# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worlding the Middle East</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures</td>
<td>4-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>10-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>18-20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture and Society</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Publishing Initiative</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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

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

Survivors of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 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, village, or town as both real and metaphorical centerpieces of family history. These Armenian stories reflect the resilience of diaspora in the face of the savage reaches of trauma, separation, and exile in ways that each of us, whatever our history, can recognize.

296 pages, April 2022  
9781503631649 Paper $25.00  
$20.00 sale

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---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Worlding the Middle East: 2-3  
Stanford Studies in Middle Eastern and Islamic Societies and Cultures: 4-10  
History: 10-17  
Politics: 18-20  
Religion: 21  
Culture and Society: 22  
Digital Publishing Initiative: 23
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

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

Migration from Palestine to the Americas developed over the mid-nineteenth century through the interwar period, during which time Palestinians emerged as a transnational political collective. Across the diaspora, these migrants discussed strategies for economic success in the Americas, for preserving aspects of their cultures, and for resisting oppressive British and French mandate legislation, including citizenship rejections meted out to thousands of Palestinian migrants. They did this in newspapers, social and cultural clubs and associations, political organizations and committees, and in hundreds of petitions and pleas delivered to local and international governing bodies demanding justice for Palestinian migrants barred from Palestinian citizenship. As this book shows, Palestinian political and national consciousness developed as a thoroughly transnational process in the first half of the twentieth century—and the first articulation of a Palestinian right of return emerged well before 1948.

272 pages, August 2022
9781503632264 Paper $28.00  $22.40 sale

ANNOUNCING
A NEW BOOK SERIES

STANFORD OTTOMAN WORLD SERIES: CRITICAL STUDIES IN EMPIRE, NATURE, AND KNOWLEDGE
EDITED BY
Nükhet Varlık and Ali Yavcıoğlu

This series showcases cutting-edge interdisciplinary scholarship in Ottoman history from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The series welcomes projects on the Ottoman World and its environs, engaging global and comparative debates while developing critical perspectives toward dominant historiographical frameworks.

Books in the series are concerned with three major themes—empire, nature, and knowledge—and the connections among them. Books on empire include discussions on political, social, economic, and legal structures, practices, and cultures, as well as imaginations and theories of political power. Books that involve nature address myriad aspects of the environment and its materiality with respect to human and non-human actors and all forms of human-nature relations, along with questions of space and place. Books that engage with knowledge include all kinds of epistemological programs, science and technology cultures, and ways of knowing, recording, preserving, archiving, and representing. The books in this series will foster ambitious and innovative scholarship and open new paths in Ottoman studies and beyond.
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 place-making, and political geographies at local, national, regional, and global scales. Schwedler considers the impact of time and temporality in the lifecycles of individual movements. Through a mixed interpretive methodology, she illuminates the geographies of power and dissent and the spatial practices of protest and repression, highlighting the political stakes of competing narratives about Jordan’s past, present, and future.

“Protesting Jordan offers readers of Arab politics and contentious politics alike a narrative of how protest shapes how states reproduce their power and, in turn, reshape protest.”
—Sidney Tarrow, Cornell University

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, consumed, discussed, and circulated—and what this represents. This book considers the effects of the welfare program that ensures bread’s widespread availability. Drawing on more than a year working as a baker in Amman, Martínez probes the practices that underpin subsidized bread. Following bakers and bureaucrats, he offers an immersive examination of social welfare provision. Martínez 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 amidst the seemingly unglamorous and unspectacular day-to-day.

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—not only what they are supposed to do, but how they actually operate. It starts from the premise that the seeming “margin” of state administration is not peripheral at all, but instructive as to how it functions. 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.
Archive Wars
The Politics of History in Saudi Arabia
Rosie Bsheer
The production of history is premised on the selective erasure of certain pasts and the artifacts that stand witness to them. From the elision of archival documents to the demolition of sacred and secular spaces, each act of destruction is also an act of state building. Following the 1991 Gulf War, political elites in Saudi Arabia pursued these dual projects of historical commemoration and state formation with greater fervor to enforce their vision for state, nation, and economy. This book shows how the Saudi state’s response to postwar challenges, which manifested in Riyadh and Mecca, served to historicize a secular national space, territorialize this national history, and ultimately refract both through new modes of capital accumulation.

“Archive Wars is an instant classic. With incredible insight, creativity, and courage, Bsheer tells us remarkable new things about the exercise and meaning of power in today’s Saudi Arabia.”

—Toby Jones, Rutgers University

416 pages, 2020
9781503612570 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Graveyard of Clerics
Everyday Activism in Saudi Arabia
Pascal Menoret
Developed after World War II to encourage a society of docile, isolated citizens, Saudi suburbs instead opened new spaces for political action. Religious activists in particular turned homes, schools, mosques, and summer camps into resources for mobilization. With the support of suburban grassroots networks, activists won local elections and found opportunities to protest government actions—until they faced a new wave of repression under the current Saudi leadership. With this book, Menoret offers a cautionary tale: the ongoing repression from Saudi elites—achieved often with the complicity of the international community—is shutting down grassroots political movements with significant consequences for the country, and the world.

“A distinguished ethnographer, Menoret excavates the Islamic Awakening in Saudi Arabia with great empathy and understanding, bringing us face to face with the men of the movement, and their rise and demise in the Saudi state.”

—Madawi al-Rasheed, London School of Economics

264 pages, 2020
9781503612464 Paper $24.00 $19.20 sale

Bread and Freedom
Egypt’s Revolutionary Situation
Mona El-Ghobashy
This book 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—party manifestoes, military communiques, open letters, constitutional contentions, protest slogans, parliamentary debates, and court decisions—and reveals 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 rewarding read that challenges everything you thought you knew about revolutionary uprisings. A rare treat.”

—Elizabeth F. Thompson, American University

392 pages, 2021
9781503628151 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
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

416 pages, 2020
9781503609884 Cloth $30.00 $24.00 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 counter-hegemonic even when it first appears not to be. In so doing, 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.

“There are few books out there that bring together a deep, critical knowledge of the arts in the Middle East with theoretical sophistication and shimmering ethnographic observations. The Politics of Art does this abundantly.”
—Laleh Khalili, Queen Mary University of London

336 pages, 2021
9781503627758 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Revolutions Aesthetic
A Cultural History of Bā’thist Syria
Max Weiss

The coup that brought Hafiz al-Asad to power fundamentally transformed cultural production in Syria. An ensuing agonistic struggle pitted official aesthetics of power against alternative modes of creative expression that could evade or ignore the effects of the state. This book offers the first cultural and intellectual history of Bā’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.

440 pages, June 2022
9781503631953 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
Paradoxes of Care
Children and Global Medical Aid in Egypt
Rania Kassab Sweis
Billions are spent on global humanitarian health initiatives intended to care for suffering bodies, especially those of 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’s 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

208 pages, 2021
9781503628632 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

Cleft Capitalism
The Social Origins of Failed Market Making in Egypt
Amr Adly
Egypt has undergone significant economic liberalization, yet after more than four decades of economic reform, the Egyptian economy still fails to meet popular expectations for inclusive growth, better standards of living, and high-quality employment. Cleft Capitalism offers a new explanation for why market-based development can fail to meet expectations: small businesses are not growing into medium and larger businesses. The practical outcome of this missing middle syndrome is the continuous erosion of the economic and social privileges once enjoyed by the middle classes and unionized labor. With this book, Adly uncovers both an institutional explanation for Egypt’s failed market making, and sheds light on the key factors of arrested economic development across the Global South.

“Richly detailed, theoretically insightful, Cleft Capitalism is essential reading for anyone interested in the Egyptian, Middle Eastern, and other political economies.”

—Robert Springborg, Naval Postgraduate School

336 pages, 2020
9781503612204 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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 multi-sensory 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 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 Armburst, University of Oxford

288 pages, April 2022
9781503631441 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
A Critical Political Economy of the Middle East and North Africa
Edited by Joel Beinin, Bassam Haddad, and Sherene Seikaly
These cutting-edge essays illuminate historical and contemporary dynamics and contribute to political economy debates from the vantage point of the Middle East. Leading scholars, representing several disciplines, contribute both thematic and country-specific analyses, critically examine major issues in political economy—notably, the mutual constitution of states, markets, and classes; the co-constitution of class, race, and gender; varying modes of capital accumulation and the legal, political, and cultural forms of their regulation; relations among local, national, and global forms of capital, class, and culture; technopolitics; the role of war in the constitution of states and classes; and practices and cultures of domination and resistance.

“A timely collection from some of the top practitioners of Middle East political economy, this book lays bare the human insecurity that is at the root of so much discontent in the region.”
—James Gelvin, University of California, Los Angeles

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 capital-ism. 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

The Paranoid Style in American Diplomacy: Oil and Arab Nationalism in Iraq
Brandon Wolfe-Hunnicutt
This book weaves together histories of Arab nationalists, US diplomats, and Western oil execs to expose the origins of US intervention in Iraq over the arc of the twentieth century and tell the parallel stories of the Iraq Petroleum Company and the resilience of Iraqi society. American policymakers, who inflated concerns about access to and potential scarcity of oil, gave rise to a “paranoid style” in US foreign policy. Wolfe-Hunnicutt deconstructs these policy practices to reveal how they fueled decades of American interventions, and shines a light on those places that America’s covert empire-builders might prefer we not look.

“The Paranoid Style in American Diplomacy is a gripping backstory that reveals the historical truths of US-Iraqi relations. American cold warriors inherited Britain’s imperial role but failed to stop Iraqis from pursuing natural resource sovereignty.”
—Nathan J. Citino, Rice University

344 pages, 2020
9781503614475 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

288 Pages, 2021
9781503630109 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

336 pages, 2021
9781503627918 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale
**Waste Siege**
The Life of Infrastructure in Palestine
Sophia Stamatopoulou-Robbins

Waste Siege depicts the environmental, infrastructural, and aesthetic context in which Palestinians are obliged to forge their lives. Tracing their experiences of wastes over the past decade, Stamatopoulou-Robbins considers how multiple authorities governing the West Bank—including the Palestinian Authority, international aid organizations, and Israel—rule by waste siege, whether intentionally or not. Her work challenges common formulations of waste as “matter out of place,” by suggesting instead that waste siege be understood as an ecology of “matter with no place to go.” Waste siege thus not only describes a stateless Palestine, but also becomes a metaphor for our besieged planet.

“Taking the reader on a journey through landfills and rubbish markets, encounters with bags of bread left hanging on the sides of dumpsters, and the movement of sewage across political barriers, Stamatopoulou-Robbins brilliantly excavates the ambient politics of waste.”

—Ilana Feldman, George Washington University

344 pages, 2019
9781503610897 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—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
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—this book 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

Intoxicating Zion
A Social History of Hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel
Haggai Ram

Intoxicating Zion is the first book to tell the story of hashish in Mandatory Palestine and Israel. Trafficking, use, and regulation; race, gender, and class; colonialism and nation-building all weave together in Haggai Ram’s social history of the drug from the 1920s to the aftermath of the 1967 War. The hashish trade encompassed smugglers, international gangs, residents, law enforcers, and political actors, and Ram traces these flows through the interconnected realms of cross-border politics, economics, and culture. Hashish use was and is a marker of belonging and difference, and its history offers readers a unique glimpse into how the modern Middle East was made.

“Vividly written and drawing on a wide array of sources, Intoxicating Zion is packed with colorful characters. A fascinating and revelatory tale.”

—Ted R. Swedenburg, University of Arkansas

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 on the Zionist center and 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
A City in Fragments
Urban Text in Modern Jerusalem
Yair Wallach

A City in Fragments tells the story of a city overwhelmed by its religious and symbolic significance. Wallach walked the streets of Jerusalem to consider the graffiti, inscriptions, signs, and ephemera that transformed the city over the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. As these texts became a tool in the service of capitalism, nationalism, and colonialism, the affinities of Arabic and Hebrew were forgotten. Looking at the writing of—and literally on—Jerusalem, Wallach offers a creative and expansive history of the city, a fresh take on modern urban texts, and a new reading of the Israel/Palestine conflict through its material culture.

“Our understanding of the city’s history will forever be changed by this sensitive and lyrical description of the city—sacred and profane, spiritual and material, Arab and Jewish—and the fragmentary voices and lives of those who built it.”
—Michelle Campos, University of Florida

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

Genetic Crossroads
The Middle East and the Science of Human Heredity
Elise K. Burton

Genetic Crossroads is an unprecedented history of human genetics in the Middle East, from its roots in colonial anthropology and medicine to recent genome sequencing projects. Early in the twentieth century, technological breakthroughs in human genetics coincided with the birth of modern Middle Eastern nation-states, who proclaimed that the region’s ancient history as a cradle of civilizations was preserved in the bones and blood of their citizens. Burton illuminates how scientists from Turkey to Yemen, Egypt to Iran, transformed genetic data into territorial claims and national origin myths, and reveals the enduring foundations of international scientific interest in Middle Eastern populations to this day.

“Deeply researched and powerfully written, Genetic Crossroads is one of the most original books I have read in a decade. A must-read for historians of all fields.”
—Eve M Troutt Powell, University of Pennsylvania

344 pages, 2020
9781503611139 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

452 pages, 2020
9781503614185 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
Street Sounds
Listening to Everyday Life in Modern Egypt
Ziad Fahmy

This book offers the first historical examination of the changing soundscapes of urban Egypt, highlighting the mundane sounds of street-life, while “listening” to the voices of ordinary people as they struggle with state authorities for ownership of the streets. Interweaving infrastructural, cultural, and social history, Fahmy analyzes the sounds of modernity, using sounded sources as an analytical tool for examining the past. Street Sounds also addresses the sensory class-politics of noise by demonstrating how the growing middle classes sensorially distinguished themselves from the Egyptian masses. This book contextualizes sound and layers historical analysis with a sensory dimension, bringing us closer to the Egyptian streets as lived and embodied by everyday people.

“Street Sounds brings the boisterous soundscape of modernizing Egypt to life. Fahmy has an ear for the noise of history in motion. He allows us to hear an Egypt we might otherwise discount.”

—Joel Gordon, University of Arkansas

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

This book recounts Layla Murad’s extraordinary life—and the rapid political and sociocultural changes she witnessed. 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 and later gave a singing voice to the Free Officers and the 1952 Revolution. 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.

“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

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.

312 pages, 2021
9781503627956 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

312 pages, February 2022
9781503629776 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

328 pages, 2022
978150363034 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

202 pages, 2023
9781503629102 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

202 pages, 2023
978150363034 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale
Recording History
Jews, Muslims, and Music across Twentieth-Century North Africa
Chris 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: Arabic music. For decades, thousands of phonograph records flowed across North African borders and gave voice to a changing world. 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 sounds 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 the present.

304 pages, June 2022
9781503631687 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

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

This book, the first-ever collection of primary documents on North African and Holocaust history, gives voice to the diversity of those involved—Muslims, Christians, and Jews; women, men, and children; the unknown and the notable; locals, refugees, the displaced, and the interned; soldiers, officers, bureaucrats, volunteer fighters, and the forcibly recruited. 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.

392 pages, July 2022
9781503631991 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Sultan’s Communists
Moroccan Jews and the Politics of Belonging
Alma Rachel Heckman

*The Sultan’s Communists* uncovers the history of Jewish radical involvement in Morocco’s national liberation project and examines how Moroccan Jews envisioned themselves participating as citizens in a newly independent Morocco. The figures at the center of Heckman’s narrative stood at the intersection of colonialism, Arab nationalism, and Zionism. Their stories unfolded in a country that upon independence allied itself with the United States during the Cold War, while attempting to claim a place for itself within the fraught politics of the post-independence Arab world. This book contributes to the growing literature on Jews in the modern Middle East and provides a new history of twentieth-century Jewish Morocco.

“With meticulousness and fervor, Heckman offers a unique historical entry to North Africa’s Jewish communities. The Sultan’s Communists provides a new and refreshing understanding of minority politics in colonial and post-colonial societies.”

—Aomar Boum, University of California, Los Angeles

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
344 pages, 2020
9781503613805 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale
**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

328 pages, March 2022  
9781503631267 Paper $28.00  
$22.40 sale

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**Egypt’s Occupation**  
Colonial Economism and the Crises of Capitalism  
Aaron G. Jakes

The history of capitalism in Egypt has long been synonymous with cotton cultivation and dependent development. Obscured in such accounts, however, is Egypt’s emergence as a colonial laboratory for financial investment and experimentation. Jakes offers a sweeping reinterpretation of both the historical geography of capitalism in Egypt and the role of political-economic thought in the struggles that raged over its occupation. Even as British officials claimed that “economic development” would be crucial to the political legitimacy of their rule, Egypt’s early nationalists elaborated their own critical accounts of boom and bust. As Jakes shows, these Egyptian thinkers offered a set of sophisticated and troubling meditations on the deeper contradictions of capitalism and the very meaning of freedom in a capitalist world.

“Egypt’s Occupation is a rare synthesis: a finely crafted regional study that grasps the worldwide movements of capital and empire at every turn.”

—Jason W. Moore, Binghamton University

376 pages, 2020  
9781503612617 Paper $30.00  
$24.00 sale

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**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 of 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 all informed this complex event. Through consideration of the Adana massacres in microhistorical 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

320 pages, March 2022  
9781503631021 Paper $28.00  
$22.40 sale
HISTORY 15

Brokers of Faith, Brokers of Empire
Armenians and the Politics of Reform in the Ottoman Empire
Richard E. Antaramian

The Ottoman Empire enforced imperial rule through its management of diversity. Non-Muslim religious institutions, such as the Armenian Church, were charged with guaranteeing their flocks’ loyalty to the sultan. In so doing, Armenian elites became powerful brokers between factions in Ottoman politics—until the politics of nineteenth-century reform changed these relationships. This book presents a revisionist account of Ottoman reform, connecting internal contention within the Armenian community to broader imperial politics. Reform afforded Armenians the opportunity to recast themselves as partners of the state, rather than brokers among factions. And in the course of pursuing such programs, they transformed the community’s role in imperial society.

“Antaramian provides a much-needed corrective to a historiography that often presents ‘Armenian’ and ‘Ottoman’ as mutually exclusive categories. An empirically rich work.”
—İpek Kocaömer Yosmaoğlu, Northwestern University

224 pages, 2020
9781503612952 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

Spiritual Subjects
Central Asian Pilgrims and the Ottoman Hajj at the End of Empire
Lâle Can

Spiritual Subjects examines the paradoxes of nationality reform and pan-Islamic politics in late Ottoman history. Can unravels how imperial belonging was wrapped up in deeply symbolic instantiations of religion, as well as prosaic acts that paved the way to integration into Ottoman communities. A complex system of belonging emerged—one where it was possible for a Muslim to be both, by law, a foreigner and a subject of the Ottoman sultan-caliph. This panoramic story informs broader transregional developments, with important implications for how we make sense of subjecthood in the last Muslim empire and the legacy of religion in the Turkish Republic.

“A beautifully and imaginatively crafted history of the hajj as a social, cultural, political, and spiritual phenomenon. Lâle Can humanizes the Central Asian pilgrims, telling their stories with the same grace and veneration that they showed in the course of their spiritual journey.”
—Christine Philliou, University of California, Berkeley

272 pages, 2020
9781503611160 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

Between Empire and Nation
Muslim Reform in the Balkans
Milena B. Methodieva

This book tells the story of the transformation of the Muslim community in modern Bulgaria during a period of imperial dissolution, conflicting national and imperial enterprises, and the emergence of new national and ethnic identities. Methodieva explores how former Ottoman subjects, now under Bulgarian rule, navigated between empire and nation-state, and sought to claim a place in the larger modern world. Using a wide array of primary sources and drawing on both Ottoman and Eastern European historiographies, Methodieva approaches the question of Balkan Muslims’ engagement with modernity through a transnational lens, arguing that the experience of this Muslim minority provides new insight into the nature of nationalism, citizenship, and state formation.

“This important new book is set to redefine the entanglements of modern history of Europe and the Middle East.”
—Cemil Aydin, University of North Carolina

344 pages, 2021
9781503613379 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

224 pages, 2020
9781503612952 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

272 pages, 2020
9781503611160 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

344 pages, 2021
9781503613379 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale
Persianate Selves
Memories of Place and Origin
Before Nationalism
Mana Kia
For centuries, Persian was the language of power and learning across West and South Asia. This book sketches the contours of this Persianate world, historicizing place, origin, and selfhood through its tradition of proper form—adab. Proximities and similarities constituted a logic that distinguished between people while simultaneously accommodating plurality. Adab was the basis of cohesion for self and community over the eighteenth century, as populations dispersed and centers of power shifted, disrupting the circulations that interlinked Persianate regions. Challenging the bases of protonationalist community, Persianate Selves seeks to make sense of a transregional Persianate culture outside the anachronistic shadow of nationalisms.

“Few questions are more vexed in the study of early modern Asia than how people identified before nationalism. Persianate Selves is an invaluable vade mecum for navigating the transregional Persianate past.”

—Nile Green, University of California, Los Angeles

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

The Discovery of Iran
Taghi Arani, a Radical Cosmopolitan
Ali Mirsepassi
This book examines the history of Iranian nationalism 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 and uncovers fertile intellectual spaces in which civic nationalism flourished.

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

—Stephanie Cronin, University of Oxford
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 ground-breaking book.”
—Firoozeh Kashani-Sabet, University of Pennsylvania

Arab Routes
Pathways to Syrian California
Sarah M. A. Gualtieri
Los Angeles is home to the largest population of people of Middle Eastern descent in the United States. Since the late nineteenth century, Syrian and Lebanese migration to Southern California has been intimately connected and through Latin America. Arab Routes uncovers the stories of this Syrian American community to reveal important cross-border and multiethnic solidarities in Syrian California. Gualtieri reinscribes Syrians into Southern California history through her examination of images and texts, augmented with interviews with descendants of immigrants. Telling the story of how Syrians helped forge a global Los Angeles, Arab Routes counters a long-held stereotype of Arabs as outsiders and underscores their longstanding place in American culture and in interethnic coalitions, past and present.

“Sarah Gualtieri complicates and revises our understanding of Arab immigration to the Americas. An expansive, cutting-edge, and much-needed book.”
—Carol W.N. Fadda, Syracuse University

Forging Ties, Forging Passports
Migration and the Modern Sephardi Diaspora
Devi Mays
This book explores the history of Ottoman Sephardic Jews who emigrated to the Americas—and especially to Mexico—in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and the complex relationships they maintained to legal documentation as they settled into new homes. In the aftermath of World War I and the Mexican Revolution, migrants navigated new layers of bureaucracy and authority amidst changing political regimes. By making use of commercial and familial networks between formerly Ottoman lands, France, the United States, Cuba, and Mexico, these Sephardic migrants maintained a geographic and social mobility that challenged the physical borders of the state and the conceptual boundaries of the nation.

“A sparkling work of social history that prompts larger questions over citizenship and its meanings.”
—Stacy D. Fahrenthold, University of California, Davis

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
360 pages, 2020
9781503613218 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique
Sa’ed Atshan

Solidarity with Palestinians has become a salient domain of global queer politics. Yet LGBTQ Palestinians are themselves often subjected to an “empire of critique” that has led to an emphasis within the movement on anti-imperialism over the struggle against homophobia. With this book, Atshan asks how social movements can balance struggles for liberation along more than one axis. He explores critical junctures in Palestinian LGBTQ activism, revealing a spirit of agency, defiance, and creativity, despite daunting pressures and forces working to constrict it. Queer Palestine and the Empire of Critique explores the necessity of connecting the struggles for Palestinian freedom with the struggle against homophobia.

“Sa’ed Atshan brilliantly weaves together ethnography and personal experience in thoughtful, engaging, and emotionally captivating ways. A tour de force and a remarkable book for both its theoretical and empirical contributions.”

—Amaney A. Jamal, Princeton University

Sextarianism
Sovereignty, Secularism, and the State in Lebanon
Maya Mikdashi

Whether women or men, Muslims or Christians, queer or straight, all people in Lebanon have one thing in common—they are biopolitical subjects forged through bureaucratic, ideological, and legal techniques of the state. 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. Drawing on court archives, public records, and ethnography of the Court of Cassation, the highest civil court in Lebanon, Mikdashi shows how political difference is entangled with religious, secular, and sexual difference. She presents state power as inevitably contingent, like the practices of everyday life it engenders, 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.

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

Palestinians in Israel and those in the West Bank have long asserted that they share a single political struggle for national liberation. Yet, obstacles inhibit their ability to speak to each other and as a collective, and political boundaries fragment Palestinians into ever smaller groups. This book draws on participant-observation, interviews, and analysis of public culture to examine political expression of both Palestinians in Israel and those in the West Bank. Bishara looks to specific sites of political practice—journalism, historical commemorations, street demonstrations, social media, in prison, and on the road—to analyze how Palestinians rebuild collectivities in these circumstances. In considering these different environments for political expression and action, Bishara illuminates how political expression is always grounded in place and in the body.

288 pages, May 2022
9781503631557 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

296 pages, 2020
9781503632396 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
The Movement and the Middle East
How the Arab-Israeli Conflict Divided the American Left
Michael R. Fischbach
The Arab-Israeli conflict constituted a serious problem for the American Left in the 1960s. The Movement and the Middle East offers the first assessment of the controversial and ultimately debilitating role of the conflict among activists. Fischbach draws on a deep well of original sources to present a story of the left-wing responses to the question of Palestine and Israel. He shows how, as the 1970s wore on, the cleavages emerging within the American Left widened, weakening the Movement and leaving a lasting impact that still affects progressive American politics today.

"Fischbach boldly takes us into the vexed heart of debates on the American Left over the Palestinian struggle against the state of Israel. His bracing message is of the perils of intransigence and the enduring ability of the Israel-Palestine debate to further divide an already weakened American Left."
—Jeremy Varon, The New School
312 pages, 2019
9781503611061 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

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.

“A first-rate collection and essential reading for anyone interested in how the Middle East has an has not changed since the uprisings of 2011.”
—Jillian Schwedler, Hunter College, CUNY
368 pages, 2021
9781503627697 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

Oilcraft
The Myths of Scarcity and Security That Haunt U.S. Energy Policy
Robert Vitalis
There is a conventional wisdom about oil—that US military presence in the Gulf guarantees access to this strategic resource; that the “special” relationship with Saudi Arabia is necessary to stabilize an otherwise volatile market; and that these assumptions provide Washington enormous leverage. Except, the conventional wisdom is wrong. Vitalis debunks the myths to reveal “oilcraft,” a line of magical thinking closer to witchcraft than statecraft. He exposes the suspect fears of scarcity and conflict, and investigates the significant geopolitical impact of these false beliefs. In particular, Vitalis shows how we can reconsider the question of the US–Saudi relationship. Freeing ourselves from the spell of oilcraft won’t be easy—but the benefits make it essential.

“Vitalis has once again revealed that our conventional wisdom is filled with empty, and often dangerous, self-delusions. This book is a triumph of clear-eyed and courageous criticism.”
—Lisa Anderson, Columbia University
240 pages, 2020
9781503600904 Cloth $24.00 $19.20 sale
The Power of Deserts
Climate Change, the Middle East, and the Promise of a Post-Oil Era
Dan Rabinowitz

Hotter and dryer than most parts of the world, the Middle East could soon see climate change exacerbate food and water shortages, aggravate social inequalities, and drive displacement and political destabilization. The Power of Deserts surveys regional climate models and identifies the potential impact on socioeconomic disparities, population movement, and political instability. Offering more than warning and fear, however, the book highlights a potentially brighter future—a recent shift across the Middle East toward renewable energy. With his deep knowledge of the region and knack for presenting scientific data with clarity, Rabinowitz makes a sober yet surprisingly optimistic investigation of opportunity arising from a looming crisis.

“An important argument detailing how the Middle East could be devastated by the impact of climate change—or could generate huge amounts of renewable energy. A provocative work.”

—Steven Cohen, Columbia University

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.”

—Elif Babül, Mount Holyoke College

Global Jihad
A Brief History
Glenn E. Robinson

Most violent jihadi movements in the twentieth century focused on removing corrupt, repressive secular regimes throughout the Muslim world. But following the 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, a new form of jihadism emerged—global jihad—turning to the international arena as the primary locus of ideology and action. With this book, Robinson tells the story of four distinct jihadi waves, each with its own program for achieving a global end. He connects the rise of global jihad to other “movements of rage”—such as the Nazi Brownshirts, White supremacists, Khmer Rouge, and Boko Haram—and develops a compelling and provocative argument about this violent political movement’s evolution.

“Robinson has produced a masterful book that is incisive, insightful, and comprehensive—a tour de force on the evolution of jihadism.”

—Mehran Kamrava, Georgetown University

STANFORD BRIEFS
184 pages, 2020
9781503609983 Paper $14.00 $11.20 sale

264 pages, 2020
9780804760478 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
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 who 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 nationalistic 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

240 pages, 2020
9781503614581 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

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 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

224 pages, 2020
9781503614246 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
Alternative Iran
Contemporary Art and Critical Spatial Practice
Pamela Karimi

Drawing on spatial and temporal turns that have animated Iranian art scenes since the 1980s, *Alternative Iran* illuminates the economic, political, and intellectual forces that have driven Iran's creative class toward increasingly original forms of artmaking not meant for museums or performance halls. These artworks appear instead in private homes, non-commercial galleries, showrooms with “trusted” audiences, dilapidated structures, buildings under construction, unexpected urban spaces, and remote natural sites. Flouting the conventions of the art market negotiating the regime’s ideological protocols, these loosely covert activities offer an enthralling inquiry into what is commonly referred to as critical spatial practice. Throwing into sharp relief Iran’s unusual art scenes, Karimi discloses anomalous instances when the state and other powerful agents appropriate the spatial techniques of loose covertness to bring aspects of the alternative into the limelight, either to better regulate the creative community or to challenge the system from within.

448 pages, August 2022
9781503631809 Paper $35.00 $28.00 sale

The Dangers of Poetry
Culture, Politics, and Revolution in Iraq
Kevin M. Jones

This is the first book to narrate the social history of poetry in the modern Middle East. Moving beyond the analysis of poems as literary and intellectual texts, Jones shows how poems functioned as social acts that critically shaped the cultural politics of revolutionary Iraq. He narrates the history of three generations of Iraqi poets who navigated the fraught relationship between culture and politics in pursuit of their own ambitions and agendas. Through this historical analysis of thousands of poems published in newspapers, recited in popular demonstrations, and disseminated in secret whispers, this book reveals the overlooked contribution of these poets to the spirit of rebellion in modern Iraq.

“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

320 pages, 2020
9781503613393 Cloth $70.00 $60.00 sale

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.

“Return to Ruin is an illuminating study of Iraqi diasporic subjectivities.”

—Sinan Antoon, New York University

280 pages, 2020
9781503614116 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
Constructing the Sacred
Visibility and Ritual Landscape at the Egyptian Necropolis of Saqqara
Elaine A. Sullivan

Utilizing 3D technologies, Constructing the Sacred addresses ancient ritual landscape from a unique perspective to examine development at the complex, long-lived archaeological site of Saqqara, Egypt. Sullivan focuses on how changes in the built and natural environment affected burial rituals at the temple due to changes in visibility. Flipping the top-down view prevalent in archeology to a more human-centered perspective puts the focus on the dynamic evolution of an ancient site that is typically viewed as static.

Filming Revolution
Alisa Lebow

Filming Revolution investigates documentary and independent filmmaking in Egypt since 2011, bringing together the collective wisdom and creative strategies of thirty filmmakers, artists, activists, and archivists. Rather than merely building an archive of video interviews, Lebow constructs a collaborative project, joining her interviewees in conversation to investigate questions about the evolving format of political filmmaking. The innovative constellatory interactive design of Filming Revolution makes an aesthetic commentary about the experience of the revolution, its fragmented development, and its shifting meanings, thereby advancing arguments about political documentary via both content and form.

When Melodies Gather
Oral Art of the Mahra
Samuel Liebhaber

The Mahra people of the southern Arabian Peninsula have no written language but instead possess a rich oral tradition. Liebhaber takes readers on a tour through their poetry, which he collected in audio and video recordings over the course of several years. Based on this material, Liebhaber develops a blueprint for poetry classification across the language family. Each poem is embedded in a conceptual framework that highlights formal similarities between them and recapitulates how Mahri poets craft poems and how their audiences are primed to receive them.