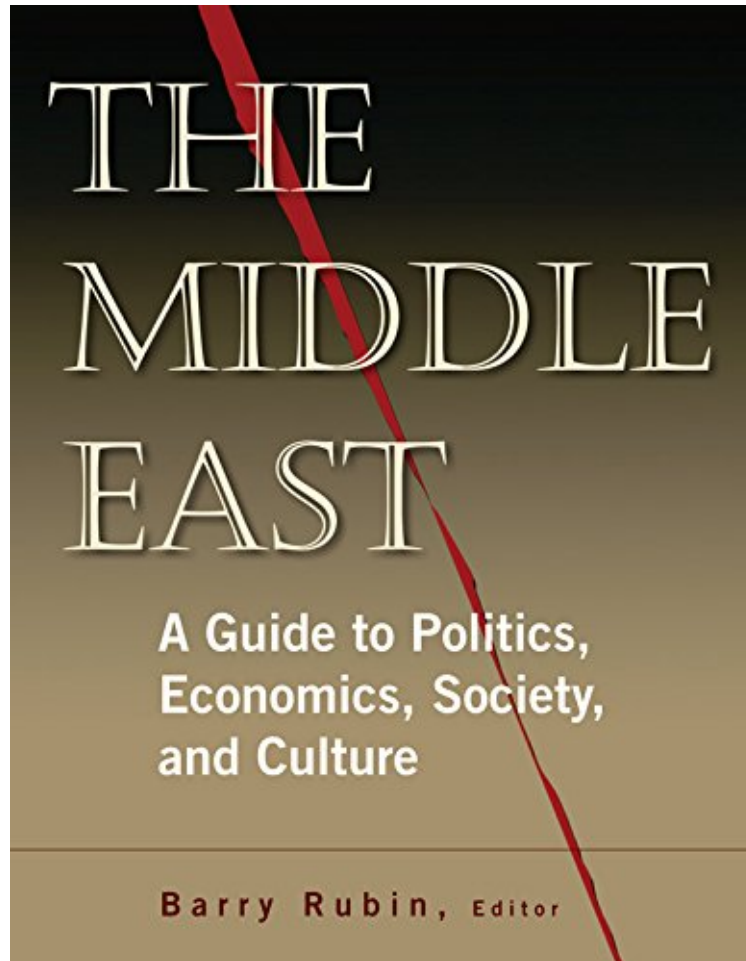


The Middle East: A Guide to Politics, Economics, Society and Culture

Barry Rubin

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Provides a comprehensive overview of the development of the field of Organizational Behavior. This book covers the foundations of the scientific method, theory development, and the accrual of scientific knowledge in the field. It introduces the ideas of pioneers whose work pre-dates the emergence of Organizational Behavior.

From Booklist This set focuses on the "culture, religion, women, economics, governance, and media" of the Middle East. It is divided into seven parts, and each is further subdivided into salient sections. Each section ends with a list of additional references. Part 1 explores governance. The first few sections provide historical background and regional perspectives (with an emphasis on the Arab region), while subsequent sections focus on individual countries. The last section serves as a conclusion and comments on the recent uprising (Arab Spring) spreading across the region. Part 2 focuses on economics, covering commodities, demography, and governance as well as specific economies in various regions within the Middle East. Part 3, "Media in the Middle East," starts with country-specific sections. Subsequent sections explore the implications of satellite TV, with a special emphasis on Al-Jazeera. A strength of this part is that different authors have contributed to the various sections, thus providing readers with a broader and less biased perspective of the topic. Part 4 covers religion, focusing primarily on Islam. Christianity is also discussed, as is Judaism within the context of Israel. Other minority religions (such as Zoroastrianism and Hinduism) as well as mystical interpretations of Islam (Sufism) are not given as much attention. Part 5 has three distinct sections, which focus on Arab, Iranian, and Israeli cultures. Like the part on media, each entry has a different author, providing a more balanced perspective. However, it is slightly unbalanced, with 19 pages on Arab culture, 27 pages on Israeli culture, and only 7 pages on Iranian culture. Part 6, "People of the Middle East," focuses almost exclusively on indigenous ethnicities in the region. Migration has brought other minorities, their cultures, and their influences on society, and this interaction is underemphasized. Part 7 focuses on women in the Middle East and features a discussion of the status of women and a short history, followed by country-specific analysis. The book's two-page conclusion advocates liberal democracy but rates it as having "little tradition, few adherents, and a much slimmer likelihood of gaining hold in the foreseeable future." An index follows the conclusion. The work serves as a good starting point for those interested in the contemporary Middle East—especially in indigenous cultures and religions. It is well suited for high-school and undergraduate introductory courses. --Muhammed Hassanali