Leaders in the Middle East and North Africa

The study of politics in the MENA region has traditionally been dominated by historical and case study approaches. In this innovative book, Özgür Özdamar and Sercan Canbolat instead adopt a social science-based methodology to reconsider the dynamics of power and leadership in Africa and the Middle East. By analyzing the psychological profiles of fourteen leaders across eight countries and three nonstate organizations, they develop a nuanced portrait of modern leadership. Using this approach, the authors are able to draw connections between apparently disparate political ideologies, from Sunni Islamism to Shia revolutionism, from secular nationalism to armed nonstate groups. Demonstrating the previously unacknowledged commonalities and divergences in these leaders' approaches, Özdamar and Canbolat illuminate their tactics and strategies and offer novel insights into how best to negotiate with them.

ÖZGÜR ÖZDAMAR is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of International Relations at Bilkent University in Ankara. From 2019 to 2020, he was a visiting Fulbright Scholar at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University. He currently serves as Director of Research at the Center for Foreign Policy and Peace Studies at Bilkent University. He has published two books: *An Expected Utility Approach to Energy Security in Eurasia* (2017) and *Role Theory in the MENA* (co-authored, 2019).

SERCAN CANBOLAT is a Fulbright PhD candidate in Political Science at the University of Connecticut. His work has been published in *International Studies Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Polity*, and *Canadian Foreign Policy Journal*. For his well-received scholarly works, he was awarded the 2018 Polity Prize by the Northeastern Political Science Association and the 2020 and 2021 Margaret G. Hermann Awards by the International Studies Association.

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ÖZGÜR ÖZDAMAR

Bilkent University

SERCAN CANBOLAT

University of Connecticut

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Abbreviations

AANES	Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria
AKP	Justice and Development Party
ANSA	armed nonstate actor
AQI	al-Qaida in Iraq
CJTF-OIR	Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve
EU	European Union
FBIS	Foreign Broadcast Information Service
FPA	foreign policy analysis
FTO	foreign terrorist organizations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDF	Israeli Defense Forces
IR	international relations
IRP	Islamic Republican Party
ISI	Islamic State in Iraq
ISIS	Islamic State in Iraq and Syria
ITM	Islamic Tendency Movement
MB	Muslim Brotherhood
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MSC	Mujahidin Shura Council
MSP	National Salvation Party
NPT	Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
OCA	operational code analysis
PKK	Kurdistan Workers' Party
PLO	Palestine Liberation Organization
PM	prime minister
PYD	Democratic Union Party of Syria
SCAF	The Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, Egypt
UAE	United Arab Emirates

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UN	United Nations
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
USSR	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
VICS	Verbs in Context System
WMDs	weapons of mass destruction