



American Arabists in the Cold War Middle East, 1946–75

From Orientalism to Professionalism

By Teresa Fava Thomas

Pub Date: 06 July 2016

Binding: Hardback

Price: £70.00 / \$115.00

ISBN: 9781783085088

Extent: 266 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

Series: Anthem Middle East Studies

BISAC CATEGORY: HISTORY / Middle East / General

HISTORY / United States / 20th Century, POLITICAL

SCIENCE / International Relations / Diplomacy

BISAC CODE: HISo26000

BIC CODE: HBJF1

RIGHTS

Exclusive: WORLD

Tracing the US diplomatic team's shift from East Coast old boys to a diverse, highly specialized unit of area experts, and the impact on US-Middle East relations.

This book examines the careers of 53 area experts in the US State Department's Middle East bureau during the Cold War. Known as Arabists or Middle East hands, they were very different in background, education, and policy outlook from their predecessors, the Orientalists. A highly competitive selection process and rigorous training shaped them into a small corps of diplomatic professionals with top-notch linguistic and political reporting skills. Case studies shed light on Washington's perceptions of Israel and the Arab world, as well as how American leaders came to regard (and often disregard) the advice of their own expert advisors. This study focuses on their transformative role in Middle East diplomacy from the Eisenhower through the Ford administrations.

Readership

This book will be of interest to historians, area studies scholars, and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels interested in Middle East studies and US foreign relations.

Contents

Introduction: America's Middle East Area Experts; 1. The Orientalists Fade Away; 2. The Middle East Hands Emerge, or, Don't Worry Mother, Your Son Is in the ASTP; 3. Landfall: Language Training at Beirut, 1946; 4. Filling the Cold War Linguist Gap: The Middle East Area Program in Beirut; 5. "The Departure of Kings, Old Men, and Christians": The Eisenhower Years; 6. Quiet Diplomacy In Action: The Kennedy and Johnson Years; 7. Kissinger's Arabesque: The Nixon And Ford Years; Epilogue: Beirut Axioms: Lessons Learned by the Middle East Hands; Appendix: Brief Biographies; Bibliography; Index

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Teresa Fava Thomas is a professor of history at Fitchburg State University in Massachusetts.

Ordering in North America

Books International
P.O. Box 605, Herndon, VA
20172-0605 United States
Tel: +1 703 661 1570 | Fax: +1 703 661 1501
bimail@presswarehouse.com

Ordering in the UK/Rest of the World

NBN International
Airport Business Centre, 10 Thornbury Road
Plymouth, PL6 7PP
Tel: 01752 202301 | Fax: 01752 202333
orders@nbninternational.com

Ordering in Australia

NewSouth Books
Rosie Marson, UNSW Sydney
NSW 2052, Australia
Tel: +61 (02) 8778 9999 | Fax: +61 (02) 8778 9944
orders@tldistribution.com.au

75-76 Blackfriars Road | London SE1 8HA | United Kingdom | Tel: +44 (0)20 7401 4200 | Fax: +44 (0)20 7401 4225
244 Madison Ave. #116 | New York | NY 10016 | United States | Tel: +1 646 736 7908 | Fax: +1 646 839 2934
info@anthempres.com | sales@anthempres.com | publicity@anthempres.com | www.anthempres.com