



Tunisia's Modern Woman

Claims over women's liberation vocalized by Tunisia's first president, Habib Bourguiba began with legal reforms related to family law in 1956. In this book, Amy Aisen Kallander uses this political appropriation of women's rights to look at the importance of women to post-colonial state-building projects in Tunisia and how this relates to other state-feminist projects across the Middle East and during the Cold War. Here we see how the notion of modern womanhood was central to a range of issues from economic development (via family planning) to intellectual life and the growth of Tunisian academia. Looking at political discourse, the women's press, fashion, and ideas about love, the book traces how this concept was reformulated by women through transnational feminist organizing, and in the press, in ways that proposed alternatives to the dominant constructions of state feminism.

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Nation-Building and State Feminism in the
Global 1960s

AMY AISEN KALLANDER



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Note on the Text

Transliteration systems not only change over time but depend on linguistic conventions in two languages. For research focusing on Tunisia, many sources follow a French orthography. I have adopted a modified approach with a simplified version of the IJMES transliteration system for texts. For proper names of well-known figures, I have included both the French-inspired transliteration and one based on the IJMES system. For place names, I generally utilize IJMES standards as they fall closer to the names by which these places are known to Tunisians (Halq al-Wad and not La Goulette). Unless otherwise noted, translations from Arabic and French are my own.

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