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The Middle East in International Relations

Power, Politics and Ideology

The international relations of the Middle East have long been dominated by uncertainty and conflict. External intervention, interstate war, political upheaval and interethnic violence are compounded by the vagaries of oil prices and the claims of military, nationalist and religious movements. The purpose of this book is to set this region and its conflicts in context, providing on the one hand a historical introduction to its character and problems, and on the other a reasoned analysis of its politics. In an engagement with both the study of the Middle East and the theoretical analysis of international relations, the author, who is one of the best known and most authoritative scholars writing on the region today, offers a compelling and original interpretation. Written in a clear, accessible and interactive style, the book is designed for students, policy-makers and the general reader.

FRED HALLIDAY is Professor of International Relations at the London School of Economics. His publications include *Nation and Religion in the Middle East* (2000), *Two Hours that Shook the World* (2001) and *100 Myths about the Middle East* (2005).

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Acknowledgements

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The past four decades were years of high hopes, and bitter moments, or revolution, counter-revolution, war and political violence. The Middle East specialists of my generation lived, and argued, through these times. It is now for others to take this analysis, and some of theoretical perspective and ‘complex solidarity’, into the times to come: the least one can say is that, on the basis of the information we have, and the most basic historic sense, the next decades will be at least as momentous, and intellectually challenging, as those now past. The advice of the late Maxime Rodinson, *al-murshid al-akbar*, ‘the greatest guide’, quoted by way of conclusion to this book, at the end of chapter 10, should serve us all.