MIDDLE EAST STUDIES

20% DISCOUNT ON ALL TITLES 2024
Stolen Fragments
Black Markets, Bad Faith, and the Illicit Trade in Ancient Artefacts
Roberta Mazza

In 2012, billionaire Steve Green announced the purchase of a fragment of papyrus carrying lines from Paul's letter to the Romans. Roberta Mazza was stunned. When was this piece discovered, and how could Green acquire such a rare item? The answers, which Mazza spent ten years uncovering, came as a shock: the fragment came from Oxford University, and its rightful owners had no idea it had been sold. Mazza’s investigation revealed global networks that make big business of ancient manuscripts, from the Greens’ Museum of the Bible and world-famous auction houses like Sotheby’s and Christie’s, to antique shops in Jerusalem and Istanbul, dealers on eBay, and into the collections of renowned museums and universities.

Stolen Fragments illuminates how these recent dealings were not isolated events, but the inevitable result of longstanding colonial practices and the outcome of generations of scholars who have profited from extracting the cultural heritage of places they claim they wish to preserve.

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 Kufr 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

272 pages, September 2024
9781503632509 Cloth $30.00  $24.00 sale

328 pages, February 2024
9781503628397 Cloth $28.00  $22.40 sale
Struggling for Time
Environmental Governance and Agrarian Resistance in Israel/Palestine
Natalia Gutkowski

This book shows how a settler society lays moral claim on indigenous time through agrarian environmental policies, science, technologies, landscapes, and bureaucracy. Traveling across Israeli 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, this work highlights how Palestinian citizens’ agriculture has become a site for the state to settle and mediate time conflicts to justify its existence.

“An engaging analysis of transformations in Israeli agriculture policies as well as moving portraits of Palestinian agronomists and their complex relationship to their work and their land. The analytic of Israeli use of time as a means of dispossession is original and revealing.”

—Amahl Bishara, Tufts University

336 pages, May 2024
9781503637726 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Capitalist Colonial
Thai Migrant Workers in Israeli Agriculture
Matan Kaminer

Beginning in the 1980s, the agrarian economy of Israel’s arid Central Arabah transformed with a shift to export-oriented monoculture and the arrival of migrant workers from Thailand. This book argues that this migrant labor was essential to resolving clashing demands between an economic bottom line and Zionist ideology, and mobilizes capitalism and colonialism as a combined analytical frame to comprehend the forms of domination prevailing in the Arabah. Kaminer draws surprising connections between the violent takeover of peripheral regions, the imposition of agrarian commodity production, and the emergence of transnational labor flows. He insists on the liberatory possibilities inherent in the “interaction ideologies” found among both migrant workers and settler employers, and raises important questions around the place of migrants who are neither Jewish nor Arab in visions of local transformation and decolonization.

272 pages, November 2024
9781503641099 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

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

376 pages, 2022
9781503633287 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
Love Across Difference
Mixed Marriage in Lebanon
Lara Deeb

Lebanon has the most interreligious marriages per capita in the Middle East, but what constitutes a “mixed marriage” is in flux as social norms shift. Through stories of Lebanese couples, this book challenges readers to rethink categories of difference and imagine possibilities for social change. Drawing on two decades of research, Deeb shows how mixed couples in Lebanon confront patriarchy, social difference, and sectarianism. In the drama that ensues as women and young men make their own marital choices, they push gender boundaries and reveal the ultimately empty nature of sect as a category of social difference. Through the example of Lebanon, we can learn about our own social worlds, the assumptions we make around social difference, and how people react when forced to change their ideas of who can be made kin through marriage.

296 pages, October 2024
9781503640757 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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

264 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

288 pages, 2022
9781503631557 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
The Labor of Hope
Meritocracy and Precarity in Egypt
Harry Pettit

In Egypt, a new generation of young men desire fulfilling employment, meaningful relationships, and secure family life, yet find 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

340 pages, 2023
9781503637443 Paper $28.00 $22.40 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 vies 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.

“Schmeding’s path breaking ethnographic account of diverse Sufi communities in contemporary Afghanistan is both new and exciting. Over the past half century every radical political regime has failed to appreciate just how deeply Sufism is embedded in Afghanistan’s Islamic culture.”

—Thomas Barfield, Boston University

348 pages, 2023
9781503637530 Paper $32.00 $25.60 sale

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 Dhufar 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 co-opted can still reproduce counterhegemonic values, this book considers a condition all too common across Southwest Asia and North Africa: the experience of defeated revolutionaries living under the authoritarian state they once contested.

“Advances a brilliant critique of reductionist perceptions that often define revolutions merely with references to their success or failure. Ethnographically rich and theoretically sophisticated.”

—Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi, Princeton University

336 pages, 2023
9781503635784 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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—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.

“Lisa Bhungalia fluently and beautifully uses theoretical elaborations of plasticity and malleability of empire to show the interconnections between the aid industry and settler colonial and imperial violence.”

—Laleh Khalili, University of Exeter

How Sanctions Work
Iran and the Impact of Economic Warfare
Narges Bajoghli, Vali Nasr, Djavad 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, and in the everyday lives of citizens. 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

Hamas Contained
A History of Palestinian Resistance
Tareq Baconi
Hamas has ruled Gaza and the lives of the two million Palestinians who live there since 2006. Hamas Contained offers the first history of the group on its own terms. Drawing on interviews with organization leaders, as well as publications from the group, Baconi maps Hamas’s thirty-year evolution from fringe military resistance into governance, culminating in Israeli efforts to contain the movement to the Gaza Strip. First published in 2018, this book includes a new author’s statement that provides an analytical framework and reflection on Hamas’s offensive of October 7, 2023 and Israel’s ensuing War on Gaza.

“Hamas Contained is by far the best book on this vital topic. Meticulous and deeply sourced, this is essential reading for anyone with a serious interest in Hamas, Palestine, Israel, or Islamist political movements anywhere in the Middle East.”

—Rashid Khalidi, Columbia University

288 pages, 2023
9781503637511 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

212 pages, February 2024
9781503637801 Paper $24.00 $19.20 sale

212 pages, 2018. Issued with a new author’s statement, 2024
9781503632622 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale
Colonizing Palestine
*The Zionist Left and the Making of the Palestinian Nakba*
Areej Sabbagh-Khoury

Based on extensive empirical research in local colony and national archives, this book offers a microhistory of frontier interactions between Zionist settlers and indigenous Palestinians. 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
9781503662700 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale

Protesting Jordan
*Geographies of Power and Dissent*
Jillian Schwedler

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

“Superbly researched, *Protesting Jordan* provides a fascinating and groundbreaking alternative history of Jordan. Jillian Schwedler skilfully 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
9781503631388 Paper $30.00 $24.00 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.

“Beautifully written, rich in ethnographic detail, *States of Subsistence* examines the constitution of the state at a novel site: the bakery. A nuanced account of people’s everyday lives and encounters with the state.”
—Jessica Barnes, University of South Carolina

368 pages, 2022
9781503631328 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
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

352 pages, February 2024
9781503637634 Paper $32.00  $25.60 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.

288 pages, October 2024
9781503639423 Paper $28.00  $22.40 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 Arabian 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. 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.

“A path-breaking book that challenges us to think differently about the Gulf and its place in the world.”
—Adam Hanieh, University of Exeter

324 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. Through the story of Jubrail’s life, Norris explores the porous lines between history and fiction, the normal and the paranormal, the everyday and the extraordinary. Drawing on aspects of magical realism combined with elements of Palestinian folklore, Norris recovers the atmosphere of late nineteenth-century Bethlehem as scores of young men set off for faraway lands, and offers an original approach to historical writing, capturing a fantastic story of global encounter and exchange.

“An original treatise on local knowledge. Norris weaves an astute combination of historical discourse and magical realism.”

—Salim Tamari

Unmentionables
Textiles, Garment Work, and the Syrian American Working Class
Stacy D. Fahrenthold

As weavers, garment workers, and peddlers, Syrian immigrants in the Americas fed the early twentieth-century transnational textile trade. This book offers a history of global textile industry and Syrians, Lebanese, and Palestinians who worked in it. Fahrenthold examines how Arab workers navigated processes of racialization, immigration restriction, and labor contestation. She writes women workers, the majority of the Syrian garment workers, back into US labor history. She also situates the rise of Syrian American industrial elites, who exerted supply chain power to combat labor uprisings, resist unionization, and stake claim on the global textile industry. Critiquing the hegemony of the Syrian peddler in histories of this diaspora, Unmentionables introduces alternative narrators: union activists who led street demonstrations; women garment workers who shut down kimono factories; child laborers who threw snowballs at police; and the diasporic merchant capitalists who contended with all of them.

“An important contribution to the history of Syrian nationalism. Fahrenthold amplifies the diasporic dimension of the ‘right of return.’ A must read for scholars of the modern Middle East, inter-war politics, and national liberation struggles.”

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

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

312 pages, 2022
9781503631649 Paper $26.00  $20.80 sale

Maghreb Noir
Paraska Tolan-Szkilnik
This book dives into the personal and political lives of the militant-artists who collectively challenged the neo-colonialist structures and authoritarianism of African states. 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

272 pages, 2023
9781503635913 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale

Monuments Decolonized
Algeria’s French Colonial Heritage
Susan Slyomovics
“Statuomania” overtook Algeria 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.

“This invaluable work unpacks the complexities of colonial and war monuments’ signifiers, histories, and affects in Algeria and France. Monuments Decolonized is a groundbreaking textual and visual call for a ‘transformative action.’”
—Samia Henni, McGill University

368 pages, July 2024
9781503639485 Paper $35.00  $28.00 sale
Island and Empire
How Civil War in Crete Mobilized the Ottoman World
Uğur Zekeriya Peçe

In the 1890s, conflict erupted on Crete, amid clashing claims of sovereignty between the Ottoman Empire and Greece. The conflict unleashed a humanitarian catastrophe with the displacement of more than seventy thousand Muslims. Exploring both the emergence and legacies of this violence, this book demonstrates how Cretan refugees 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 and the transformation of the Middle East.

“Among the many achievements of this extraordinary book is its lessons in why and how turn-of-the-century imperial interventions in culturally intimate Greek and Turkish communities contributed to the entrenchment of narratives of unbridgeable clash of civilizations. An essential read to make sense of the roots of the disorder in the contemporary world.”
—Cemil Aydin, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

264 pages, June 2024
9781503639232 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

The Order and Disorder of Communication
Pamphlets and Polemics in the Seventeenth-Century Ottoman Empire
Nir Shafir

This book investigates the political and cultural institutions used to navigate, regulate, and encourage the circulation of information in the seventeenth-century Ottoman Empire. Shafir sketches an ecology of texts, examining how they were produced, their movement 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. Shafir illuminates a vibrant and evolving premodern manuscript culture.

“Rich in ideas and lucid in argument, Nir Shafir’s book has manifold implications for understanding the early modern Muslim world. Shafir shows how the Ottoman ‘communication order’ enabled polemics to spread polarization, misinformation, and, paradoxically, disorder among the reading public.”
—Nile Green, University of California, Los Angeles

424 pages, July 2024
9781503638952 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale

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 agricultural transformation. This book examines the processes and effects of agrarian transformation as Ottoman, Syrian, Lebanese, and French officials grappled with these new technologies. Williams investigates the fragmented natures produced by 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 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.

“States of Cultivation boasts a flowing narrative magnificently documented, a strong yet unforced argument, and a respect for the voices of the region that spoke and wrote on the making of life in agriculture.”
—Martha Mundy, London School of Economics

446 pages, 2023
9781503634688 Cloth $75.00 $60.00 sale
Disorder and Diagnosis
*Health and the Politics of Everyday Life in Modern Arabia*
Laura Frances Goffman

This book offers a history of medicine, disease, and public health in the Persian Gulf from the late nineteenth century until the 1973 oil boom. Pursuits of health created shifting boundaries of rule between imperial officials, indigenous elites, and local populations, and health policies compelled scientists and administrators to categorize fluid populations and ambiguous territorialities. As a discourse, health facilitated notions of racial difference, opposing native uncleanliness to white purity and hygiene, and indigenous medicine to modern science. Placing health at the center of political and social change, Goffman weaves the Gulf and Arabian Peninsula into global circulations of commodities and movements of people.

“Laura Goffman’s exemplary work achieves a bottom-up narrative of healthcare and disease and multifaceted history of medicine as experienced by patients and practitioners alike. Disorder and Diagnosis is essential reading.”
—Elise Burton, University of Toronto

364 pages, October 2024
9781503640818 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale

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

374 pages, 2023
9781503635623 Paper $32.00  $25.60 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, 2022
9781503631267 Paper $28.00  $22.40 sale
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

The Afterlife of Ottoman Europe  
Muslims in Habsburg Bosnia Herzegovina  
Leyla Amzi-Erdogdular

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-Erdogdular 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 and the modern world.

"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

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 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.

"Part biography, part political geography, and part history of a truly unsettling time, Losing Istanbul reveals lives and intimate relationships that did not survive the Ottoman Empire into the new Turkish Republic. Mostafa Minawi has written a brilliant book—painstaking, rich, and unique."
—Eve Troutt-Powell, University of Pennsylvania

STANFORD STUDIES ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

326 pages, 2022  
9781503634046 Paper $30.00  
$24.00 sale
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

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

This book traces the political power of motherhood and childrearing in Arabic thought. Ferguson reveals how debates around raising children became foundational to feminist, Islamist, and nationalist politics alike—opening up conversations about civilization, society, freedom, temporality, labor, and democracy. These debates attached the fate of nations to women’s unwaged labor in the home. Ferguson thus reveals why women and the family have been stumbling blocks for representative regimes around the world. She shows how Arab women’s writing speaks to global questions—the devaluation of social reproduction under capitalism, the stubborn maleness of the liberal subject, and why the naturalization of embodied, binary gender difference has proven so difficult to overcome.

“With innovation and bravery, Susanna Ferguson offers new ways of understanding the concepts that constitute the modern era: growth, time, and sexuality.”
—Sherene Seikaly, University of California, Santa Barbara
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.

“Masterfully demonstrates the intertwining of personhood, love, and sociability in early modern Iran. This innovative study sheds important light on the lives of literate Isfahanis who imagined a world at the threshold of modernity.”
—Kishwar Rizvi, Yale University

280 pages, 2021. Released in paperback, March 2024
9781503640108 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale

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

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

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

352 pages, 2023
9781503636231 Paper $30.00  $24.00 sale

Contested City
Citizen Advocacy and Survival in Modern Baghdad
Alissa Walter

This book offers a history of state-society relations in Baghdad, exploring how city residents managed through periods of economic growth, sanctions, and war, from the from the oil boom of the 1950s through the withdrawal of US troops in 2011. Interactions between citizens and their rulers shaped the social fabric and political realities of the city. Notably, low-ranking Ba’th party officials functioned as crucial intermediaries, deciding how regime policies would be applied. Walter reveals how authoritarian governance worked in practice. She illuminates citizens’ self-advocacy and the important role of low-ranking party officials and state bureaucrats embedded within neighborhoods. The US occupation and ensuing sectarian fighting upended Baghdad’s neighborhoods through violent displacement and the collapse of basic state services. This power vacuum paved the way for new power brokers, including militias and neighborhood councils, to compete for influence on the local level.

328 pages, February 2025
9781503641426 Paper $32.00  $25.60 sale
In the Shadow of the Wall
The Life and Death of Jerusalem’s Maghrebi Quarter, 1187–1967
Vincent Lemire

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

“Engaging, sensitive and beautifully written, In the Shadow of the Wall brings to life a silenced and forgotten history.”
—Abigail Jacobson, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

400 pages, 2023
9781503634206 Paper $32.00  $25.60 sale

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

In the late 1960s, Israel became more closely entwined with the United States not only as a strategic ally but also through its intensifying intimacy with American culture, society, and technology. This book shows how the emergence of an American-inflected consumer modernity profoundly shaped Israeli life in a moment of great transition. Taking an expansive view of Israeli–American encounters, Frankel reveals their unexpected consequences: the 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.

“A unique and revealing study of Israeli society, US–Israel relations, and the global transformations of American culture. Beautifully written and sharply argued, this is transnational history at its best.”
—Nico Slate, Carnegie Mellon University

344 pages, July 2024
9781503639522 Paper $35.00  $28.00 sale

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 shaped and structured by gendered policies and ideologies and experienced by men and women in a gendered form—from the decision to immigrate and the anticipation of change 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

Stanford Studies in Jewish History and Culture
336 pages, 2023
9781503636330 Cloth $65.00  $52.00 sale

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The Business of Transition
Jewish and Greek Merchants of Salonica from Ottoman to Greek Rule
Paris Papamichos Chronakis
In this social and cultural history, Papamichos Chronakis shows how Jewish and Greek merchants of Salonica skillfully managed the tumultuous shift from Ottoman to Greek rule amid revolution and war, rising ethnic tensions, and heightened class conflict. He traces their entangled trajectories as businessmen, community members, and civic leaders to illustrate how the self-reinvention of a Jewish-led bourgeoisie made a city Greek. Papamichos Chronakis draws on previously untapped local archival material to weave a rich narrative of individual portraits, introducing us to revered philanthropists and committed patriots, as well as vilified profiteers and victimized Salonicans. Offering a kaleidoscopic view of a city in transition, this book reveals how the collapse of empire shook all the constitutive elements of Jewish and Greek identities, and how Jews and Greeks reinvented themselves amidst these larger political and economic disruptions.

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
384 pages, October 2024
9781503639669 Cloth $70.00 $56.00 sale

Diary of a Black Jewish Messiah
The Sixteenth-Century Journey of David Reubeni through Africa, the Middle East, and Europe
Alan Verskin
This book offers the first English translation of Reubeni’s diary, detailing his travels and personal travails. In 1524, Reubeni appeared in Venice, claiming to be the ambassador of a powerful Jewish kingdom that looked to deliver Jews to the Holy Land. He spent a decade shuttling between European rulers seeking support. Reubeni’s grand ambitions were halted when he was turned over to the Inquisition and, in 1538, likely burned at the stake. Reubeni’s diary reveals the dramatic desperation of Renaissance Jewish communities and the struggles of the diplomat, trickster, and dreamer who wanted to save them.

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

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
212 pages, 2023
9781503634435 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

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

STANFORD STUDIES IN JEWISH HISTORY AND CULTURE
112 pages, 2023
9781503632912 Paper $20.00 $16.00 sale
Country of Words
A Transnational Atlas for Palestinian Literature
Refqa Abu-Remaileh

This digital project retraces and remaps the global story of Palestinian literature in the twentieth century, from the Arab world to Europe, North America, and Latin America. The story of Palestinian literature resembles the story of its people: an entire nation-in-exile scattered and 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. Country of Words gives us the opportunity to think of new ways to write nonlinear, nonconventional literary histories of displacement and movement, exposing new constellations, networks, trajectories, relationships, and collaborations.

“Visionary and transformative! With its rich use of primary sources, archival photographs, data visualizations, and audio interviews, Country of Words serves as an invaluable resource and an innovative model for the future of literary pasts.”
—Michael Allan, University of Oregon

STANFORD DIGITAL PUBLISHING INITIATIVE
2023
Explore at countryofwords.org

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 University

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
9781503635883 Paper $26.00 $20.00 sale

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9781503635883 Paper $26.00 $20.00 sale
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

328 pages, 2022
9781503629776 Paper $28.00
$22.40 sale

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

328 pages, 2022
9781503629776 Paper $28.00
$22.40 sale

The Politics of Melodrama
The Cultural and Political Lives of Ihsan Abdel Kouddous and Gamal Abdel Nasser
Jonathan Smolin

Ihsan Abdel Kouddous is the most popular writer of Arabic fiction in the twentieth century. The Politics of Melodrama is the first book to consider both his outsized cultural influence and consequential position in Egyptian politics. Smolin frames the work of Abdel Kouddous not as mere lowbrow romantic melodrama, but as a new model of Arabic fiction as dissent—contesting the fate of the 1952 revolution and condemning Nasser’s betrayal of democracy. Media and popular fiction became spaces of negotiation between the intellectual and the state, contesting Nasser and his politics during a period that has been widely assumed to be devoid of dissent.

“Jonathan Smolin vividly resurrects the man and his era with a fluent and sweeping narrative. A new benchmark for literary and intellectual biographies in our field—decisive, lucid, and meticulously researched.”
—Yoav Di-Capua, The University of Texas at Austin

344 pages, December 2024
9781503641273 Paper $32.00
$25.60 sale