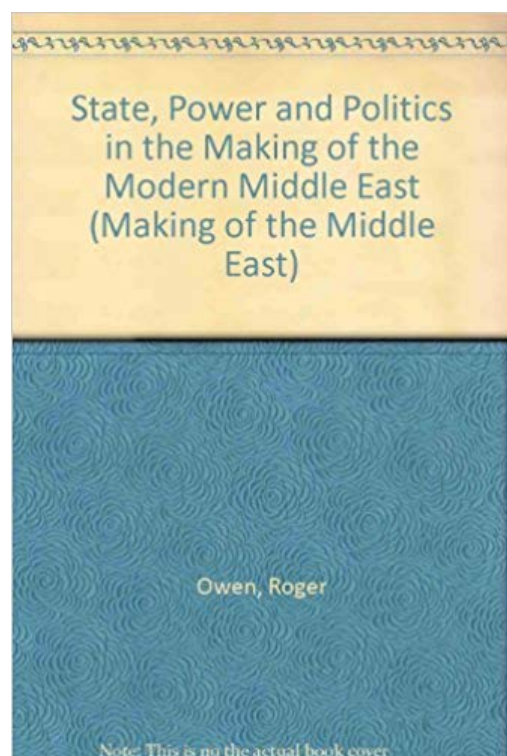


State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East *by* Roger Owen



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This is a general introduction to the Making of the Middle East series, providing the best general account of the recent political history of the major countries of the Middle East. It also provides a unique comparative treatment of central topics such as the growth of the state and the political response of Middle Eastern regimes to the economic crises of the 1970s and 1980s. Part One consists of a political history of the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey since the creation of the Middle East state system at the end of the First World War. Part Two is a detailed study of key themes, central to an understanding of recent developments: * the role of the military * the role of religious organisations * the politics of economic restructuring * the dynamics of one-party rule * the return to greater democracy.



Reviews of the [State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East](#) by Roger Owen

Nahn

This volume is your basic political-economy, textbook approach to the modern middle east. At certain points, it tries to be cutting-edge, but the bland, standard approach to the subject matter makes for a dull read. Much better is Richard & Waterbury's POLITICAL ECONOMY OF THE MIDDLE EAST, which is much larger and contains much more interesting and indepth treatment of the Middle East. For those who may find that work daunting, however, this is small work is likely to be the best replacement. It's lighter and less bogged down with facts, figures and tables.

Molace

This is a book by another "specialist" on the Middle East that would appeal to the common denominator reader. In an attempt to cover a wide scope of countries and issues and histories, Roger Owen, a well-respected authority in the subject matter, churns out a shallow text that does not even start getting to the issues at hand. It is a dull read that follows a standard template for what a professor believes should be fed to undergraduate students.

Professor Owen dwells in 280 pages on state building and political parties and movements, but lacks insight into events at the beginning of the 20th century that contradict his conclusions. I would not recommend this book for serious readers of Middle East issues or history, but it is useful for those under duress to produce a term paper at college.

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