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The New Arab Revolt: What Happened, What It Means, And What Comes Next



Synopsis

The New Arab Revolt: What Happened, What It Means, and What Comes Next sets the intellectual stage for understanding the revolutions in the Middle East. This collection brings together more than sixty articles, interviews, congressional testimony, and op-eds from experts and thought leaders, including Bernard Lewis, Fouad Ajami, Richard Haass, Lisa Anderson, Martin Indyk, Isobel Coleman, Aluf Benn, Dirk Vandewalle, and Nassim Nicholas Taleb. The volume includes seminal pieces from Foreign Affairs, ForeignAffairs.com, and CFR.org. In addition, major public statements by Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Hosni Mubarak, Muammar al-Qaddafi, and others are joined by Egyptian opposition writings and relevant primary source documents. Even if you have been paying close attention to the extraordinary events unfolding in the Middle East, this book pulls together what is needed to understand the origins and significance of the new Arab revolt, including a special introduction by Foreign Affairs editor Gideon Rose.

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Customer Reviews

The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) is an independent, nonpartisan membership organization, think tank, and publisher dedicated to being a resource for its members, government officials, business executives, journalists, educators and students, civic and religious leaders, and other interested citizens in order to help them better understand the world and the foreign policy choices facing the United States and other countries. Since its founding in 1922, Foreign Affairs, which is

published by CFR, has been the leading forum for serious discussion of American foreign policy and international affairs.

Given the speed with which the situation has continued changing in Egypt, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria and the remainder of the Arab world, it is inevitable that any book covering the events there will be outdated even as it is being written. This volume, which is astute and admirably balanced, will be of value for some time to come, though, in no small part because of its compendiousness. By focussing a lot of its attention on the public record and turning to long-time observers of the region, *The New Arab Revolt* guarantees that it will continue to be useful to both specialists and general readers for some time to come.

There are quite a few reasonably good articles. However, there is much repeating of the old mind-set re the West help generate it. This attitude needs to be discarded in favor of Islamic undercurrents responsible for it.

I should have previewed it. I was expecting the insights of Richard Haass but I found a compilation of essays that were somewhat dated. Still a lot of good info, just not what I was looking for

I trust the Council on Foreign Relations to always provide me with good information on world affairs. The Arab Revolt is a combination of Foreign Affairs publication articles and blogs. Often political blogs today are opinion pieces that attempt to make who the author likes to look intelligent and who they don't like to look foolish. CFR writers are scholars who provide good reliable information. If your looking for true policy wonks to explain foreign policy to you, CFR is a good choice. John Navarra
Daytona Beach, Florida

An excellent read -well worth it. I teach the subject and will recommend it to my students Neil Lazarus
twitter:@awesomeseminars

****"Liberals tend to be coteries who like whisky and the west but the masses incline towards men in beards" -- David Gardner, *Last Chance: the Middle East in the Balance*"For generations the Arab populations had bartered away their political freedom for economic protection. They rose in rebellion when it dawned on them that the bargain had not worked, that the system of subsidies, and the promise of equality held out by the autocrats, had proven a colossal failure," wrote Fouad Agami,

describing the root cause of the Arab Revolt. Unprecedented convulsions across the Middle East, triggered by Tunisia and prompted by Egypt's historical leadership in war and peace, raised hopes and fears, with intellectuals around the world and left experts of political think tanks, with some dangerous alternatives from chaos to economic collapse. It may turn out that, contrary to the opinion of David Gardner and many observers of the Middle East, secular liberals turn out to be more than just small coterie, but to influence much effective appeal to democracy. This seems to be the case in Egypt, revitalized peaceful 8th of July demonstration, and progressive Tunisia, but looks slightly harder in Libya and Yemen. It still sounds like wishful thinking, after six months of slow progress with many snags and debated decisions, which triggered random ups and downs. If, however, the democratic transition that we are now eager to see ends up bringing Islamist-centered governments to power, as was the case with Hamas, in Gaza strip. Theocratic governed Iran, as the socialist driven experiments in Egypt, Syria, and Iraq were ardent critics of western notions of economic freedom and democratic equality. With a dictatorial theocratic rule of three decades in Iran, then what? Discontent with the Mullahs regime in Iran was nationally manifest in 2009, when a rigged election brought massive crowds onto the streets, as was the case in Egypt, a year later. Despite Tehran's noisy claim of catalyzing the revolt across the region, said to be inspired by the Iranian revolution, three decades later, their brand of Theocratic Shiite Islamism does not sell well in the Sunni minds. The Arab revolt could more likely inspire Iranians to get rid of their oppressing regime. "The New Arab Revolt," edited by The Council on Foreign Relations, attempts to persuade the American intellectuals to pay a closer attention to the dramatic events unfolding in the Middle East, and analyzes the best and worst case scenarios of the Arab Revolt. With a timely collection of about sixty articles, congressional testimonies, and interviews by experts on the Middle East. Bernard Lewis, Fouad Ajami, Richard Haass, Martin Indyk, lead a roster of thought leaders, to explore, analyze and evaluate different alternatives. The 500 page volume includes articles from Foreign Affairs media, and primary source documents, and major public statements by the main players, joined by Egyptian opposition writings. Rock the Casbah: Rage and Rebellion Across the Islamic World

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