Dwight F. Reynolds brings together a collection of essays by leading international scholars to provide a comprehensive and accessible survey of modern Arab culture, from the early nineteenth to the twenty-first century. The chapters survey key issues necessary to any understanding of the modern Arab World: the role of the various forms of the Arabic language in modern culture and identity; the remarkable intellectual transformation undergone during the Nahda or “Arab Renaissance” of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century; the significant role played by ethnic and religious minorities, and the role of law and constitutions. Other chapters on poetry, narrative, music, theater, cinema and television, art, architecture, humor, folklore, and food offer fresh perspectives and correct negative stereotypes that emerge from viewing Arab culture primarily through the lens of politics, terrorism, religion, and economics.

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Contributors

DINA AMIN is a stage director and Assistant Professor of Drama and Comparative Literature in the English Department, Cairo University. She is the author of Alfred Farag and Egyptian Theater (2008), co-editor of Salaam: Anthology of Middle-Eastern-American Drama (2009) and of From Orientalists to Arabists: The Shifts in Arabic Literary Studies (special issue), Journal of Arabic Literature (2010). She directs in both the USA and Egypt, in Arabic and English. Her latest production in Cairo was Segn al-Nisaa (Women’s Prison) by Fathiya al-ʿAssal (Spring, 2013).

KRISTEN BRUSTAD is Associate Professor of Arabic in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas at Austin. She received her PhD in Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University. She is the author of a comparative study of Arabic dialects, The Syntax of Spoken Arabic (2000), and is co-author of the Al-Kitaab Arabic textbook series. She teaches and writes on Arabic language and linguistics.

JUAN E. CAMPO is Associate Professor of Islamic Studies and the History of Religions at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of The Other Sides of Paradise: Explorations in the Religious Meanings of Domestic Space (1991) and Encyclopedia of Islam (2009). He is currently engaged in a comparative study of modern Muslim, Hindu, and Christian pilgrimages and, together with his wife, Magda, is doing research and teaching on religion and the culinary cultures of the Middle East.

MAGDA CAMPO is Lecturer of Arabic Language in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She holds a BA from Cairo University and an MA in Teaching Arabic as a Foreign Language.
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from the American University in Cairo. A gifted chef and avid collector of Middle Eastern cookbooks, she co-teaches a course on religion and the culinary cultures of the Middle East with her husband, Juan E. Campo.

**CHRISTINA CIVANTOS** is Associate Professor in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures at the University of Miami, Florida. She specializes in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spanish American and Arabic literary and cultural studies with a focus on migration and diaspora, postcolonial and gender studies, and the politics of literacy. She is the author of *Between Argentines and Arabs: Argentine Orientalism, Arab Immigrants, and the Writing of Identity* (2006).

**YOAV DI-CAPUA** is Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches modern Arab intellectual history. He is the author of *Gatekeepers of the Arab Past: Historians and History Writing in Twentieth-Century Egypt* (2009). He is currently at work on a new book, tentatively titled *The Arab Sartre: Inside the Intellectual History of Decolonization*.

**ANDREW HAMMOND** is an author and journalist specializing in Middle East political and cultural affairs. Former bureau chief for Reuters news agency in Riyadh, he authored *The Islamic Utopia: The Illusion of Reform in Saudi Arabia* (2012), *What the Arabs Think of America* (2007), and *Popular Culture in the Arab World* (2007). He is currently doing doctoral research at the University of Oxford in Turkish and Egyptian Intellectual History.

**NUHA N. N. K HOURY**, Associate Professor of History of Art and Architecture at the University of California, Santa Barbara, is a specialist in Umayyad architecture, whose research transcends geographical and temporal boundaries to encompass the histories of Islamic architecture and Arab modern art. Her publications appear in *Muqarnas, The International Journal of Middle East Studies*, and *Third Text*, among other locations. Her current research engages the formative period of Islamic architecture and transitional artists of the modern Arab World, particularly Lebanon.

**JOSEPH E. LOWRY** is Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at the University of Pennsylvania. He has published articles on the Qur'an, Islamic legal thought, and Arabic literature, is the author of *Early Islamic Legal Theory* (2007), and editor and translator of *Al-Shāfi‘ī’s The Epistle on Legal Theory* (2013), a volume in the Library of Arabic Literature.
ANDREW D. MAGNUSSON is a Lecturer in the Department of History at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo. He earned a PhD in Islamic History at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research interests include the history of non-Muslim communities in the medieval and modern Middle East. A forthcoming article based on his dissertation, “Muslim-Zoroastrian Relations and Religious Violence in Early Islamic Discourse,” will appear in the ARAM Periodical.

SCOTT MARCUS is Professor of Ethnomusicology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, specializing in the musics of the Arab World and northern India. His dissertation, “Arab Music Theory in the Modern Period,” and numerous articles focus on the Arab system of melodic modes. He authored Music in Egypt (2007), co-edited The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Vol. 6: The Middle East (2002), and directs the UCSB Middle East Ensemble, whose performances have included a 2010 tour of Egypt sponsored by the Egyptian government.

MUHSIN AL-MUSAWI is Professor of Classical and Modern Arabic and Comparative Studies at Columbia University. He is the author of twenty-eight books (four of which are novels) including Scheherazade in England (1981); The Society of One Thousand and One Nights (2000); Anglo-Orient: Easterners in Textual Camps (2000); The Postcolonial Arabic Novel: Debating Ambivalence (2003); Arabic Poetry: Trajectories of Modernity and Tradition (2006); Reading Iraq: Culture and Power in Conflict (2006); and The Islamic Context of the Thousand and One Nights (2009).

NASSER RABBAT is the Aga Khan Professor and the Director of the Aga Khan Program for Islamic Architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. An architect and a historian, his scholarly interests include Islamic architecture and urbanism, Arabic history, and post-colonial criticism. Among his books are Mamluk History through Architecture: Building, Culture, and Politics in Mamluk Egypt and Syria (2010) and Thaqafat al-bina’ wa-bina’ al-thaqafa (The Culture of Building and Building Culture) (2002).

DWIGHT F. REYNOLDS is Professor of Arabic Language and Literature at the University of California, Santa Barbara. His research areas include Arabic literature, oral poetry, music, and folklore. He is the author of Heroic Poets, Poetic Heroes: The Ethnography of Performance in an Egyptian Oral Epic Tradition (1995) and Arab Folklore: A Handbook (2007), as well as co-author and editor of Interpreting the Self: Autobiography in the Arabic Literary Tradition (2001).
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DEVIN STEWART is Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Emory University. He is the author of *Islamic Legal Orthodoxy: Twelver Shiite Responses to the Sunni Legal System* (1998). The areas of his research include Shi’ite Islam, Islamic legal education, biography and autobiography in the Islamic world, medieval Arabic prose literature, and Arabic dialects.

SHAWKAT M. TOORAWA teaches Arabic, comparative, and world literature at Cornell University. His areas of research include the Qur’an, the writerly culture of ninth- and tenth-century Baghdad, and modern poetry. His edition and translation of Adonis’s *A Time between Ashes and Roses* appeared in 2004. An anthology of New York City poems titled *The City That Never Sleeps* appeared in 2015.
Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Anna Bond and Linda Bree for their patience and guidance throughout the lengthy process of compiling and editing this volume. In addition, I wish to express my personal appreciation to the contributors, who have managed to persevere through multiple drafts and my many requests for changes, cuts, and additions. I hope they will see the finished work as worthy of their labors. Finally, I wish to extend thanks to my assistants who have helped with various aspects of editing and proofreading, including Philip Deslippe, Corinne Kalota, and Matthew Wilson, with particular gratitude to Sohaira Siddiqui, who worked on the final stages of the manuscript’s preparation.
A note on terminology and transliteration

Technical terminology has been held to a minimum, but a few terms are so commonly used that they have been retained. Thus the Eastern Mediterranean region of the Arab World is referred to as the Mashriq (Arabic for “the East”; in other works sometimes spelled Mashreq) and North Africa is at times referred to as the Maghrib (Arabic for “the West”; elsewhere sometimes spelled Maghreb), and the term Levant (roughly Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and Syria) also makes a few appearances. Since the term “Berber” (derived from the same origin as the term “barbarian”) is increasingly deemed outdated and even offensive, we have opted for the terminology that is now being used internationally: Imazighen (for Berbers as a people), Tamazight (as a global term for the Berber languages), and Amazigh (for the adjectival form of Berber, e.g., Amazigh culture). These and other terms are found in the Glossary at the back of the volume.

Academics have developed various systems for writing Arabic in Latin script that involve a large number of diacritical markings both above and below many letters. In order to make these essays more accessible to the general public, these markings have for the most part been avoided here; speakers of Arabic usually have no real difficulty understanding transliterations even without these markings, and for non-Arabic speakers they only serve to make those words opaque and hard to grasp. Only in the cases of some Arabic technical terms and words that are unfamiliar to all but specialists have full transliterations been included in parentheses according to the system of the International Journal of Middle East Studies (IJMES).
A note on terminology and transliteration

A large number of singers, artists, writers, movie stars, and other known figures have adopted their own preferred westernized spelling of their names, and many songs and film titles are also found in certain common English spellings: when these are mentioned they are sometimes accompanied by transliterations in parentheses. Since some books are published in English translation with titles that differ substantially from their Arabic originals, literary works are cited by a literal translation of the Arabic title with the transliteration in brackets, followed by the title of the English translation. For example, Tawfiq al-Hakim’s Diary of a Public Prosecutor in the Provinces (Yawmiyyāt nāʾib fī al-aryāf, 1937; English translation, The Maze of Justice, 1947).

Several of these essays make references to online sources. Since copying out URL addresses is time consuming, and such addresses are often short-lived, wherever possible a general site (such as www.youtube.com) and keywords are listed instead. Only in cases where keywords will not lead to the desired link (such as on Arabic-language sites), have full URL addresses been given instead.
Chronology

1798  French invasion and occupation of Egypt under Napoleon Bonaparte
1801  Surrender and withdrawal of the French after defeat by Anglo-Ottoman forces; birth of Rifāʿa al-Tahtawi
1805  Muhammad ʿAli (Mehmet Ali) officially recognized as governor of Egypt
1820–22 Muhammad ʿAli invades and conquers Sudan
1820  A series of "truces" establish the Trucial States (modern-day United Arab Emirates) as a British protectorate
1823  Birth of ʿAli Mubarak, author, educational reformer, and champion of modernization
1826–31 Egyptians sent to study in Paris accompanied by their chaplain, Rifāʿa al-Tahtawi
1830  French invade and conquer Algeria, ruling for 132 years until Algerian independence in 1962
1835  Rifāʿa al-Tahtawi founds the School of Languages in Cairo; establishment of the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities (later the Egyptian Museum)
1839  British forces occupy Aden (South Yemen)
1848  Algeria annexed and declared an integral part of France
1849  Death of Muhammad ʿAli; birth of Muhammad ʿAbduh, Muslim religious reformer
1860  Violence between Christians and Druze in Mount Lebanon leads to intervention by French, British, and Ottoman forces
1861  British take control of Bahrain; birth of Jurji Zaydan, author and historian, whose series of historical novels were influential in shaping the Nahda (Arab Renaissance) vision of the Arabo-Islamic past
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1869</td>
<td>Opening of the Suez Canal; completion of the Khedival Opera House in Cairo, inaugurated with a performance of Verdi’s <em>Rigoletto</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Establishment of the Egyptian National Library (Dar al-Kutub)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Premiere of Verdi’s <em>Aïda</em> in the Khedival Opera House, Cairo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Establishment of the Teacher’s College (Dar al-ʿUlum) in Cairo by ʿAli Mubarak, combining traditional Islamic learning with Western education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>French Protectorate of Tunisia established and lasts until Tunisian independence in 1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Britain invades and occupies Egypt, effectively controlling the country until the 1952 Egyptian Revolution; ʿAli Mubarak publishes <em>ʿAlam al-Din</em>, a novel-like work in which the main characters debate the advantages and disadvantages of Western and Eastern culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Birth of Jubran Khalil Jubran, poet and writer, in Lebanon, later known as Kahlil Gibran after his emigration to the United States, author of <em>The Prophet</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Kuwait becomes a British protectorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. 1904</td>
<td>Birth of Umm Kulthum, Egyptian singer who became the greatest Arab musical figure of the twentieth century</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Libya invaded by Italy and ruled until 1943 when it is seized by the Allies; birth of Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>Morocco divided into Spanish and French protectorates that end with Moroccan independence in 1956</td>
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<tr>
<td>1916</td>
<td>Beginning of the Arab Revolt against Ottoman rule (Lawrence of Arabia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>Treaty of Versailles ends World War I and divides the Middle East among the Western powers</td>
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<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>Beginning of French Mandate of Syria and Lebanon; beginning of British Mandate of Iraq</td>
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<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>Hashemite Prince Faisal placed on the newly created throne of Iraq by the British</td>
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<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>British Mandate of Transjordan established by League of Nations; nominal end to British occupation of Egypt, though effective control lasts until 1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Publication of Kahlil Gibran’s <em>The Prophet</em> in English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>Republic of Lebanon declared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Unveiling of the statue <em>Nahdat Misr</em> (Egyptian Renaissance) by Mahmoud Mukhtar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>Ibn Saud completes conquest of most of the Arabian Peninsula and declares the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Cairo Congress of Arab Music</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>Establishment of the Academy of the Arabic Language (Cairo)</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>Establishment of Egyptian State Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Iraq granted nominal independence from Britain, but British troops remain; establishment of Egyptian national film studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Control of Libya wrested from Italy by the Allied forces</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Foundation of the League of Arab States, originally with six members (Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria); now includes twenty-two states</td>
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<tr>
<td>1946</td>
<td>Transjordan becomes an independent monarchy; Lebanon achieves full independence from France</td>
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<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>The United Nations recognizes the establishment of the Jewish State of Israel in Palestine</td>
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<tr>
<td>1949</td>
<td>Transjordan is renamed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan</td>
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<tr>
<td>1951</td>
<td>Libyan independence from Allied control</td>
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<tr>
<td>1952</td>
<td>Egyptian Revolution topples the monarchy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Independent Republic of Egypt declared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1956</td>
<td>Nasser (Gamal ʿAbd al-Nasir) becomes president of Egypt; the Tripartite Alliance (Britain, France, and Israel) invades Egypt and seizes the Suez Canal; after an international outcry, including pressure from the United States, they withdraw their forces</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1958</td>
<td>Iraqi monarchy overthrown in a military coup</td>
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<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>Kuwaiti independence from Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Algerian independence from France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1967</td>
<td>The “Six Day War” with Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>1969</td>
<td>Egyptian film <em>al-Mumiya</em> (The Mummy) is released</td>
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<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>Death of Nasser; Anwar Sadat becomes president of Egypt</td>
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<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>Bahrain and United Arab Emirates become independent from Britain</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>The “October War” (or “Yom Kippur War”) with Israel</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Sadat assassinated by Islamists; Mubarak becomes president of Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>Egyptian novelist Naguib Mahfouz awarded Nobel Prize for Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Qatari-owned Al Jazeera Arabic satellite TV channel begins broadcasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Event</td>
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<td>------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Saudi-owned Al Arabiya Arabic satellite TV channel begins broadcasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Al Jazeera English news service begins broadcasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Self-immolation of Mohammed Bouazizi in Tunisia sets off large-scale demonstrations that unleash the “Arab Spring”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Massive demonstrations in Egypt lead to the intervention of the Egyptian military and the toppling of the Mubarak regime</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>