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From Resilience To Revolution: How Foreign Interventions Destabilize The Middle East (Columbia Studies In Middle East Politics)



Synopsis

Based on comparative historical analyses of Iran, Jordan, and Kuwait, Sean L. Yom examines the foreign interventions, coalitional choices, and state outcomes that made the political regimes of the modern Middle East. A key text for foreign policy scholars, *From Resilience to Revolution* shows how outside interference can corrupt the most basic choices of governance: who to reward, who to punish, who to compensate, and who to manipulate. As colonial rule dissolved in the 1930s and 1950s, Middle Eastern autocrats constructed new political states to solidify their reigns, with varying results. Why did equally ambitious authoritarians meet such unequal fates? Yom ties the durability of Middle Eastern regimes to their geopolitical origins. At the dawn of the postcolonial era, many autocratic states had little support from their people and struggled to overcome widespread opposition. When foreign powers intervened to bolster these regimes, they unwittingly sabotaged the prospects for long-term stability by discouraging leaders from reaching out to their people and bargaining for mass support—clearly coalitional decisions that created repressive institutions and planted the seeds for future unrest. Only when they were secluded from larger geopolitical machinations did Middle Eastern regimes come to grips with their weaknesses and build broader coalitions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A valuable work that makes a strong contribution to the study of Middle Eastern politics. (Michael Herb, Georgia State University) This outstanding work of comparative political history shows the

complex interaction between the global and the local and the enduring effects of choices made during constitutive moments in state formation. (Washington Post - 15 Best Middle East Books)[A] richly theoretical analysis, elegantly written and supported by the most recent comparative political literature.... This is a compelling study not just for Middle Eastern studies but also for comparative politics in general. (Choice)A very good book. It is well written, researched, and argued, and it provides a compelling explanation of outcomes that remain highly salient to both political theorists and practitioners. (Middle East Journal)Impressive.... Yom's nuanced transnational account broadens our understanding of regime durability in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. (Journal of Politics)Sean L. Yom has written a brilliant yet easily digestible monograph that explains the essential problem facing regimes in the Middle East today. (Political Science Quarterly)

Yom argues that the durability of Middle Eastern regimes stems from their geopolitical origins. Based on comparative historical analyses of Iran, Jordan, and Kuwait, Yom examines the foreign interventions, coalitional choices, and state outcomes that characterize the modern Middle East. A key text for foreign policy scholars, *From Resilience to Revolution* shows how outside interference can corrupt the most basic choices of governance: who to reward, who to punish, who to compensate, and who to manipulate.

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