Pamphlets invited both the well and poorly educated to participate in public debates, thus expanding the Ottoman body politic. They also spurred an epidemic of fake authors and popular forms of reading. Pamphlets became both the forum and the fuel for the polarization of Ottoman society.

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. She 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.

“A new lens not simply on the Eastern Mediterranean, but on land itself as the site where politics and ecology are intimately bound.”
—Sherene Seikaly, University of California, Santa Barbara

Island and Empire
How Civil War in Crete Mobilized the Ottoman World
Uğur Zekeriya Peçe
In the 1890s, conflict erupted on the Ottoman island of Crete. At the heart of the Crete Question, as it came to be known around the world, were clashing claims of sovereignty between Greece and the Ottoman Empire. Peçe narrates a connected history of international intervention, mass displacement, and popular mobilization. The conflict drove a wedge between the island’s Muslims and Christians, quickly acquiring a character of civil war. Civil war in turn unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe with the displacement of more than seventy thousand Muslims from Crete. In years following, many of those refugees took to the streets and became the engine of protest across the empire from Salonica to Libya, sending ripples farther afield beyond imperial borders. This history that begins within an island becomes a story about the end of an empire.
Empire of Refugees
North Caucasian Muslims and the Late Ottoman State
Vladimir Hamed-Troyansky
This book reframes late Ottoman history through mass displacement and reveals the origins of refugee resettlement in the modern Middle East. Hamed-Troyansky offers a historiographical corrective: the nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire created a refugee regime, predating refugee systems set up by the League of Nations and the United Nations. Grounded in archival research in over twenty public and private archives across ten countries, this book contests the boundaries typically assumed between forced and voluntary migration, and refugees and immigrants, rewriting the history of Muslim migration in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

“Magnificent and magisterial. Empire of Refugees not only reveals the emergence of a new template for refugee flows in the modern world, but captures the human experiences of the refugees themselves: their sorrows, hopes, failures, and successes. A prodigious achievement.”
—Michael A. Reynolds, Princeton 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. 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 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
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

Remnants
Embodied Archives of the Armenian Genocide
Elyse Semerdjian

Foremost among the images of the Armenian Genocide is the specter of tattooed Islamized Armenian women. Among Armenians, the tattooed survivor was seen as a living ethnomartyr or a national stain, and the bodies of women and children figured centrally within humanitarian imaginary. In Remnants, these 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 writes a deeply personal history, exploring how the Ottoman Armenian communal body was dis-membered, disfigured, and ultimately re-membered by the survivor community.

“A very ethical book, demonstrating to all of us how one can recover a violent past with professionalism and grace instead of rhetoric and partisanship. Remnants recovers and gives agency to women who were silenced in history.”
—Fatma Muge Gocek, University of Michigan

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
The Afterlife of Ottoman Europe
Muslims in Habsburg Bosnia Herzegovina
Leyla Amzi-Erdoğdular
This book examines how Bosnian Muslims navigated the Ottoman and Habsburg domains following the Habsburg occupation of Bosnia Herzegovina after the 1878 Berlin Congress. Amzi-Erdoğdular explores the enduring influence of the Ottoman Empire during this period—an influence perpetuated by the efforts of the imperial state from afar, and by its former subjects in Bosnia Herzegovina negotiating their new geopolitical reality. Tracing transregional connections, imperial continuities, and multilayered allegiances, this book tells the story of Muslims who redefined their place in both empires.

“Few works have been able to scrutinize empire’s influence on the modern world with the rigor, focus and brilliance displayed in this remarkable monograph. A model for how to think about the lasting effects of the old empires.”
—Mark Mazower, Columbia University

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

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 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. 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.

“A tour de force. Tylor Brand recovers the silenced cultural and economic history of the famine of Lebanon and makes it speak vitally to current debates on mass trauma in Lebanon and beyond.”
—Elizabeth Thompson, American University
Undesirables
A Holocaust Journey to North Africa
Aomar Boum, Illustrated by Nadjib Berber

This graphic novel follows one man’s journey, telling a story of the traumas wrought by the Holocaust. Hans Frank is a Jewish journalist who flees Germany and 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 illustrations 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

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 Stein draw an intimate picture of the region. This is a book as beautiful as the people it portrays.”
—Laila Lalami

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. 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.”
—Norman A. Stillman, University of Oklahoma

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HISTORY
No Longer Ladies and Gentlemen
Gender and the German-Jewish Migration to Mandatory Palestine
Viola Alianov-Rautenberg

Drawing on archival materials in German, English, and Hebrew, including administrative records, personal documents, newspapers, and oral history interviews, this book follows Jewish migrants along their journey from Germany and into the workplaces, living rooms, and kitchens of their new homeland to provide a new perspective on everyday life in Mandate Palestine. Alianov-Rautenberg tells the story of German-Jewish migration as gender history. She argues that migration was structured by gendered policies and ideologies and experienced by men and women in a gendered form—from the decision to immigrate through the outcomes for family life, body, self-image, and sexuality.

“Emphasizing the gender perspective, this book is one of the best new works on the history of immigration.”
—Guy Miron, Open University of Israel

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

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
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