

2014

# Middle Eastern Studies:

Contemporary Issues

Literature in Translation

Political Crisis

Politics of Food

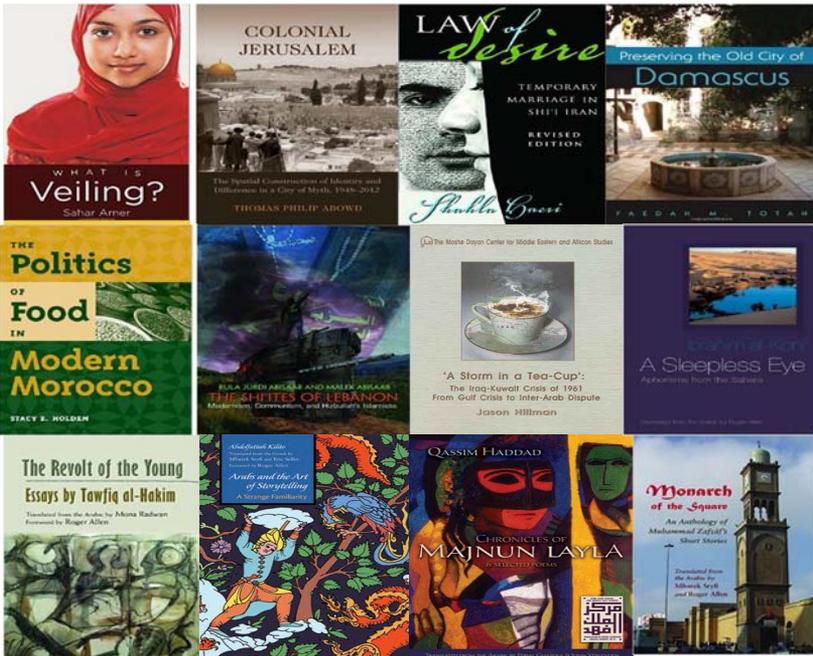
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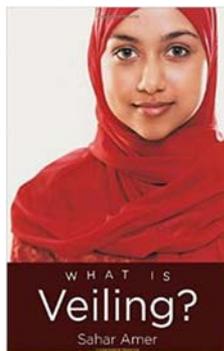
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## Contemporary Issues



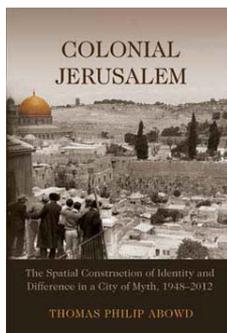
### What is Veiling?

**Sahar Amer**

Ranging from simple head scarf to full-body burqa, the veil is worn by vast numbers of Muslim women around the world. *What Is Veiling?* explains one of the most visible, controversial, and least understood emblems of Islam. Sahar Amer's evenhanded approach is anchored in sharp cultural insight and rich historical context. Addressing the significance of veiling in the religious, cultural, political, and social lives of Muslims, past and present, she examines the complex roles the practice has played in history, religion, conservative and progressive perspectives, politics and regionalism, society and economics, feminism, fashion, and art. By highlighting the multiple meanings of veiling, the book decisively shows that the realities of the practice cannot be homogenized or oversimplified and extend well beyond the religious and political accounts that are overwhelmingly proclaimed both inside and outside Muslim-majority societies.

**University of North Carolina Press, September 2014**

**9781469617756, cloth, \$35.00**



### Colonial Jerusalem

**The Spatial Construction of Identity and Difference in a City of Myth, 1948-2012**

**Thomas Philip Abowd**

In one of the few anthropological works focusing on a contemporary Middle Eastern city, *Colonial Jerusalem* explores a vibrant urban center at the core of the decades-long Palestinian-Israeli conflict. This book shows how colonialism, far from being simply a fixture of the past as is often suggested, remains a crucial component of Palestinian and Israeli realities today. Abowd deftly illuminates everyday life under

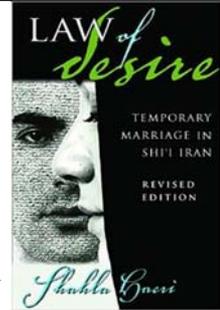
Israel's long military occupation as it is defined by processes and conditions of "apartness" and separation as Palestinians are increasingly regulated and controlled. Abowd examines how both national communities are progressively divided by walls, checkpoints, and separate road networks in one of the most segregated cities in the world.

**Syracuse University Press, April 2014**

**9780815633488, cloth, \$43.75**

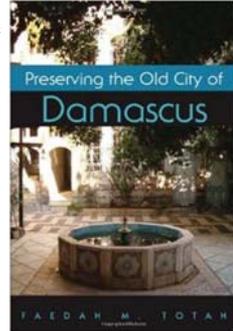
**Law of Desire****Shahla Haeri**

This revised edition includes a postscript contextualizing this classic work within contemporary Iranian society. *Law of Desire* contains some very interesting, often heartbreaking, life stories of women...It is the first of its kind to deal with a taboo issue which, despite its social and political importance, has been neglected and overlooked by a wide range of political opinion in Iran. A pioneering contribution to our scant knowledge of marriage practices and the dynamics of male-female relationships in Iran.

**Syracuse University Press, September 2014****9780815633815, paper, \$31.25****Preserving the Old City of Damascus****Faedah M. Totah**

One of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and a major cultural and religious center, Damascus is a repository of numerous civilizations, ancient and modern, that embody the collective national as well as Arab/Islamic memory. Although a protected UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1979, the Old City only attracted the interest of investors toward the end of the last century. The historic neighborhoods of greater Damascus became the focus of private investment when the government encouraged a more market-based national economy.

Distinguished from other neighborhoods by the large number of religious buildings, historic monuments, and a wall with foundations in the Roman period, the Old City is important for government efforts to promote heritage tourism as part of their entry into the global economy. In *Preserving the Old City of Damascus*, Totah examines the recent gentrification of the historic urban core of the Syrian capital and the ways in which urban space becomes the site for negotiating new economic and social realities. The book illustrates how long-term inhabitants of the historic quarter, developers, and government officials offer at times competing interpretations of urban space and its use as they vie for control over the representation of the historic neighborhoods.

**Syracuse University Press, April 2014****9780815633495, cloth, \$50.00**

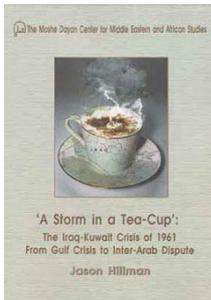


**The Shi'ites of Lebanon**  
**Modernism, Communism, and**  
**Hizbollah's Islamists**  
**Rula Jurdi Abisaab, McGill University**  
**Malek Abisaab, McGill University**

The complex history of Lebanese Shi'ites has traditionally been portrayed as rooted in religious and sectarian forces. The Abisaabs uncover a more nuanced account in which colonialism, the modern state, social class, and provincial politics profoundly shaped Shi'i society. The authors trace the sociopolitical, economic, and intellectual transformation of the Shi'ites of Lebanon from 1920 during the French colonial period until the late twentieth century. They shed light on the relationship of contemporary Islamic militancy with traditions of religious modernism and leftism in both Lebanon and Iraq. Analyzing the interaction between sacred and secular features of modern Shi'ite society, the authors clearly follow the group's turn toward religious revolution and away from secular activism. This book transforms our understanding of twentieth-century Lebanese history and demonstrates how the rise of Hizbullah was conditioned by Shi'ites' consistent marginalization and neglect by the Lebanese state.

**Syracuse University Press, October 2014**  
**9780815633723, cloth, \$62.50**

## Political Crisis



**"A Storm in a Tea-Cup"**  
**The Iraq-Kuwait Crisis of 1991**  
**From Gulf Crisis to Inter-Arab Dispute**  
**Jason Hillman**

Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, triggered a full-blown crisis whose ramifications reverberate to the present day. Few people at the time were aware of the details of the Iraq-Kuwaiti dispute, let alone the fact that twenty-nine years earlier, on the heels of receiving independence from Great

Britain, Kuwait had been subjected to blatant Iraqi threats of invasion. That long-forgotten episode, which triggered the return of British troops to protect Kuwait, followed by a successful effort to achieve an "Arab solution" to the crisis, is brought to life in this detailed account.

**Syracuse University Press, August 2014**  
**9789652240972, paper, \$17.50**

## Politics of Food

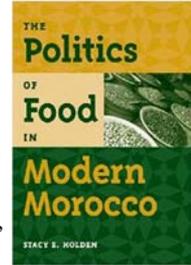
### **The Politics of Food in Modern Morocco**

**Stacy E. Holden**

Unlike most other countries in the Middle East and North Africa, Morocco has had a stable government for centuries. Even when it was a French protectorate (1912-56), the Alaouite Sultans wielded centralized power. The reasons why are the subject of Stacy Holden's book, and the answers may come as a surprise. Holden successfully argues that, rather than the importance of a theocratic government to the citizenry, the key factor in the government's stability is its ability to provide food to its people in an equitable manner, despite arid conditions.. Further, without apologizing for abuses of power, she suggests that an authoritative government may be the most logical form of government in the semi-arid lands of the Arab-Islamic world.

**University Press of Florida, February 2015**

**9780813060903, paper, \$31.25**



## Literature in Translation

### **Revolt of the Young**

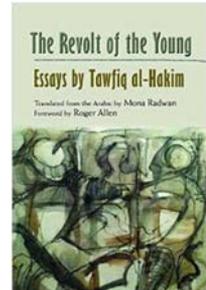
**Essays by Tawfiq al-Hakim**

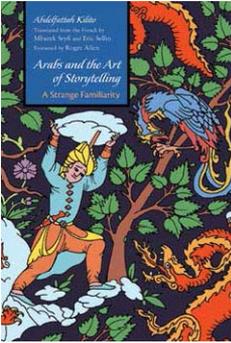
**Translated by Mona Radwan**

Tawfiq al-Hakim (1898-1987) is recognized as one of the most important figures in the history of modern Arabic literature. Considered a pioneer in many literary forms, including drama, novels, and short stories, al-Hakim influenced generations of Egyptian writers. The Revolt of the Young is a collection of essays originally published in 1984 that shows al-Hakim as a public intellectual addressing the ongoing conflict between generations. Al-Hakim muses on the cultural, artistic, and intellectual links and breakages between the old and the young generations. He focuses on the young and their role in the continuing development of Egyptian society, which over the course of the last century or so has undergone foreign occupation, an experiment in parliamentary democracy within a monarchical system, a socialist revolution characterized by both successes and failures, the emergence of a dictatorial presidency, and now the development of a complex political scenario currently dominated by groups with varyingly strong ties to the tenets of Islam.

**Syracuse University Press, November 2014**

**9780815633686, cloth, \$31.25**





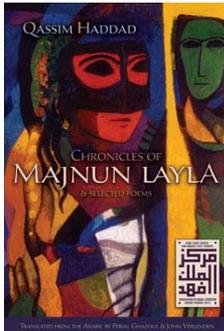
**Arabs and the Art of Storytelling**  
**A Strange Familiarity**  
**Abdelfattah Kilito**

**Translated by Mbarek Sryfi and Eric Sellin**

In *Arabs and the Art of Storytelling*, the eminent Moroccan literary historian and critic Kilito revisits and reassesses, in a modern critical light, many traditional narratives of the Arab world. He brings to such celebrated texts as *A Thousand and One Nights*, *Kalila and Dimna*, and *Kitab al-Bukhala'* refreshing and iconoclastic insight, giving new life to classic stories that are often treated as fossilized and untouchable cultural treasures. For Arab scholars and readers, poetry has for centuries taken precedence, overshadowing narrative as a significant literary genre. Here, Kilito demonstrates the key role narrative has played in the development of Arab belles lettres and moral philosophy. His urbane style has earned him a devoted following among specialists and general readers alike, making this translation an invaluable contribution to an English-speaking audience.

**Syracuse University Press, October 2014**

**9780815633716, cloth, \$37.50**



**Chronicles of Majnun Layla and Selected Poems**  
**Qassim Haddad**

**Translated by Feral Ghazoul and John Ver-**

**lenden** Winner of the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies Translation of Arabic Literature Award 2013. *Chronicles of Majnun Layla and Selected Poems* brings together in one volume Haddad's seminal work and a considerable selection of poems from his oeuvre, stretching over forty years. The central poem, *Chronicles of Majnun Layla*, recasts the seventh-century myth into a contemporary, postmodern narrative that revels in the foibles of oral transmission, weaving a small side cast of characters into the fabric of the poem. Haddad portrays Layla as a daring woman aware of her own needs and desires and not afraid to articulate them. The author succeeds in reviving this classical work of Arab love while liberating it from its puritanical dimension and tribal overtones. The selected poems reveal Haddad's playful yet profound meditations.

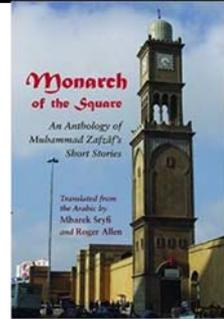
**Syracuse University Press, September 2014**

**9780815610373, paper, \$18.75**

**Monarch of the Square**  
**An Anthology of Muhammad Zafzaf's**  
**Short Stories**  
**Mbarek Sryfi**

A master of the short story form, Muhammad Zafzaf is one of Morocco's greatest narrative writers. This anthology, the first collection of his work translated into English, is a tribute to the remarkable influence he exerted on an entire generation of Moroccan storytellers. Zafzaf's stories are set within a variety of contexts, each portraying a slice of life, a simple struggle for survival in a challenging world that is changing at a rapid pace. Narrative time is reduced to a single glimpse in these stories, full of irony, sarcasm, and sympathy. He covers all aspects of Moroccan life, from remote rural villages to modern cities. The stories in this collection explore the various myths, beliefs, and traditions that operate within Moroccan culture, questioning them from a distance in an easy, conversational manner that is the hallmark of Zafzaf's style.

**Syracuse University Press, October 2014**  
**9780815633693, paper, \$37.50**



**A Sleepless Eye**  
**Aphorisms from the Sahara**

**Ibrahim Al-Koni**  
**Edited by Roger Allen**

The Libyan landscape is one of the most diverse and breathtaking, replete with barren deserts, vast ocean coasts, and a stunning display of earth's elements. Al-Koni, an award-winning and critically acclaimed Arabic writer, reflects on this fragile environment and the increasing threats to its existence in *A Sleepless Eye*, a collection of the poet's desert wisdom. He highlights the relationships between humans and Libya's natural features, grouping them by theme: nature, desert, water, sea, wind, rock, trees, and fire. Each theme contains a set of aphorisms that deliver thoughtful perspectives on what it means to coexist with an evolving planet. This volume is the result of the author's collaboration with the celebrated French nature photographer, Alain Sèbe, and English translator Allen. The product is a body of work that calls upon readers to question their relationship with the earth through meditative ideas and photos.

**Syracuse University Press, March 2014**  
**978081610342, cloth, \$18.75**

