



	<p><i>Christianity: A History in the Middle East</i>, edited by Rev. Habib Badr—This large tome is a collection of articles about the history of Christianity and churches of the countries of the Middle East. Comprehensive and thorough, this book was undertaken by the Middle East Council of Churches and was first available in Arabic. This translation will be of interest to any student of Middle Eastern Christianity.</p>
	<p><i>The Arab Christian: A History in the Middle East</i>, by Kenneth Cragg—This book was published in the 1990’s but is indispensable in gaining an historical and contemporary perspective on Arab Christianity. It is a thoroughly researched book, and is not light reading! Cragg lived and served in the Middle East; he is and Anglican bishop. He has studied and written about Christian-Muslim relations extensively, and knows the Christian community well. He discusses history, sociology, the arts, and Christian-Muslim relations in this book. In some places, he over-simplifies my referring to an “Arab mind” or a “Muslim mind,” an approach which is rebuked by Edward Said in <i>Orientalism</i>, but Cragg’s study is quite valuable nonetheless.</p>
	<p><i>The Politics of Persecution</i>, by Mitri Raheb—In this brisk but deeply insightful volume, Rev. Raheb presents a compelling and concise history of Middle Eastern Christianity focusing on its relationships with Islam and with the West. His analysis and perspective are necessary correctives to a prevailing narrative of the circumstances of Christians in the region, largely perpetuated by Westerners with a particular agenda. Raheb reclaims a voice for those in the Middle East who are subjects of that prevalent narrative, addressing an audience that needs to be awakened to Middle Eastern Christian resilience, while acknowledging the extant challenges.</p>
	<p><i>Jesus Wars</i>, by Philip Jenkins—This book will offer much insight into the Orthodox traditions as it explores theological and Christological debates of the early church. Focusing on the ecumenical councils of the fourth century, the reader will have a better understanding of the movements within, and resultant splits of, the church. Not limited to theological debate, these divisions had to do with political and personal power as well. While the history is sometimes challenging, the Jenkins offers a helpful look at the heritage of the churches of the Mediterranean basin.</p>



	<p><i>The Darkening Age</i>, by Catherine Nixey—Tracing the historical period from the late Classical to the early Christian era, Nixey explores how the early Christian institutions worked to suppress polytheistic Roman and Greek culture and societies. This was accomplished through physical violence and annihilation, as well as legal and social sanctions.</p>
	<p><i>The Book of Mystical Chapters</i>, edited by John Anthony McGuckin—This book is a compilation of 300 brief meditations offered by Church Fathers from the early centuries. Divided into 3 sections of 100 each under the headings <i>Praktikos</i>, <i>Theoretikos</i>, and <i>Gnostikos</i>, these verses were designed to be memorized and reflected on throughout a day by monks and others.</p>
	<p><i>When Jesus Became God</i>, by Richard Rubenstein—This very readable volume examines the theological and political aspects of the debates over the nature of Jesus. When did Jesus’ divinity become more prominent in the debates? Was Jesus equally human and divine? More of one or the other? The context for the Council of Nicaea, the Arius and Athanasius controversy, are important moments in church, and world, history. Rubenstein does a very good job making this history accessible.</p>
	<p><i>The Islamic Jesus</i>, by Mustafa Aykol—In this fascinating examination of Jesus in Islam, Aykol teaches the reader something about the history of the early church, and the Jewish context of Jesus’ life and ministry. Focusing initially on the differences in Christology between Paul and James, Aykol traces the different understandings of Jesus through the first few centuries of Christianity and looks at how Jesus is understood in Islam (and perhaps why). Aykol writes this history with great personal curiosity, and with his own Muslim faith.</p>
	<p><i>Sailing through Troubled Waters: Christianity in the Middle East</i>, by Mitri Raheb—In this collection of seven lectures and papers, Rev. Raheb offers historical and theological insight into the current reality of Christians in the Middle East. The chapters offer the current context of the Christian communities, including encounter with Islam and contextual scriptural readings of the Qur’an; the situation of Palestinian Christians; a brief history of the Lutheran Church in Palestine and Jordan; and reflections on revolution and human rights.</p>



	<p><i>Shifting Identities: Changes in the Social, Political, and Religious Structures in the Middle East</i>, edited by Mitri Raheb—This book is the collection of the papers that were presented at a major conference of the same title in 2016. The papers examine a variety of contexts and themes in the Middle East, all pivoting on the concept of identity. Its variety and depth will be informative to the reader, and help illuminate some of the topics of discussion around the impact of contextual changes in the region.</p>
	<p><i>Who Are the Christians in the Middle East?</i>, 2nd ed., by Betty Jane Bailey and James Martin Bailey—The Middle East has dominated international news and global politics for years. From the perspective of religion, however, many Americans think of the Middle East only in terms of Muslims and Jews and are unaware of the many Christian communities living there. Written by two United Church of Christ pastors who lived and worked in the Middle East for several years, this fascinating volume limns the varieties and experiences of Christians in the Middle East from Pentecost to the present.</p>
	<p><i>Jerusalem Testament: Palestinian Christians Speak 1988-2008</i>, edited by Melanie May—A comprehensive collection of all of the statements and letters issued by the heads of churches in Jerusalem, together, over a period of 20 years, May enhances this presentation of the documents with historical context. This book is useful as a reference, as history, and as theological insight into life under occupation. Over the course of these two decades, the heads of churches have addressed their statements to a variety of audiences. Their message is consistent, though, and it is one that should be heard directly from them: Peace and Justice must prevail. This book allows that voice to come through clearly.</p>
	<p><i>Bethlehem: Biography of a Town</i>, by Nicholas Blincoe—This is a fast-paced journey through the history of Bethlehem going back 11, 000 years, running through the city’s most famous event—the birth of Christ—and continuing through current times. It is a combination memoir, history, travelogue, and political narrative. Recounting stories, especially of church and Christian history and current politics, the narrative is sometimes marred by a choppy style, but is a helpful overview of this special city.</p>



	<p><i>The Forgotten Faithful: A Window into the Life and Witness of Christians in the Holy Land</i>, edited by Naim Ateek, Cedar Duaybis, and Maurine Tobin—This collection of presentations from the 2005 International Sabeel Conference is a trove of valuable insight about the history, demographics, and witness of the Palestinian Christian community. With special articles on various church histories and presence, and deep foci on the current realities Palestinian Christians face as part of the Palestinian community, this book is exceedingly valuable.</p>
	<p><i>Occupied with Nonviolence: A Palestinian Woman Speaks</i>, by Jean Zaru. Mrs. Zaru is the Clerk of the Friends Meeting (Quaker), our partner in Ramallah. She has recently published a collection of speeches and papers. The book is highly readable, and is full of insightful content. It is an excellent treatment of a number of issues relating to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with a greater vision at stake. Mrs. Zaru treats issues of interfaith relations, women’s rights, human rights, Jerusalem, violence and nonviolence, and others in a way that some of us have come to know well.</p>
	<p><i>Justice and Only Justice</i>, by Rev. Naim Ateek—Published first in 1989, this book is considered by many to be the foundational book of Palestinian liberation theology. It is seminal in that it addresses, from a theological and experiential point of view, the issues at stake in seeking justice and peace between Israelis and Palestinians.</p>
	<p><i>A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation</i>, by Rev. Naim Ateek. Rev. Ateek is the founder and director for the Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, a partner of Global Ministries. Ateek’s new book is remarkable, provocative and challenging, and quite poignant. It is part personal narrative and part political commentary/observation, all framed through a theological lens.</p>
	<p><i>A Palestinian Theology of Liberation</i>, by Rev. Naim Ateek—In his newest book, Rev. Ateek reflects on the development of Palestinian liberation theology; offers new insight and thought from a biblical perspective—focusing on the Hebrew Scriptures, Christ as the key to a hermeneutic of liberation, and justice; and shares some of the accomplishments of Sabeel. It is a helpful and fresh look at an area for which Rev. Ateek is recognized as the key figure among Palestinian theologians. [A good review is available here: https://www.wrmea.org/018-march-april/a-palestinian-theology-of-liberation.html]</p>



	<p><i>I am a Palestinian Christian</i>, by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—Rev. Raheb is pastor of Bethlehem’s Christmas Lutheran Church, and president of the <i>Diyar</i> Consortium. This book is a thorough examination of the issues faced by Palestinian Christians today, and is set in the context of history and theological reflection. Rev. Raheb’s book has become a classic on this less-known community.</p>
	<p><i>Bethlehem Besieged</i>, by Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb—Written in the form of a journal, Rev. Raheb recounts the re-occupation of Bethlehem by Israeli forces in April 2002.</p>
	<p><i>Faith in the Face of Empire</i>, by Mitri Raheb—This is an essential read to anyone who desires new insight into scripture, seeks a re-orientation of geopolitical perspective, and maintains hope for justice for Palestinians. Preeminent Palestinian contextual theologian Mitri Raheb has woven a profound biblical study and theological reflection on empire with contemporary realities and personal reflection in his new book. Inspired by the prophetic tradition and a liberating understanding of the Trinity, Rev. Raheb challenges accepted notions and offers a vision of imagination and hope that he is already making real.</p>
	<p>“This unique book about contexts presents a profound reorientation of the meaning of the cross through a reflective conversation between the context of contemporary Palestine, voiced by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb, and the context of the scriptural texts with universal explication, presented by the Rev. Dr. Suzanne Watts Henderson. Separately, they offer compelling insights and perspectives on Palestine and scripture that a person of faith likely does not commonly hear. Together, they make a strong case for a reexamination of the meaning of the cross for the marginalized, the oppressed, the poor, and the powerless, as well as for the privileged and powerful; and as a call to faithful action in this life by all people who take the pain, and the promise, of the cross to heart. This book is essential reading in the midst of challenging times.” (From the jacket endorsement)</p>



	<p><i>Witnessing For Peace in Jerusalem and the World</i>, by Bishop Munib Younan—Bp. Younan is the head of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, based in Jerusalem. He writes this thoughtful and insightful book on the Christian concept of <i>martyriyya</i>, reclaiming it for its original meaning of witnessing. This book is theological but highly accessible to laypeople as well, and provides valuable insights on the situation in Israel/Palestine.</p>
	<p><i>Our Shared Witness</i>, by Bishop Munib Younan—This volume is a collection of essays, articles, speeches, and sermons, all focusing on Israel/Palestine, interfaith relations, global issues, and peace, justice, and reconciliation. The compilation is instructive as well as thoughtful, demonstrating the Bishop’s commitment to a range of issues and global concerns. It includes a helpful history of the Lutheran presence in Jordan and Israel/Palestine, and each piece offers Lutheran ideas and perspectives, so will be helpful for ecumenically-minded readers.</p>
	<p><i>Kairos for Palestine</i>, by Rifat Odeh Kassir—Part memoir, part political history, part theological reflection, this volume examines the history of <i>Kairos</i> documents from Christians in various global contexts, shares the background of the Palestine <i>Kairos</i> document of December 2009, and demonstrates the importance and urgency of this voice and movement from Palestinian Christians. Kassir’s contribution also answers some of the critique that the Palestine <i>Kairos</i> has received. [Please contact Global Ministries’ Middle East and Europe office if you would like to order a copy.]</p>
	<p><i>A Life Worth Living</i>, by Bernard Sabella—In this memoir, Bernard Sabella recounts life growing up in Jerusalem as a family dispossessed of their home, as refugees. He offers anecdotes of childhood, and later, analysis of the political situation as he grows. Dr. Sabella is today the Executive Director of the Middle East Council of Churches’ Department of Service for Palestinian Refugees, and has done extensive research on Palestinian Christians as a sociologist. This book opens up his personal and family history and is a pleasurable read.</p>
	<p><i>The Other Side of the Wall</i>, by Munther Isaac—In this mix of personal story, biblical/theological reflection, political contextualization, Rev. Isaac offers hope and an uplifting message. The chapters read like “small sermons” embedded in the narrative and the pastor’s theological work on various texts. His exposing the “other side of the wall” is an invitation to hear the voices of Palestinians and especially Palestinian Christians, who often ignored or denied voice so that they can reach our churches and members, inform our engagement, and frame our understanding of mission.</p>



	<p><i>Blood Brothers</i> is Archbishop Elias Chacour’s international best seller and addresses issues of Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking from within the context of Israel. Archbishop Chacour is the Melchite archbishop and is well-known globally as a prominent advocate for peace in the region. His writing style is smooth and lucid.</p>
	<p><i>Justice on the Cross</i>, by Kathleen Christison—This book is a superb examination and analysis of Palestinian liberation theology. Offering an historical perspective—both on the context in Palestine and of liberation theology more generally—Christison captures in one volume the struggles of Palestinians as well as the emergence and evolution of Christian theological responses to the realities Palestinians face, and juxtaposes them with other theologies that have been harmful to Palestinians.</p>
	<p><i>Whose Holy City?</i> by Colin Chapman—This volume is a very readable history of Jerusalem from its Canaanite times up to the present, and beyond. The title’s question is therefore addressed from an historical point of view, as well as a religious perspective, as it outlines the importance of Jerusalem to Jews, Christians, and Muslims. Chapman explores the modern political questions and issues pertaining to the city, and proposes a way forward for the future of the “city of peace.”</p>
	<p><i>Water from the Rock: Lutheran Voices from Palestine</i>, edited by Ann Hafton—In this short collection of articles, diary entries, and reflections, Palestinian and American Lutherans share the context of Palestine, from their perspectives. The selections include writings by Bishop Munib Younan, Rev. Mitri Raheb, his sister Viola Raheb, and Dr. Nuha Khoury, as well as some US Lutherans who have served in Palestine with partners there. Each section has study questions so this book can be used in an adult education class.</p>
	<p><i>Christians and a Land Called Holy: How we can foster justice, peace, and hope</i>, by Charles P. Lutz and Robert O. Smith. Smith, the Middle East executive for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Lutz, have written this very helpful book introducing the conflict, the actors (including Christian Zionists), and church partners, and offering guidance on what church people (and others) can do to be agents of change. This compact volume is especially helpful for those eager to engage locally, and the final chapter lays out suggestions. The bibliography is extensive.</p>

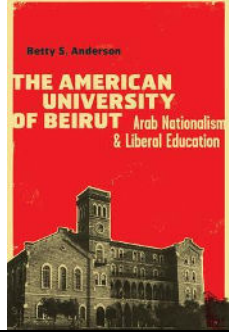


	<p><i>Truth and Service: A History of the Near East School of Theology</i>, by Dr. George Sabra—This book is a good history, not only of NEST, but of Protestant theological education in the Levant, dating back into the nineteenth century and NEST’s predecessors in the Ottoman Empire, Turkey and Greece. Naturally, there is much mission history here, as NEST was established by the merger of two mission seminaries. The American Board and the Presbyterian Board play a prominent role in the pre-history of NEST. The 75+ years of the life of NEST is also analyzed and presented with great care and clear writing, so that the reader can understand the issues the school has faced. Dr. Sabra has done a fine job with this book, and it is well worth the read.</p>
	<p><i>The Thirsty Enemy: A Memoir</i>, by Rev. John Markarian—This autobiography is written by the first president of Haigazian University, our partner in Beirut, Lebanon. Markarian spends much time on his experience at Haigazian, with some attention to his time at the Near East School of Theology, and the informal history of both is interesting. The theme of the book is based on Markarian’s living the “If your enemy is thirsty, give him something to drink” teaching of the Proverbs and of Paul, in the context of the Lebanese civil war. Markarian’s story is a series of anecdotes from his life and is reflective and quite entertaining reading</p>
	<p><i>Sarah and Her Sisters</i>, by Robert Stoddard, Jr.—This is a thoroughly researched history of Congregational and Presbyterian mission in Beirut, focusing especially on the history of what eventually became known as Lebanese American University, in the 18th and early 19th century. Sarah Smith was a pioneer, and her influence inspired and was consequential for girls’ and women’s education, as well as women in mission. This book is both a history of an educational institution, and a history of women in mission. [The author has done a book talk on this volume, available here: https://www.history.pcusa.org/blog/2021/03/past-phs-live-sarah-smiths-educational-advocacy-arab-women.]</p>
	<p><i>The Culture of God</i>, by Nadim Nassar—Rev. Nassar is a graduate of the Near East School of Theology, and is a Syrian, now residing in England where he serves as an Anglican priest. This book is a personal examination of the Gospel stories in a contextual way, considering the surrounding culture that informs the stories of the Christian scriptures. Why does Jesus act the way he does? How should we understand the parables? Rev. Nassar addresses these and other questions, opening a window into the Middle East, and to a much wider possible interpretation of scripture, for which he has titled his book.</p>



	<p><i>Artillery of Heaven: American Missionaries and the Failed Conversion of the Middle East</i>, by Ussama Makdisi. This book is a fascinating study of the first century of American Board history in Syria (including today’s Lebanon), as well as in Palestine and Anatolia. It focuses on the mission efforts and the cases of two Maronite Christians who accepted and were accepted by the missionaries. Using primary sources, Makdisi analyzes the relationships between these two, As`ad Shidyah and Butrus al-Bustani, and the missionaries, the missionaries and the board headquarters, and the larger dynamics at work, particularly in the context of the mission to Native Americans and of the American civil war. The comparisons are profound, and the conclusions offer much fodder for reflection on mission today. [A very insightful review of this book was written by David Dorman, in the Near East School of Theology’s <i>Theological Review</i>: http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/book-reviews/47030112/artillery-ideology-critique-ussama-makdisis-artillery-heaven-review-essay.]</p>
	<p><i>Protestant Missionaries in the Levant</i>, by Samir Khalaf—This study focuses on the US context and background of the sending of missionaries to Lebanon and Syria, and the context in the region itself. Khalaf writes of the unintended consequences of the mission engagement, the debates over the purpose of education in the mission boards, and of the successes and failures of the endeavor. He describes the legacy of the Puritan (secular) values the missionaries brought, and concludes that that, despite minimal context, the missionaries’ impact was lasting.</p>
	<p><i>The Mission of the American Board in Syria</i>, by Uta Zeuge-Buberl—Concentrating on the nineteenth century engagement of the Board, this volume is a very helpful biographical and analytical examination of key people and trends. The book focuses on prominent missionaries as well as “native helpers” who were instrumental in the development of indigenous Protestant Christianity in what is today Syria and Lebanon. Well researched, this is a valuable contribution to the examination of the purpose of mission, its methods, associated debates, and the interaction between missionaries and the local populations, especially those who participated in the mission work.</p>
	<p><i>I am IC</i>, by Reem Haddad—In this engaging book, Haddad tells the story of International College (IC), a boys school established by the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey in the late 1800s, and its move to its current location in Beirut, in the 1930s. It is an inspiring story of mission presence, told alongside the contextual histories of the turmoil of end of the Ottoman Empire and the national history of Lebanon, both of which impacted the school directly.</p>



	<p><i>The American University of Beirut: Arab Nationalism and Liberal Education</i>, by Betty S. Anderson—Especially in the early chapters of this history of AUB, Anderson offers insight into the approaches and debates within the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (the same Board as the UCC’s Wider Church Ministries today). The AUB emerged as a preeminent institution of higher learning, as a result of, and in some ways, despite, its mission roots.</p>
	<p><i>Academies for Anatolia: A Study of the Rationale, Program, and Impact of the Educational Institutions Sponsored by the American Board in Turkey, 1830-2005</i>, by Frank A. Stone—With elegance and passion, Dr. Stone, a former Board missionary in Turkey, has made an excellent contribution about the historical presence of the Board in Turkey. Focusing on the schools and their histories, Dr. Stone provides insights into the issues faced by the missionaries with respect to the people in Turkey with whom the Board has worked over the past two centuries: Armenians, Greeks, and Turks. He has offered us perspective in the “way things were” and in doing so, some perspective on the “way things are.”</p>
	<p><i>The Armenian Evangelical Reformation: Causes and Effects</i>, by G.H. Chopourian—This is an essential history of the Armenian Evangelical Church and the context in which it emerged. It highlights the relationship with the American Board missionaries, and the efforts to distinguish itself from the Armenian Apostolic Church.</p>
	<p><i>The Armenian Church</i>, by Aram I—In this comprehensive presentation of the Armenian Apostolic Church, HH Aram I offers a clear historical and contextual narrative. From the beginnings of Armenian Christianity (the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official religion) to the modern day, the church has evolved and preserved traditions. HH Aram I’s brisk read is helpful and valuable.</p>
	<p><i>Towards Golgotha: The Memoires of Hagop Arsenian, a Genocide Survivor</i>, translated and annotated by Arda Arsenian Ekmekji—In this very personal chronicle of the period before, during, and after the Genocide, Arsenian records the events of his daily life. It is a poignant first-hand account, a personal story that so illuminates the tragedy. Beginning in Western Turkey, Arsenian’s path is that of many others—some who survived, most who didn’t—through central Anatolia. His resourcefulness help him survive with his immediate family, eventually arriving in mandate Palestine. His accounts of both the “deportations” and of Palestine are very insightful, and are complemented by the personal journey of his granddaughter, who translated the book, and who is today the Dean</p>



	<p>of Arts and Sciences at Haigazian University in Beirut.</p> <p><i>Ringing the Gotchnag</i>, by Jonathan Conant Page—This book traces the lives and careers of the Allen and Wheeler families, missionaries who served in Anatolia in the 19th century. The book is especially interesting as it relies on correspondence and other primary sources to glean insight on the daily life of missionaries in this period. It also sheds some light into the debates that were taking place in the Board around educational institutions and the role of missionaries.</p>
	<p><i>Albania and the Albanians</i>, compiled by David Hosaflook—In this volume is compiled, chronologically, the references and contexts of the American Board’s work with Albanians. Focusing on the period from the late 1800s through the 1920s, this engagement follows the general approach of the ABCFM with this particular geographic and relational focus, and gives the more general context of the Turkey mission of the Board. To have these minutes compiled and ordered in this way helps to understand a less-known area of mission engagement from the inside.</p>
	<p><i>Jane Haining</i>, by Mary Miller—This book chronicles the life of a Church of Scotland missionary who worked at the Scottish mission in Budapest, Hungary, just before and during WW II. Ms. Haining was a teacher and overseer of the Jewish mission in Budapest, and cared deeply for the children who attended the school there. Because of that dedication, she, along with others from the mission, were sent to Auschwitz, where she was killed. Her story is a remarkable testament to one person’s commitment, sense of calling, and humility, while serving the God of her Christian faith.</p>
	<p><i>Nothing but Christ: Rufus Anderson and the Ideology of Protestant Foreign Missions</i>, by Paul William Harris—While not focusing exclusively on mission in the Middle East, this book covers the period of Anderson’s tenure as Corresponding Secretary (the equivalent to today’s Executive Minister) of the Board. A fascinating read, especially as it focuses on the ideological discourse in the mission board, and uses the examples of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Turkey, and China as case studies.</p>
	<p><i>Protestants Abroad</i>, by David A. Hollinger—In this history of American Protestant mission, Hollinger discusses the impact of the mission experience on the US, including progressive positions on US-related issues, as well as our mission heritage here and abroad, particularly in the Middle East and throughout Asia. The author speaks about the boomerang effect of mission: that originally sending people to expose the world to US-oriented Christian faith and values, resulted in a cosmopolitanism that had lasting effect in the US, as well as a “post-Protestantism,” as a result of missionary cosmopolitanism. A fascinating read that deserves attention.</p>



	<p><i>Missionary Diplomacy</i>, by Emily Conroy-Krutz—Covering the nineteenth century, this volume examines the close interplay between American church mission overseas and the US government’s mission. IN the early part of the century, mission boards and missionaries were present in places the government did not have a presence yet, and so played an outsized role in informing about people and places, as well as soliciting policies that helped missional interests. This changed and evolved toward the end of the century. With numerous episodes to illustrate this point, Conroy-Krutz has written a helpful account of this period in US history in the world</p>
	<p><i>Christians in Egypt: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Communities Past and Present</i>, by Otto Meinardus—The late Otto Meinardus is best known for his insightful and informative efforts presenting Egyptian and Eastern Christianity to a wide audience. <i>Christians in Egypt</i>, the third in the Meinardus trilogy on Egyptian Christianity, all published by the American University in Cairo Press, continues that effort.</p>
	<p><i>Copts and the Security State</i>, by Laure Guirguis—This (academic) book is a thorough examination of the relationship of the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Christian community in Egypt to the State, and includes extensive discussion of the relationship with the leading Muslim movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood. It focuses on the past forty years, including the revolution of 2011, and the ensuing years of unsettled political and social circumstances. Guirguis has written an important study that requires an attentive read.</p>
	<p><i>The Practice of Mission in Egypt</i>, by Tharwat Wahbe—This is a study of the history of mission as practiced in Egypt. It includes American missionary efforts in Egypt and the Sudan, and analyzes the relationships among the missionaries, the board that sent them, and the local church as it emerged in Egypt. The differing understandings of how mission might be practiced emerged due to the perspectives on context and needs. With historical narrative, case studies, and analysis, this volume is especially useful</p>
	<p><i>From Theology of Transparency to Theology of Coexistence</i>, by Andrea Zaki Stephanous—Starting from the “clash of civilizations” paradigm as presented by Samuel Huntington, as one paradigm, and contrasting that with theologies that emphasize evangelization and social engagement, Stephanous suggests that a model such as the one that guides the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) in Egypt is a more positive approach.</p>



	<p><i>A Vision of Hope</i>, by David W. Virtue—This is a biography of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Habib, an Egyptian Presbyterian minister who helped establish the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services. Habib’s life was inspiring and CEOSS’s contributions to Egyptian society are indeed significant. Virtue writes Habib’s story, which offers insight into the country, society, and the church in Egypt.</p>
	<p><i>American Evangelicals in Egypt</i>, by Heather Sharkey—Despite a perhaps too heavy link between missionary presence and US diplomatic missions, this book traces the changing course of mission history in Egypt, primarily of the Presbyterian experience. It is helpful to understand some of the theory and the paradigms Sharkey utilizes, as it is applicable in other contexts. This book also is enlightening in that many of the same kinds of issues mission boards face today have existed over the course of time.</p>
	<p><i>The Orphan Scandal</i>, by Beth Baron—In this well-researched book, Baron focuses on the impact of a 1933 incident in which Turkiyya, a young Muslim orphan under the care of a mission orphanage/school, was beaten by her teacher. The fallout had significant implications for the presence and work of foreign missions in Egypt, for interfaith relations, for international relations and, as Baron asserts, for the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood. Lucid and intelligent, this book provides insight into Egyptian history and the different foreign missions operating there.</p>
	<p><i>Piety, Politics, and Power: Lutherans Encountering Islam in the Middle East</i>, by David D. Grafton—In this well-documented study, Grafton traces the Lutheran encounter with Islam, Muslims and the Middle East. Starting with Luther and his writings, Grafton shows how European, and then American, Lutherans have developed in their approach. From a clear animus to Islam to a mission of accompaniment, the book is quite helpful in understanding the changing thinking, and is reflective of other denominations as well. With a shorter history of mission in the Middle East, the American Lutherans (the ELCA) are eager to work with partners, not only in the Middle East primarily through the ELCJHL, but also in the US, with ecumenical partners. Grafton’s concluding questions about accompaniment with Middle Eastern partners and interfaith dialogue are insightful and can be applied more broadly denominationally.</p>
	<p><i>From the Holy Mountain: A Journey among the Christians of the Middle East</i>, by William Dalrymple—Excellent in its presentation of the Christians of the region, this book combines good story-telling with insightful information about the region’s oft-forgotten Christian community. Dalrymple has produced a much-needed window into the culture and society of the Middle East through this focus on the Christians who live there.</p>



	<p><i>The Body and the Blood: The Middle East's Vanishing Christians and the Possibility for Peace</i>, by Charles Sennott—A well-written account of the issue of Christian emigration through an examination of the Christian populations of several of the region's countries. Sennott examines the potential role of the region's Christian community in fostering peace.</p>
	<p><i>Political Islam, Citizenship, and Minorities: The Future of Arab Christians in the Islamic Middle East</i>, by Andrea Zaki Stephanous—Stephanous is the General Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Cairo, Egypt, and in this volume, has made a major contribution on the interaction between Arab Christians and Islam, particularly in Egypt and Lebanon. Beginning with an excellent historical roadmap of political Islam, Stephanous explores positions and critiques within Islam, and continues by engaging the question of minorities and specifically Christians. In the second half, he examines Coptic and Maronite identity and political participation before concluding with a proposal for dynamic citizenship, which goes beyond political citizenship and involves pluralistic identity. This book is packed with insightful information, theoretical (and theological) discussion, and hope for the future.</p>
	<p><i>Abducted in Iraq</i>, by Saad Serop Hanna—This book is far more than a personal account of being kidnapped and being held captive by an Islamic group in post-2003 Iraq. Written by a Chaldean Catholic priest, this highly personal and deeply reflective memoir of an incident that was life-changing is a testament to faith and courage in the midst of tremendous stress, both physical and emotional. What does it mean to be Christian in the face of pressure to convert? How might one engage authentically with hostile captors? This account offers some authentic choices.</p>
	<p><i>Islamism and the Future of the Christians of the Middle East</i>, by Habib Malik—In this short booklet, Malik predicts the continuing demise of the Christians of the Middle East based on his assessment of the place of what he calls Islamism, both modern and historic. This is really an essay, and can be read fairly quickly. The focus on Islamism as the cause of diminishing Christian presence in the region overlooks many other factors which should also be considered: economic political, and social. Malik fails to consider positive relationships and the role of the vast majority of Muslims in the region.</p>
	<p><i>I am a Pilgrim, a Traveler, a Stranger</i>, by John Hubers—The first missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (what is today Wider Church Ministries of the UCC) was Pliny Fisk. This book explores the purpose of his being sent to the Middle East and, as importantly, what happened to him when he arrived there. Hubers has prepared a masterful account of the “life and mind” of Fisk, and explores the transformation that took place through his encounters in the so-called mission field. This book is</p>



	<p>valuable for its personal biographical history, and for its examination of mission history itself.</p>
	<p><i>American Missionaries and the Middle East: Foundational Encounters</i>, Mehmet Ali Doğan and Heather J. Sharkey, eds.—This volume consists of nine chapters, each of which treats a subject in mission history. An edited volume, it brings together research by scholars on primarily 19th century mission in Turkey, Lebanon, Egypt, and Bulgaria. Each chapter is rich with insight and helps to illuminate our contemporary understanding of this era. The book focuses on the beginnings of the ABCFM, debates about education and its role in mission, the presence and witness of women, and aspects of ecumenical and interfaith encounter.</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 19th 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-20th century, when hopes and actual policies clashed. His examination of Arabic sources is especially informative.</p>
	<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 19th 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>American Apostles</i>, by Christine Leigh Heyrman—In this book, the reader is introduced to some of the first American and English missionaries to the Middle East, including those from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) which is now the UCC’s mission board. The book relates, through examination of public and private accounts and correspondence, attitudes toward Muslims and Islam, and the wrestling that the missionaries did (or didn’t do) to understand and approach mission in such a context. The book also presents the complex religious debates of the early 19th century in New England.</p>
	<p><i>An American Martyr in Persia</i>, by Reza Aslan—For those who follow the history of Iran, 1979 certainly stands out, and 1953 is likely recognizable as well. In 1908-09, another revolution too place in Persia, and an American missionary was involved. Howard Baskerville was assigned to work in Iran by his Presbyterian mission board and his fate is revealed in the title. This story is a testament to the commitment that a missionary can bring to their work and the people they live with.</p>



The book cover for "Nearest East" features the title in large, bold, black letters. Below the title is a stylized American flag with horizontal stripes. The author's name, "HANS-LUKAS KIESER", is printed at the bottom in a smaller font.	<p><i>Nearest East: American Millennialism and Mission to the Middle East</i>, by Hans-Lukas Lieser—In this dense study, Lieser attempts to connect the points of initial and more recent millennial approaches to engagement with the Middle East, beginning with ABCFM missionaries, and concluding with more recent interpretations of US foreign policy, especially concerning Israel. This book examines a number of issues, including the missionary approach and appeal of the Middle East, and tells history of ABCFM engagement there until about the 1930s. Lieser links US policy vis-à-vis the Native Americans, the Ottoman Empire, and Israel, and demonstrates American Board critique of all three. Chapter 3 is the fulcrum of this study, as it deals with the 1908-1930 period; it is the most clearly written and argued. Lieser gets somewhat lost in the meta-narrative of millennialism, but is at his best in analyzing policy history.</p>
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