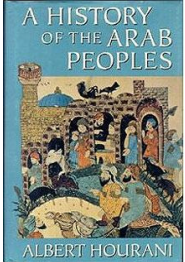
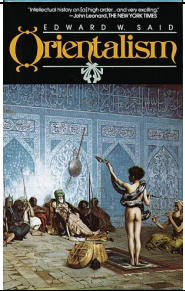
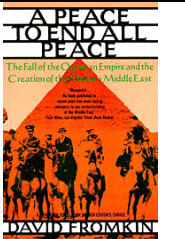
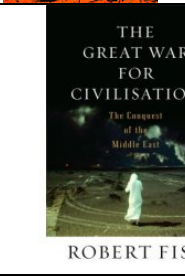
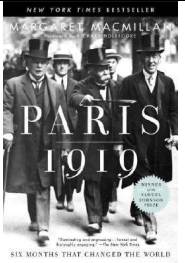
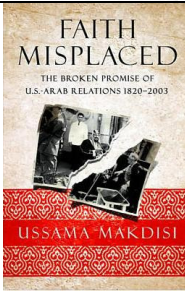
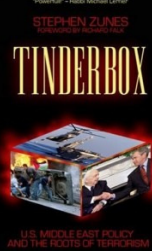
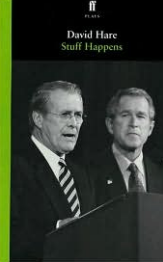




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|    | <p><i>A History of the Arab Peoples</i>, by Albert Hourani—A world-renowned and respected scholar, Hourani writes this comprehensive history in accessible, and lucid, language. For the scope of the topic at hand, this book is surprisingly concise without losing nuance. This book is a valuable tome for anyone’s library, and an excellent place to start.</p>  |
|    | <p><i>Orientalism</i>, by Edward Said—This classic is less about diplomatic or political history, and more about cultural dynamics in the relationships between Europe and the West on the one hand, and the so-called “Orient” on the other. Perhaps no book on the Middle East has sparked as much debate. Said’s main approach concerns the West’s (mis-) representation of the Middle East. A seminal contribution, but not easy reading, this book is part of Said’s trilogy, which also includes <i>Covering Islam</i> and <i>The Question of Palestine</i>.</p>   |
|   | <p><i>A Peace to End All Peace: The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and the Creation of the Modern Middle East</i>, by David Fromkin—Perhaps the best account of World War I as it impacted the Ottoman Empire, this book is important in helping readers today understand the processes that led to the dilemmas and difficulties facing prospects for peace today. Highly recommended.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>The Great War for Civilization</i>, by Robert Fisk—Not about the so-called modern “clash of civilizations,” this book’s title may surprise the reader, as it refers to another historical period. In Fisk’s unparalleled style, each chapter tells the story of an aspect of modern Middle East history. From the Armenians to Palestine, Lebanon and beyond, this book is fascinating and deeply engaging. It is not for the light-hearted (it’s over 1000 pages long), but each chapter is a self-contained unit worthy of study on its own.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>Paris 1919: Six Months that Changed the World</i>, by Margaret MacMillan—This book is a masterful treatment of the negotiations to end WW I, with chapters dedicated to many of the global issues facing the leaders at that time. Chapters on many of the countries of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East are very helpful in understanding the context of the discussions. While the Middle East section left a little to be desired, the holistic approach and the focus on many issues is helpful.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>Faith Misplaced: The Broken Promise of U.S.-Arab Relations: 1820-2001</i>, by Ussama Makdisi—If the beginning date looks familiar, it is not coincidence. Makdisi has chosen to begin this excellent analysis of American relations in the Middle East with the initial encounter of Board missionaries. Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Makdisi argues, potential for good relationships existed, and by examining the writings of people from the Middle East, documents this hope. The main turning point was the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, when hopes and actual policies clashed. His examination of Arabic sources is especially informative.</p> |



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|    | <p>Michael Oren’s book, <i>Power, Faith, and Fantasy: America in the Middle East 1776 to the Present</i>. Michael Oren is the current Israeli ambassador to the US, and academic. This book is an attempt in roughly 600 pages to cover the US’ diplomatic, religious (missionary), and cultural engagement with the Middle East over the life of the US. In it, he treats the 19<sup>th</sup> century missionary movement, and deserves our attention for that reason. It should be read critically for its treatment of themes and motives.</p> |
|    | <p><i>Tinderbox: U.S. Middle East Policy and the Roots of Terrorism</i>, by Stephen Zunes—Zunes’ brief yet deeply analytical book offers a helpful perspective on the history of U.S. involvement in the Middle East, with an argument that will help the reader understand attitudes in the region toward that very same policy.</p>   |
|   | <p><i>Illusion of Progress in the Arab World: A Critique of Western Misconstructions</i>, by Galal Amin—In this short but thoughtful book, Amin is back with a critique of a universal approach to issues related to development. This book is a response to the UN Reports on Development in the Arab World, and is an examination of the methodology and issues of those reports. Amin is a philosopher economist, and this book is just as much about the specific issues as it is about the ideas themselves in a broad context.</p>          |
|  | <p><i>Stuff Happens</i>, by David Hare—Hare is a British playwright who has masterfully recreated the diplomatic negotiations that led to the US invasion of Iraq in 2003. He draws on quotes from public speeches by some of the primary characters (Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld, Powell, and British and French officials as well) and imagines some of the closed conversations. The play is short, but makes a clear point about US intentions and approaches. A missing—but important—voice only appears in the last scene.</p>                   |
|  | <p><i>A Safe Haven: Harry S. Truman and the Founding of Israel</i>, by Allis Radosh and Ronald Radosh—This book walks the reader through the internal debates within the Truman administration and the internal debates within the American Jewish community on the issue of Israel and Jewish statehood. It is most valuable for these two aspects, as the research is quite good.</p>   |



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|  | <p><i>A World of Trouble: The White House and the Middle East from the Cold War to the War on Terror</i>, by Patrick Tyler—This is extensive history covers administrations from Eisenhower to George W. Bush with recommendations for the new administration. It is well-written and, as might be expected from a book on this breadth, fairly long (500+ pages). Essentially, each chapter focuses on an administration, with the narrative of a defining Middle East-related policy question as the narrative. It helps the reader live through some of these events in 20<sup>th</sup> century history, and into the 21<sup>st</sup>. The only drawback is that it tends to focus on one particular issue for each president, rather than the variety of issues faced by each.</p>                      |
|  | <p><i>Support Any Friend: Kennedy's Middle East and the Making of the U.S.-Israel Alliance</i>, by Warren Bass—Tracing the chronology of the Kennedy presidency in its Middle East engagements, this book will offer insight into the development of the “special relationship” between the U.S. and Israel from the early days. It treats on questions of military support as well as nuclear capabilities.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>The Arabists: The Romance of an American Elite</i>, by Robert D. Kaplan—An interesting examination of the engagement of Americans in the Middle East, especially by the diplomatic corps, Kaplan looks at the way people who took language and culture seriously eventually emerged as leaders in important roles, particularly in U.S. diplomacy in the Middle East.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>Cursed is the Peacemaker: The American Diplomat versus the Israeli General, Beirut 1982</i>, by John Boykin—A fascinating and very well researched account of the work of Amb. Philip Habib to negotiate peace in Lebanon in the summer of 1982, this book is also a biography of Habib. Most of the 320 pages of the book focus on a period of about 2 months in Lebanon, with inside accounts of the intense negotiations directed by Habib. The efforts to bring about a solution were intense, and heated. The book is extremely helpful if you wish to understand the invasion of Lebanon by Israel in that year, and the players involved. The author is sympathetic to Habib, who personally managed the PLO's exit from Beirut, and the story is told largely from over Habib's shoulder.</p> |



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|  | <p><i>The Missing Peace</i>, by Dennis Ross—This dense volume is a very thorough account of the negotiations that took place at Camp David in July 2000, written by one of the central players. Written with much detail, and personal impressions, Ross’s book is important as documentation of the meetings with Pres. Clinton, Prime Minister Barak, and Pres. Arafat.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>The Truth About Camp David</i>, by Clayton Swisher—If you have read Dennis Ross’s 800-page account of Camp David 2000, this book will be very helpful in understanding Camp David through the eyes of insiders other than Ross, and provides perspectives that sometimes contradict Ross’s account. This book is indispensable in understanding what happened in the year leading up to the summit, during the days at Camp David, and in the weeks following it. It is well-researched and told in a very readable fashion.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>Palestine, Peace not Apartheid</i>, by Jimmy Carter—While too much attention has been given to the title of Pres. Carter’s book, the content is more about his role in brokering the Camp David accords and how his emphasis on the occupation of Palestinian land has not been followed through. President Carter also helps to describe accurately the situation in the occupied West Bank.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>We Can Have Peace in the Holy Land</i>, by Jimmy Carter—Pres. Carter spends much time recapitulating history, most insightfully with excerpts from his own journal. He shares impression of the people he engaged with as President, and much the work he has done since. He then offers analysis and some ideas for the new president on pursuing peace in the Middle East. His most important point is that it is immediately urgent to decide what Israel-Palestine will look like: a one- or two-state solution, and pursue that fervently, with the hard choices involved.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Resurrecting Empire</i> and <i>Sowing Crises</i>, by Rashid Khalidi—These two books are clear descriptions of the ways that the US and Europe have impacted the current state of the Middle East, through an historical examination. Khalidi’s writing—and critique—are helpful contributions to understanding current dynamics.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>The Much Too Promised Land</i>, by Aaron David Miller—Miller recounts diplomatic history from the 1970’s through the present, by someone on the inside of American administrations. Focusing on Kissinger, Carter, and James Baker, as well as Clinton, Miller offers some honest and helpful assessment of the US’s role in seeking peace between the Israelis and Palestinians. Not overly partisan, Miller attempts to identify key issues and assess what the US has done right and wrong.</p>  |



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|  | <p><i>The Sorrows of Empire: Militarism, Secrecy, and the End of the Republic</i>, by Chalmers Johnson—This book is part of a series Johnson has written critiquing US foreign policy, and is particularly useful in understanding the US’ interest and reach in the Middle East. Johnson’s research is extensive, and his critique is strong. Here, he focuses on the military-industrial complex and the relationship between the arms industry and politics in this country. Other books include <i>Blowback</i> and <i>Nemesis</i>.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Kidnapping in Milan: The CIA on Trial</i>, by Steve Hendricks—This book reads like a great novel, but is non-fiction. Hendricks has done a fine job of putting many pieces together in this account of the CIA’s work—in cooperation with and independently of Italian authorities—to take into custody a suspected leader in a cell of terrorists in Milan. This book is about the US, Italy, and Egypt. At some points, it is graphic, but in that is accurate.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>Arab Voices: What they are saying to us and why it matters</i>, by James Zogby—Written by the director of the Arab-American Institute, this book is very helpful in helping a broader audience learn about Arabs, the Middle East, and Arab-Americans. Zogby’s writing style is lucid which makes the topics he addresses more interesting. The book dispels myths about Arabs and the Middle East, gives some history and current politics, and provides access to a variety of Arab opinions, with analysis.</p>                    |
|  | <p><i>Who Speaks for Islam?</i> by John Esposito and Dalia Mogahed—This study makes an important contribution to the literature on Muslim opinions on a variety of subjects is impressive and important. It is a highly readable and accessible book, with much that may be surprising. It’s greatest value is that it offers voice to Muslims around the world.</p>  |



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|  | <p><i>Engaging the Muslim World</i>, by Juan Cole—With a historian/academic’s approach, Cole writes with much experience and speaks to the layperson. This is not an overly academic book, and offers much in the way of history and background in many issue areas and on many countries. Cole is the author of the blog, “Informed Content,” <a href="http://www.juancole.com/">http://www.juancole.com/</a>, which is a source readers may wish to visit.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror</i>, by Mahmood Mamdani—In this study of 20<sup>th</sup> century US engagement with Islam, Mamdani attempts to discredit “clash of civilization” theories and approaches to the “war on terror.” This book traces the history of positive US engagement with certain Muslims, and the oppositional US policy to other Muslims, and the respective contributions to today’s circumstances.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>A Necessary Engagement</i>, by Emile Nakhleh—A former US Government Intelligence agent, and a Palestinian Christian, Nakhleh offers much insight and wisdom into the issue of how the US Government has treated Islam, from an insider’s perspective, and offers solid advice on how the new administration should proceed to improve relations with the Muslim world. His book is short, but rich.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism</i>, by Robert Pape—This book, which was originally published in 2005, is a systematic presentation of ground-breaking research on suicide terrorism. Compiling an all-inclusive database of incidents of suicide terror from 1980-2003, Pape looks at what common threats link the over 300 incidents. His conclusion is that nationalist movements confronting an occupation by a democratic state that is of a different religion are most likely to employ suicide terrorism. His cases are strong, and his conclusion is convincing. Religion, including Islam, is not a primary motivating factor, and this is an important finding. Pape’s book has become a seminal study in the few years since it was published, and has important recommendations for reforming US foreign policy.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Peace out of Reach: Middle Eastern Travels and the Search for Reconciliation</i>, by Stephen Eric Bronner—This book is a collection of essays on countries such as Syria, Iraq, Iran, and the Sudan, and on political theory. Bronner is a political scientist, and writes here from his informed and direct experience about the Middle East, asserting the need for a “cosmopolitan sensibility.” His interest is high, and his writing is lucid. Bronner’s book will make the reader want to learn more about history. Bronner’s approach to social and political relations as they pertain to the Middle East is helpful and can move the discussion forward.</p>  |

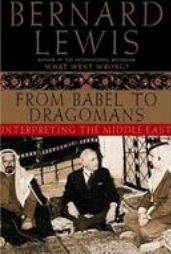
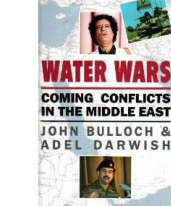
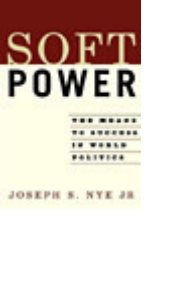
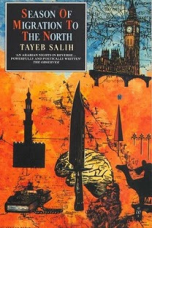


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|  | <p><i>Last Chance: The Middle East in the Balance</i>, by David Gardner—This short, but dense, volume is an excellent review of the contemporary history of US (and European) engagement with the Middle East, with helpful analysis and reasonable policy recommendations for the future of relations in the region and with Islam.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>The Record of the Paper: How the New York Times Misreports US Foreign Policy</i> by Howard Friel and Richard Falk, and <i>Israel-Palestine on Record: How the New York Times Misreports Conflict in the Middle East</i>, by Richard Falk—These companion books are meticulously researched and reveal, for some, surprising findings. On Iraq and Israel/Palestine, the “paper of record” has not been a faithful chronicler of events and debate, argue the authors. Correctives are necessary, and the reading audience should know of the critique offered in these books.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>People Like Us: Misrepresenting the Middle East</i>, by Joris Luyendijk—A Dutch journalist, Luyendijk takes the opportunity to expose the ins and outs of how the Middle East is covered, and in so doing, reveals much about the industry of “news.” Having spent years in the Middle East, and having engaged deeply with other journalists from the West (including the US), Luyendijk is in a good position to share this kind of insight. This book demonstrates how news is determined. (A related resource is the DVD, <i>Peace, Propaganda, and the Holy Land</i>.)</p>   |
|  | <p><i>They Dare to Speak Out: People and Institutions Confront Israel's Lobby</i>, by Paul Findlay—Findlay was a US Congressman from Illinois for 22 years, but lost his reelection campaign, and tells the story of the impact and influence of AIPAC in that election. This book was written in 1985 and provides historical data for today’s debate about the Israel Lobby.</p>  |
|  | <p><i>The Israel Lobby</i>, by John Mearsheimer and Stephen Walt—This is an important book, and expanded version of their 2006 London Review of Books article on the same topic (<a href="http://www.lrb.co.uk/v28/n06/john-mearsheimer/the-israel-lobby">http://www.lrb.co.uk/v28/n06/john-mearsheimer/the-israel-lobby</a>). Much debated, the co-authors, prominent professors, present the argument that several types of organizations (Jewish and non-Jewish) are quite influential in their lobbying in Washington, giving the state of Israel sufficient support in the US. Detailed and well-written, this book has become important in the short time since it was published.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Transforming America's Israel Lobby: The Limits of Its Power and the Potential for Change</i>, by Dan Fleshler—This book gives a “map” of the American Jewish community and its organizations, with discussion of the various approaches to Israel/Middle East policy by them. The author is partial to the new peace-related organizations, especially J Street, and is hopeful that it will have some impact. It discusses the relationship and work of some of the church organizations, as well, such as Churches for Middle East Peace. This is a very good</p>  |



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|  | <p>contribution to the emerging literature, spawned by Mearsheimer and Walt’s article and book a couple of years ago on this topic.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>The Dream Palace of the Arabs: A Generation’s Odyssey</i>, by Fouad Ajami—This masterful text is a well-written and informative insight into the pan-Arab movement, particularly through the lens of Arab writers. Ajami is superior in conveying the writing of Arab nationalists.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>The Age of the Warrior: Selected Essays</i>, by Robert Fisk—If you are not familiar with Fisk, he is based in Beirut, and has a deep appreciation for the history of the region, as well as an insightful and provocative way of relating current events. This book treats 2001-2007 through articles he wrote for his British newspaper columns.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>The Media Relations Department of Hizbullah Wishes you a Happy Birthday: Unexpected Encounters in the Changing Middle East</i>, by Neil MacFarquhar—The title of this book gives a sense that this is light reading. It is not. MacFarquhar is the former Middle East correspondent for the <i>New York Times</i>, and this book lives up to that billing. It does have some light moments, but in the context of insightful analysis of the region as a whole. MacFarquhar gives us bits from his time spent in countries throughout the region, and takes us inside some of the discourse and debate in the region.</p>   |
|  | <p><i>Dining with al-Qaeda: Three decades exploring the many worlds of the Middle East</i>, by Hugh Pope—Pope is an excellent writer. Now with the International Crisis Group, he has spent more than 30 years covering the Middle East for major English-language newspapers. This book delves deeply into the heterogeneity of the Middle East in an attempt to go beyond facile images and representations. A book of memoirs and recollections of seeking stories for his newspaper, Pope conveys voices from the region. He also comments on the industry of media in its effort to get the story it wants, and the associated frustration of the local correspondent who knows that there’s much more to the story. Finally, he reflects on the role of the war correspondent, and how his own approach changed as a husband and as a father.</p> |



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|    | <p><i>From Babel to Dragomans: Interpreting the Middle East</i>, by Bernard Lewis—Prof. Lewis has been a prominent scholar of the Middle East for many decades. This book is a collection of many articles he wrote over the course of that span of time, and is replete with good scholarship. One can learn a great deal from this book about culture and politics in the region; many of the sections conclude with a policy recommendation or comment that reveals Lewis’ approach.</p>   |
|    | <p><i>Water Wars: Coming Conflicts in the Middle East</i>, by John Bulloch and Adel Darwish—While several years old, this book gives a detailed and prescient look at the importance of and conflict over water throughout the region.</p>  |
|   | <p><i>Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics</i>, by Joseph Nye—While not specifically on the Middle East, Nye coined the term “Soft Power” to measure non-military means. In this book, Nye outlines economic and cultural power as especially important in co-option and attraction. He proposes that international relations be considered as a multi-layered chess board, with military might (means of coercion) playing out on one of the levels, but all levels of the game are concurrently moving. These ideas have clear applications in the Middle East.</p> |
|  | <p><i>Season of Migration to the North</i>, by Tayeb Salih—This short novel has become a classic in Arabic literature, dealing with issues of colonialism and the quest for independence of Arab states. Written in the 1960s, <i>Season of Migration</i> is set in a village in the Sudan, and the main characters wrestle with issues of a fellow Sudanese who has returned to the Sudan after living in Europe. Salih’s approach is fairly complex, but the novella is highly readable and draws one in to the story and themes.</p>   |