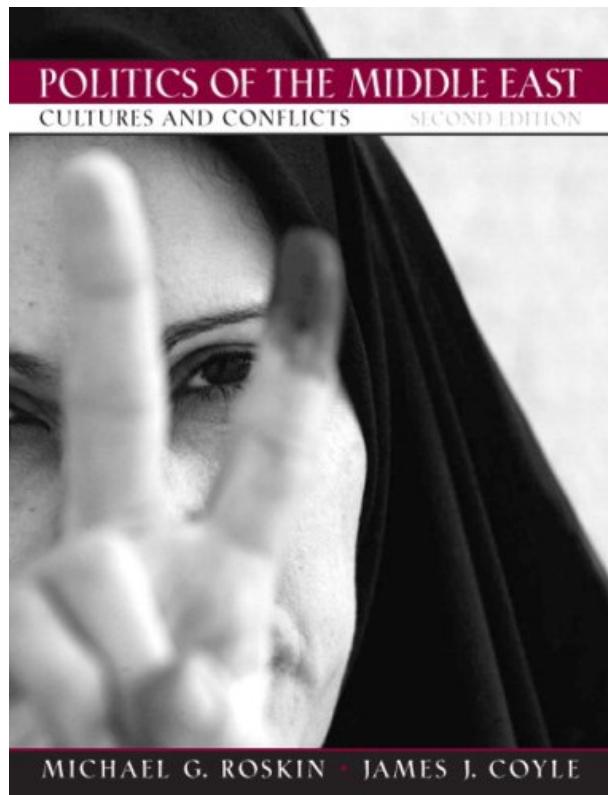
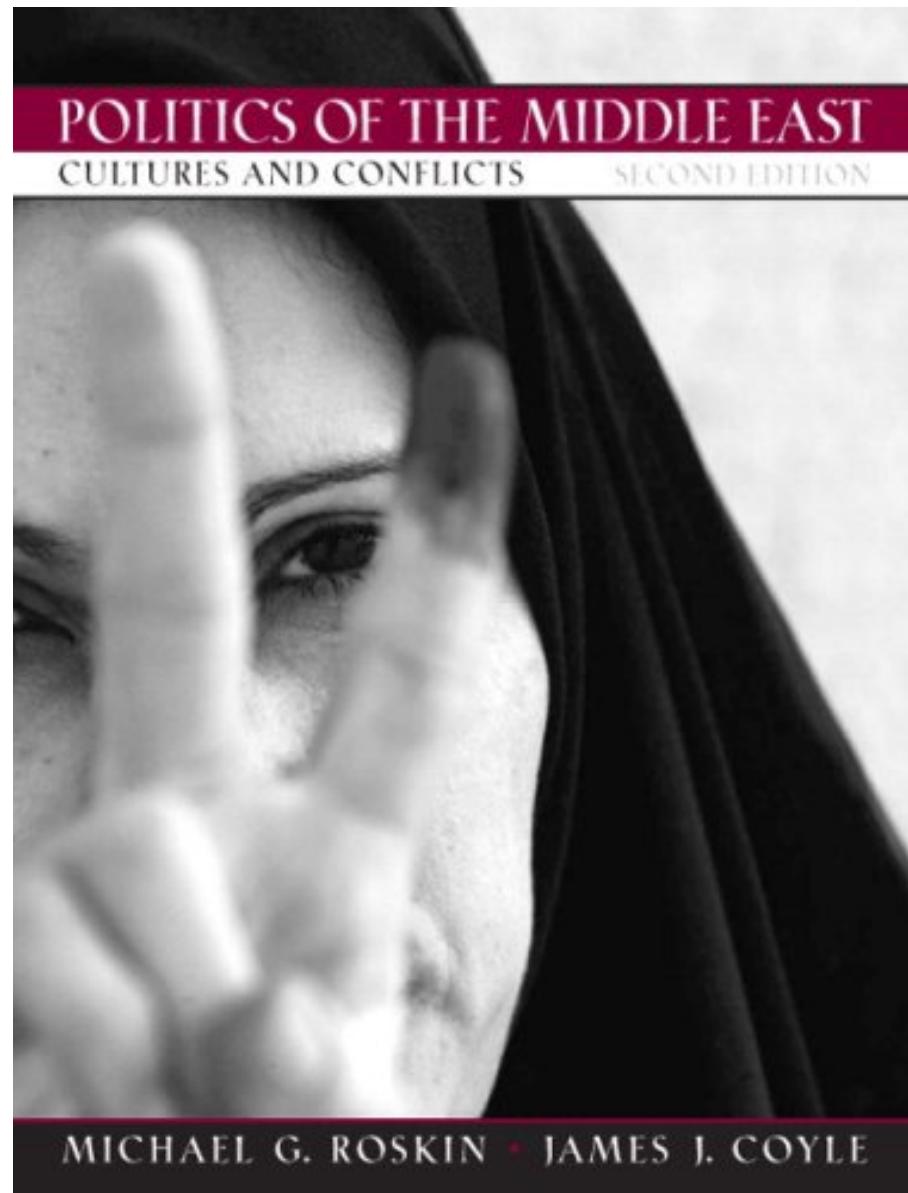


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An introduction to the Middle East, provides an overview of the history, geography, cultures, and religions and leads up the regions twenty-first century conflicts, including the Iraq War. With its emphasis on basic concepts and vocabulary, and its use of illustrative case studies, Politics of the Middle East provides an exciting tool for the basic understanding of this very complex region. This comprehensive book covers cultures and history of the ancients, the birth of Islam, and the Ottoman Empire; Arab-Israeli conflicts and their origins; Turkey and the Kurds; the Persian Gulf and the rise of the oil kingdoms, the Iranian revolution, and the first and second Gulf Wars; and Middle Eastern terrorism. An excellent reference resource for those involved in businesses and concerns that deal with the Middle East and its politics.

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By Jessica S.

Arrived in good timing and condition. Book is good source of information but confusing if you don't realize there are two different texts happening through the book. One runs through the center and the other other is higher on the page so it is better to read one then start the chapter over and read the other. A little ridiculous.

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One of the most comprehensive books of the Middle East.

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Informative, but entirely biased.

By Jessica Nelson

Authors Roskin and Coyle tackle quite a few subjects in this book -- ranging anywhere from the roots of Islam, to conservative Saudi Arabia, to secular Turkey, and to what lies ahead in the future of Islam. I think that the authors do a fabulous job of making their points clear and concise. Overall, the material is very interesting for someone who is interested in Middle Eastern culture and politics.

However, this book is sprinkled with one-liners that are so biased and can turn the reader off to the whole book. For instance, when discussing the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the author says that "Arabs tend to be awfully loose with their words." You can't get any more ignorant than that. Sure, some may view this as comical, and perhaps this would be more acceptable in a novel or editorial column. But this is a scholarly work and such phrases do not belong on its pages if it is to serve an educational purpose. There are countless other examples of similar jargon throughout the book.

Again, I will restate that this is an interesting book. It covers a lot of ground and has a lot of cultural sidenotes that make the history more interesting. But what Roskin and Coyle need to do is leave their personal opinions about Arabs and Jews out of their academic textbooks if they wish to be taken more seriously.

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