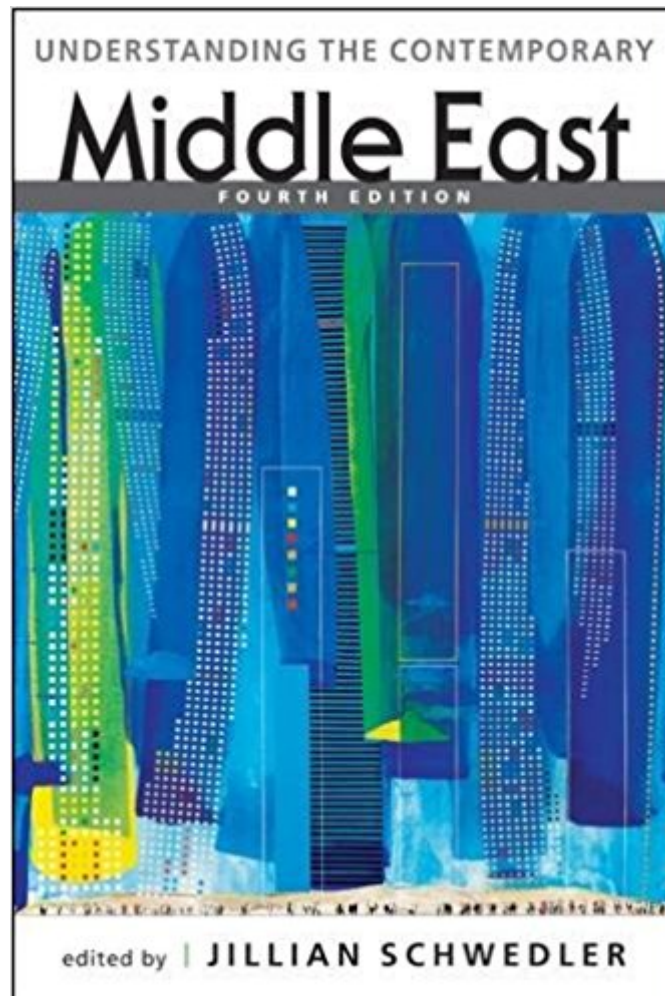




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# Understanding The Contemporary Middle East



## Synopsis

The fourth edition of *Understanding the Contemporary Middle East* has been fully revised and updated throughout to reflect the still-unfolding impact of the Arab Spring, the changing international environment, the impasse in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and much more. The book also includes an entirely new chapter on the role of women in the Middle East. Maps, photographs, and details of basic political data enhance the text, widely acknowledged as the best available introduction to the region.

## Book Information

Paperback: 487 pages

Publisher: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.; 4th edition edition (July 17, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1588269108

ISBN-13: 978-1588269102

Product Dimensions: 1 x 6 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #33,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #11 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African* #12 in *Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Middle East* #33 in *Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern*

## Customer Reviews

A must read for specialists in the field and an excellent choice for broad surveys.... Highly recommended. --(Choice)A multi-dimensional picture of the Middle East that comes alive as you browse through the pages.... It is seldom that one comes across such a good introduction to the Middle East that could be used for both undergraduate and postgraduate level courses. --(Pinar Bilgin, Millennium)A superb and engaging book profiling the region.... this unique volume is one of the few truly interdisciplinary books about the contemporary Middle East. --(Library Journal)

Jillian Schwedler is professor of political science at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Her publications include *Faith in Moderation: Islamist Parties in Jordan and Yemen* and (with Laleh Khalili) *Policing and Prisons in the Middle East: Formations of Coercion*.

This textbook was assigned for a "Demystifying The Modern Middle East" course at Stanford University, and we've been reading 1-2 chapters per week, though not in the order in which they're written in the book. This fourth edition, published in 2013 has been updated to reflect changing circumstances in the Middle East, and is probably due for yet another update due to the volatility in this region. The following chapters are included: 1 - Introduction 2 - The Middle East - a Geographic Preface 3 - The Historical Context 4 - Middle Eastern Politics 5 - International Relations 6 - The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict 7 - The Economies of the Middle East 8 - The Political Economy of Middle Eastern Oil 9 - Population Growth, Urbanization, and the Challenges of Unemployment 10 - Kinship, Class and Ethnicity 11 - The Role of Women 12 - Religion and Politics in the Middle East 13 - Middle Eastern Literature 14 - Trends and Prospects Each chapter is followed by a bibliography of sources that can serve as additional reading if you desire more in depth knowledge of that subject. There is also a comprehensive index. The text is very dense and academic and rather a slow read as there is a lot of information packed into a page. The reading experience could have been enlivened by more liberal use of photographs and illustrations. Nevertheless, the book offers a valuable overview of the region, and is very useful in understanding both the history and current complexities in this very volatile region of the world.

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