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978-0-521-81792-9 - Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East

Dawn Chatty

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Displacement and Dispossession in the Modern Middle East

Dispossession and forced migration in the Middle East remain even today significant elements of contemporary life in the region. Dawn Chatty's book traces the history of those who, as a reconstructed Middle East emerged at the beginning of the twentieth century, found themselves cut off from their homeland, refugees in a new world with borders created out of the ashes of war and the fall of the Ottoman Empire. As an anthropologist, the author is particularly sensitive to individual experience and how these experiences have impacted on society as a whole from the political, social, and environmental perspectives. Through personal stories and interviews within different communities, she shows how some minorities, such as the Armenian and Circassian communities, have succeeded in integrating and creating new identities whereas others, such as the Palestinians and the Kurds, have been left homeless within impermanent landscapes. The book is unusual in combining an ethnographic approach that analyzes the everyday experiences of refugees and migrants against the backdrop of the broad sweep of Mediterranean history. It is intended as an introduction for students in Middle East studies, history, political science, and anthropology and for anyone concerned with war and conflict in the region.

Dawn Chatty is a University Reader in Anthropology and Forced Migration at the Refugee Studies Centre Department of International Development, University of Oxford. She is a Fellow of the American Anthropological Association, the Society for Applied Anthropology, the Middle East Studies Association, the Royal Anthropological Institute, and the Association of Social Anthropology. Most recently she has edited (with Gillian Lewando-Hundt) *Children of Palestine: Experiencing Forced Migration in the Middle East* (2005) and *Nomadic Societies in the Middle East and North Africa: Entering the 21st Century* (2006).

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