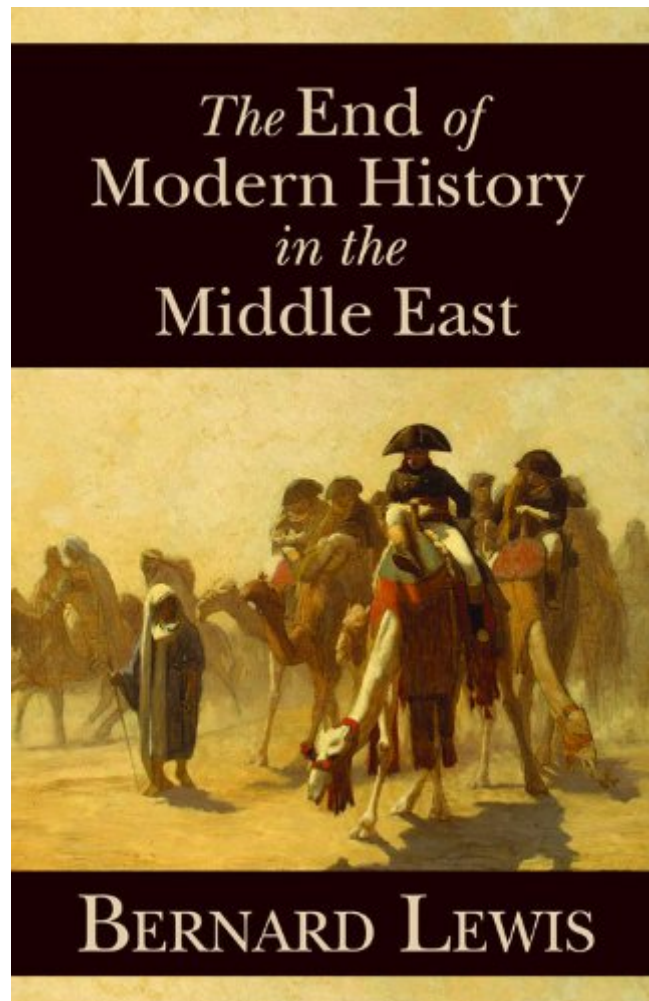


The book was found

The End Of Modern History In The Middle East (Hoover Institution Press Publication)



Synopsis

Bernard Lewis looks at the new era in the Middle East. With the departure of imperial powers, the region must now, on its own, resolve the political, economic, cultural, and societal problems that prevent it from accomplishing the next stage in the advance of civilization. There is enough in the traditional culture of Islam on the one hand and the modern experience of the Muslim peoples on the other, he explains, to provide the basis for an advance toward freedom in the true sense of that word.

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Customer Reviews

This book could be summed up as the "musings" of its author, Bernard Lewis, in what was obviously published before the most recent, and significant tremor in the region as of late, the "Arab Spring." There are only four chapters: 1) The End of Modern History in the Middle East 2) Propaganda in the Middle East 3) Iran: Haman or Cyrus 4) The New Anti-Semitism--First Religion, Then Race, Then What? The first two chapters alone take up nearly 70% percent of the book. I found the book, particularly the first part, to consist mostly of the "musings" of its author concerning the trends of the modern Middle East in light of its past two hundred years; Nevertheless, given the depth and

breadth of his knowledge, his musings still presented a reservoir of new information which I had yet to encounter in my other readings, and was most happy to come across in this book...particularly, the chronology and process by which the printing press slowly was introduced into the region, long after being exploited in Europe. The consequences of this process, particularly its tardiness in both its arrival and dissemination to the masses of the region left me aghast and questioning the extent to which this process contributed to today's disparity in literacy between the "West" and the modern Islamic world. The connection is cogent, considering that the original reason for the lack of enthusiasm that greeted the arrival of the printing press had to do with an Islamic fundamentalist fear of erring in the printing of God's Word, the Q'uran...and, today's lack of publishing and translation of books from Western languages into Arabic seems to be similarly derived from a fear of printing anything that contradicts the Prophet's revelation.

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