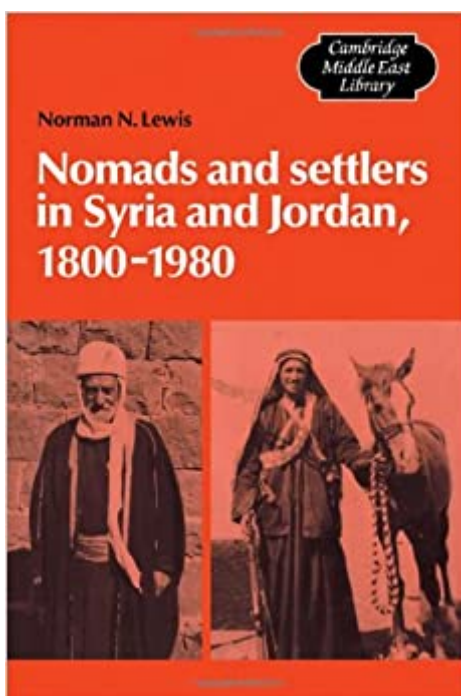


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Nomads And Settlers In Syria And Jordan, 1800-1980 (Cambridge Middle East Library)



Synopsis

This book is about the land and people of parts of the interior of Syria and Jordan. At the beginning of the nineteenth century most of the people were nomads and only a small proportion of the land was cultivated. Today nomads are few, peasants are numerous and nearly all the land that will bear a crop is under cultivation. This study shows how the present situation came about as the state extended and strengthened its hold on the countryside, the economy of the country developed, landlords and peasants took up hitherto uncultivated land and nomads settled down to become farmers. The concluding chapters discuss the effects of population growth, mechanised farming and overgrazing on the semi-arid environment and its inhabitants. Norman Lewis combines geographical, historical and ethnographical material derived from an immense variety of sources, including unpublished manuscripts and fieldwork undertaken over a period of forty years.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This study shows how the present situation came about as the state extended and strengthened its hold on the countryside, the economy of the country developed, landlords and peasants took up hitherto uncultivated land and nomads settled down to become farmers.

I study the Middle East and have read a lot of books on the subject, this is probably one of the most useful. The countries of the Middle East are actually quite new, this area was known as Greater Syria by the Ottomans and it was not until after WWI that the countries were carved out by the

Western winners of the war(that is a whole other story) This book explains what groups of people were active in this region, why they were there and how governmental activity worked in the different regions. Methods of land distribution is also explained, which is very important in understanding how things got to be the way they are. A number of Middle Eastern countries have failed to develop a national identity, they still think more in terms of tribal and family connections. I would encourage anyone who wants to make some sense out of what is happening today in the Middle East, to read this book.

Good

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