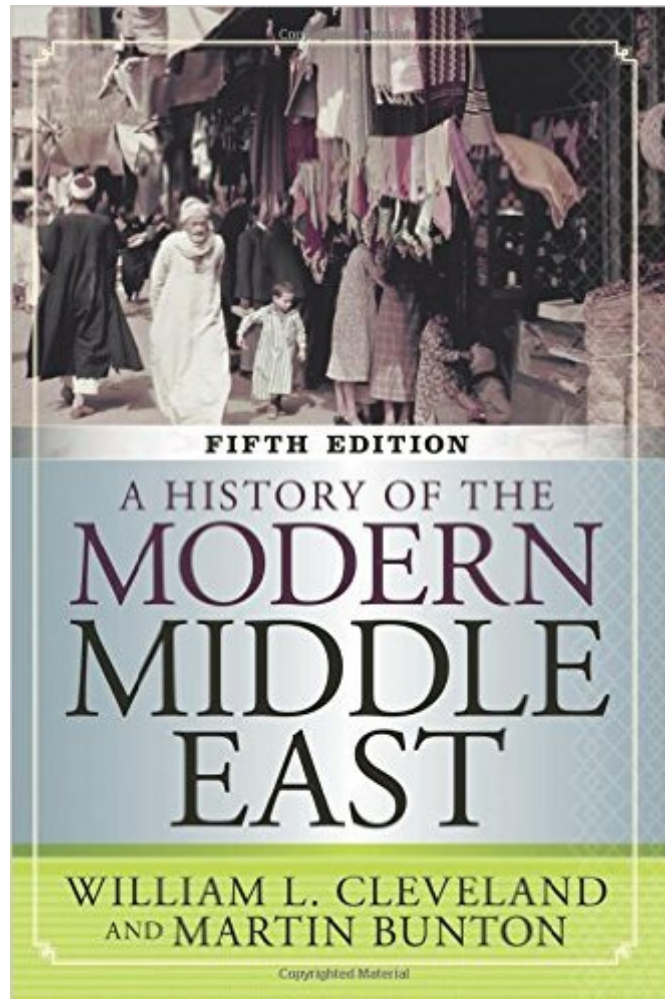


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A History Of The Modern Middle East, 5th Edition



Synopsis

This definitive history of the modern Middle East includes significant new material covering major transformative developments over the past four years.

Book Information

Paperback: 600 pages

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Customer Reviews

Edition reviewed: 2nd (applies to all editions) William Cleveland hopes to paint a detailed picture of history in *A Modern History of the Middle East*; unfortunately, his picture is painted like a blind Picasso wearing a blindfold "poorly corresponding to reality. Cleveland is detailed, explains foreign terms well, gives an accurate history of the Ottomans, and the book's inclusion of maps would make Bilbo gleeful. Thus end the positives. In the preface to the second edition, Cleveland views the terms 'modernization' and 'Westernization' as "having taken on connotations that are either value-laden or culturally judgmental, or both" (pp xiv). He substitutes these words with "transformation," one he thinks better suited to describe the Western style changes of modernization that occurred in the Middle East (notice the easy use of the two words he decides to forego). It is unclear to this reader why he views the term "Western" as culturally judgmental and uses the romantic "transformation;" the term "reformation" would have better suited Cleveland for accuracy. Concerning accuracy, three claims of Cleveland's will now be examined, all ringing pots and pans in the middle of the night. The first deals with Hajj Amin al-Husseini, the mufti of Jerusalem, who "appeared willing to cooperate with the British administration in preventing acts of violence, and who was more moderate than [the Zionists and Arab Nationalists] acknowledge" (pp. 243-44). Cleveland continues by saying that "until the

outbreak of violence in 1936, the mufti urged restraint on his followers and demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with the British in seeking a negotiated solution to the question of Jewish immigrants. • Hajj Amin?

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