



	<p><b>Egypt</b></p>
	<p><i>Conflict and Cooperation: Christian-Muslim Relations in Contemporary Egypt</i>, by Peter Makari—This book considers the role of governmental and nongovernmental actors in conflict resolution and the promotion of positive Christian-Muslim relations in Egypt. He maintains that, prevailing opinions notwithstanding, the last quarter-century has witnessed a high level of interreligious cooperation and tolerance. Relying heavily on Arabic sources, Makari examines the rhetoric and actions of official governmental and religious institutions, as well as civil society actors. Combining empirical research with an informed theoretical perspective, this work offers a perspective seldom available to the English reader on questions of tolerance, citizenship, and civil society in this part of the Arab world.</p>
	<p><i>Political Islam, Citizenship, and Minorities: The Future of Arab Christians in the Islamic Middle East</i>, by Andrea Zaki Stephanous—Stephanous is the General Director of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services in Cairo, Egypt, and in this volume, has made a major contribution on the interaction between Arab Christians and Islam, particularly in Egypt and Lebanon. Beginning with an excellent historical roadmap of political Islam, Stephanous explores positions and critiques within Islam, and continues by engaging the question of minorities and specifically Christians. In the second half, he examines Coptic and Maronite identity and political participation before concluding with a proposal for dynamic citizenship, which goes beyond political citizenship and involves pluralistic identity. Stephanous’ book is packed with insightful information, theoretical (and theological) discussion, and hope for the future.</p>
	<p><i>Coptic Christians and Muslims in Egypt</i>, by Fikry F. Andrawes &amp; Alison Orr-Andrawes—This volume is a sweeping study, in a concise and readable form, that contextualizes the inter-communal relationships within Egyptian history. The main focus is on Coptic Orthodox-Muslim relations, so not much attention is given to Protestants or Catholic Egyptians. The presentation includes both wide-angle history and specific episodes and historical anecdotes that makes the narrative lively.</p>
	<p><i>Christians in Egypt: Orthodox, Catholic, and Protestant Communities Past and Present</i>, by Otto Meinardus—The late Otto Meinardus is best known for his insightful and informative efforts presenting Egyptian and Eastern Christianity to a wide audience. <i>Christians in Egypt</i>, the third in the Meinardus trilogy on Egyptian Christianity, all published by the American University in Cairo Press, continues that effort.</p>



	<p><i>Copts and the Security State</i>, by Laure Guirguis—This (academic) book is a thorough examination of the relationship of the Coptic Orthodox Church and the Christian community in Egypt to the State, and includes extensive discussion of the relationship with the leading Muslim movements, including the Muslim Brotherhood. It focuses on the past forty years, including the revolution of 2011, and the ensuing years of unsettled political and social circumstances. Guirguis has written an important study that requires an attentive read.</p>
	<p><i>Copts at the Crossroads</i>, by Mariz Tadros—This is a thorough and keenly insightful examination of the place of Egyptian Christians, especially the Coptic Orthodox, in Egyptian political life over the past century, focusing on the period leading up to, and immediately after, the 2011 uprising. Tadros offers historical perspective and analysis in her discussion of sectarian relations in Egypt, as well as the roles of Copts—as Copts and as citizens—in the current period of political and social transition. This book would easily make the short list of essential reading for those interested in these important issues.</p>
	<p><i>A Vision of Hope</i>, by David W. Virtue—This is a biography of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Habib, an Egyptian Presbyterian minister who helped establish the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services. Habib’s life was inspiring and CEOSS’s contributions to Egyptian society are indeed significant. Virtue writes Habib’s story, which offers insight into the country, society, and the church in Egypt.</p>
	<p><i>American Evangelicals in Egypt</i>, by Heather Sharkey—Despite a perhaps too heavy link between missionary presence and US diplomatic missions, this book traces the changing course of mission history in Egypt, primarily of the Presbyterian experience. It is helpful to understand some of the theory and the paradigms Sharkey utilizes, as it is applicable in other contexts. This book also is enlightening in that many of the same kinds of issues mission boards face today have existed over the course of time.</p>
	<p><i>The Orphan Scandal</i>, by Beth Baron—In this well-researched book, Baron focuses on the impact of a 1933 incident in which Turkiyya, a young Muslim orphan under the care of a mission orphanage/school, was beaten by her teacher. The fallout had significant implications for the presence and work of foreign missions in Egypt, for interfaith relations, for international relations and, as Baron asserts, for the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood. Lucid and intelligent, this book provides insight into Egyptian history and the different foreign missions operating there.</p>



	<p><i>Egypt: A Short History</i>, by Robert L. Tignor—It is very difficult to capture thousands of years of Egyptian history in one volume of reasonable length, but Tignor has accomplished that. This book is neither a travel book nor an academic history, but one suited for a general reader interested in a sweep of the country’s rich history. This book helps to give an overarching sense of general themes and periods with enough detail to satisfy—without overwhelming—a non-specialist reader. It may leave the reader wanting more, and there are notes and a helpful bibliography. There are some subtle biases, but overall, this book is valuable.</p>
	<p><i>The History of Modern Egypt: From Muhammad Ali to Mubarak</i>, by P.J. Vatikiotis—This book, while published in 1986, is a classic volume, one that is detailed in its scope and depth. Examining social, economic, and political history, Prof. Vatikiotis covers the period from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century to the first years of the Mubarak presidency with a smooth style and with intelligent insight.</p>
	<p><i>Into the Hands of the Soldiers</i>, by David Kirkpatrick—As <i>New York Times</i> bureau chief in Egypt from 2011 through 2015, Kirkpatrick witnessed the political and social upheaval of the country first hand. In that time, he cultivated many relationships that helped him understand the events. This book is a thoughtful and insightful lens into Egypt, the chronology of change, social dynamics there, and particularly of interest, a flavor of the US policy debates taking place as events in Egypt unfolded. This is an engaging and engrossing journey through the 2011 revolution and beyond.</p>
	<p><i>A Revolution Undone</i>, by H.A. Hellyer—This book is an autopsy of the 2011-2013 period and following. Hellyer offers a critical analysis of the choices made by the various actors in the period of transition: the military, the politicians, the Muslim Brotherhood, and, not least, the revolutionaries. He is critical of the choices made, especially by the latter, as he thinks about how the events could have turned out better for a democratic Egypt. Hellyer examines human rights issues as well. This perspective is a helpful examination of the various stages of transition.</p>
	<p><i>The Egyptians: A Radical History</i>, by Jack Shenker—A most engaging read into the context and circumstances leading to the 2011 revolution and beyond, Shenker describes the conditions of Egyptians at many levels of society and the impact of economic policies imposed by different rulers of Egypt going back to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Focusing heavily on the modern era (Nasser—Sadat—Mubarak—beyond), Shenker rejoins politics and economics, demonstrating that the popular movements that were visible in 2011-2014 actually were manifest earlier, but were quashed. This book is Zinn-like in its focus on peoples’ movements and alternative history. It is an important contribution.</p>



	<p><i>Once Upon A Revolution</i>, by Thanassis Cambanis—The Egyptian revolution is not complete, or is it? What factors led to the current situation four years after the 18 days in Tahrir Square? What prospects are possible? Cambanis is a veteran Middle East reporter, and in this volume, tells the story of the Egyptian revolution by following some of its activists. This book offers an excellent chronicle of the events of 2011-2014 in a highly readable and personable way. With political analysis and contact with Egyptian sources, Cambanis’ reporting is quite valuable.</p>
	<p><i>The Struggle for Egypt</i>, by Stephen A. Cook—The jacket cover shows Tahrir Square during the 2011 “revolution” but the content of Cook’s text explores the players who have been engaged in attempting to set the public discourse and political direction in Egypt for the last century. In light of the historical study, Tahrir 2011 was not as unexpected as it might have been portrayed. Examining social movements and actors over the course of 100-plus years, and especially since 1952, Cook’s book is illuminating and very helpful.</p>
	<p><i>Liberation Square: Inside the Egyptian Revolution and the Rebirth of a Nation</i>, by Ashraf Khalil—This chronicle of the days of the Jan. 25-Feb. 11, 2011 “revolution” in Egypt helps the reader get a flavor of the mood. Khalil, a journalist, shares his observations and analysis of the prevailing context leading up to Jan. 25, stories of the 18 days, and some insight into the changes that took place as a result. He conveys the thoughts of Egyptians, and shares the seriousness—and humor—of the times.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt on the Brink: From Nasser to Mubarak</i>, by Tarek Osman—Osman’s book is a perceptive and well-written book about the development of Egyptian politics and society over the course of the last 60 years. It could have been entitled, “The Fall of Egypt” as it traces the decline in Egyptian influence in the region and the downturn of the Egyptian economy and political scene over the last century, with sharp analysis. Osman’s book takes the reader up to the edge of the 2011 revolution and is extremely helpful in understanding the factors which led to it. Osman’s analysis will require some time to determine its accuracy, as changes take place.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt</i>, by Robert Springborg—Taking into account the development of the Egyptian state in the era of the republic (since 1952), Springborg focuses heavily on the development of the “deep state” and the ways in which it has impacted developments since 2011. This book is also a political economy analysis, and delves into civil society and social institutions. Springborg considers religious actors as well. All of it together helps form a picture and explanation of the state of Egypt in the Sisi era.</p>
	<p><i>Soldiers, Spies, and Statesmen</i>, by Hazem Kandil—In this historical analysis, Kandil explores in great detail the triangle of power in Egypt: the political leadership, the security apparatus, and the military. He starts in the pre-1952 era, and traces the relationship over the eras of Nasser, Sadat, and Mubarak, concluding with the immediate aftermath of the 2011 revolution. It is a very detailed study, and one that deserves attention, as it provides insight into the inner workings of the Egyptian state. It also has implications for the understanding of other countries.</p>



	<p><i>Cairo: Memoir of a City Transformed</i>, by Ahdaf Soueif—In elegant style, Dr. Soueif recounts the infamous 18 days of revolution in January-February 2011 from her perspective as someone on the ground and involved. Two sections on that period are interspersed with two additional sections recalling the period since. But not only about the revolution, this volume is about family, about a city, and about aspirations of a nation. Dr. Soueif’s memoir is informative, personal, and memorable.</p>
	<p><i>The City Always Wins</i>, by Omar Robert Hamilton—This is a novel, but is based on the real events of post-Tahrir (Jan. 25-Feb. 11, 2011) Cairo. Tracing the lives of a small coterie of activists through their decisions and lives, Hamilton offers a deeply impressive and poignant record of the fits and starts of the reality in Egypt after the elation of the 18 days. It is both an illuminating perspective and a lament of the people and principles of the revolution. [Here is an interview with the author: <a href="https://theintercept.com/2017/10/21/conversation-omar-robert-hamilton-author-city-always-wins-novel-egypts-stifled-revolt/">https://theintercept.com/2017/10/21/conversation-omar-robert-hamilton-author-city-always-wins-novel-egypts-stifled-revolt/</a>]</p>
	<p><i>Women of the Midan</i>, by Sherine Hafez—Focusing on the role of ordinary women in the period of the 2011 Egyptian revolution and the following transition, Hafez relates first-hand perspectives and puts those in the context of both Egyptian feminist historical involvement in movements and gender studies. Hafez offers valuable accounts from interviews with women of a variety of backgrounds. Women played an important role but were marginalized and victimized.</p>
	<p><i>Revolution is My Name</i>, by Mona Prince—This book is a diary of the revolution by an Egyptian woman who is a professor and who was active during the 25 days in Tahrir Square. The book is a fast read, yet captures the flavor of the revolution, including the feelings of the people who were directly involved, their sarcasm, and their good humor. It is a personal account and reflection.</p>
	<p><i>The Buried</i>, by Peter Hessler—Hessler is a writer for <i>The New Yorker</i> magazine, and his recounting and examination of his experience in Egypt during and following the 2011 and 2013 revolutions is in that style. By introducing the reader to Egyptians with whom he and his family became close while living in the country, and presenting them deeply, one can get a feel for the life of some of Egypt’s lesser-known and even marginalized people. By incorporating his learning and exploration of ancient Egyptian archaeology, Hessler comments on today’s government and the differences between what is presented publicly (in hieroglyphics) and what is the case for daily life.</p>



	<p><i>Circling the Square</i>, by Wendell Steavenson—Steavenson is a writer for the New Yorker and covered the events of the Egyptian revolution from Cairo. This book is less explanatory, and more descriptive. She asserts that events are too hard to explain, and that the real story is the story of people, which she provides. Starting with the first few days of the January 25, 2011 revolution, she describes the people and events from up close. The book continues through the ascension of Pres. Sisi in late June/early July 2014.</p>
	<p><i>Generation Revolution</i>, by Rachel Aspden—Aspden, a journalist, offers a very insightful perspective on Egyptian society, politics, and contemporary history in this book. She lived in Egypt in the early 2000s and then returned in the 2011 revolution, and here profiles young Egyptians and their hopes, dreams, and involvement in the changes the country has experienced. This is a helpful addition to the burgeoning body of literature on Egypt’s revolutionary era, providing important background and examining the 2011 and post-2011 contexts.</p>
	<p><i>Arab Fall</i>, by Eric Trager—This is a very well researched volume that tells the story of the period from the January 2011 revolution in Egypt to the fall of President Morsi on June 30, 2013. Trager focuses on the rise and fall of the Muslim Brotherhood, its decision-making processes, and the contexts surrounding those decisions, including the US role. Academically documented and told with a fluid narrative, this book is an important contribution to the literature about developments in Egypt, and the role and future of the Muslim Brotherhood.</p>
	<p><i>A Rage for Order</i>, by Robert Worth—Focusing on Egypt, Syria, Libya, Yemen, and Tunisia, Worth offers an intelligent and human, even if pessimistic, entry into the “Arab Spring.” The book’s two parts focus on the euphoria of the events of revolution in the early stages, and the less hopeful outcomes after some time has passed. Worth introduces the reader to the people involved, from liberals to Islamists, and paints a picture of the changes that took place, beginning with hope and continuing with ISIS.</p>
	<p><i>Sinai</i>, by Mohannad Sabry—This is an extensive, ground-breaking, and ground-level study of the political, economic, tribal, and religious dynamics of Sinai. Sinai is quite marginalized, both in Egypt and in coverage, so this book provides welcome and valuable insight. In the periods preceding the Egyptian revolution of 2011, during the transitions, and following, Sinai has been significant for Egyptians, Palestinians in Gaza, and Israel. Sabry explores all of these dynamics and illuminates the peninsula, best known only for its Red Sea resorts.</p>



	<p><i>Adaptable Autocrats</i>, by Joshua Stacher—In this comparative study of Egyptian and Syrian politics, Stacher concludes that Egypt’s system is more adaptable than Syria’s and that led to the types of change that were witnessed in 2011-2012. Egypt’s system adapted successfully while Syria has not, thus resulting in a relatively smoother transition in Egypt and more violence in Syria. Situations have changed since the book was written, but the arguments are as applicable as ever. Stacher notes that the two countries, while often compared, do not actually represent a similar trajectory. The volume assumes a certain level of familiarity with each country’s modern political history, but the value of analysis and insight is very high, rewarding the reader.</p>
	<p><i>Egyptian Politics: The Dynamics of Authoritarian Rule</i>, by Maye Kassem—This scholarly examination of Egypt since 1952 contributes to the discourse on stability in the Middle East. The role of the ruling party and its impact on civil society is an aspect that can help illuminate Egypt’s present, and the possibilities for the future.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt: The Moment of Change</i>, edited by Rabab el-Mahdi and Philip Marfleet—This is a compact but wide-ranging compilation of chapters addressing the major issues in Egypt leading up to the 2011 revolution. Published in 2009, the authors of the contributions provide well-documented studies of economic, social, and political factors that suggest change would come soon. Anticipatory of the revolution, this book is essential to understand the plural motivations of the many segments of society that participated in the protests, and the areas where change is required. This is among the best books available in English to comprehend the dynamics at play.</p>
	<p><i>The Autumn of Dictatorship: Fiscal Crisis and Political Change in Egypt under Mubarak</i>, by Samer Soliman—This book, previously published in French, and in Egypt in Arabic, is a rigorous analysis of Egypt’s political economy, and the failure of the Mubarak regime to gain control over finances. Soliman argues that this failure is a potentially major detriment to the regime continuing to hold onto power. (The book was originally published in 2006, but the English version has a forward and postscript that reflect the events of 2011 in Egypt.) Distinguishing between the regime and institutions of the state, and incorporating vast economic data, Soliman—a member of Egypt’s opposition and a professor at the American University in Cairo—makes a strong case that change must take place. He offers indications of those changes, so the coming period will tell if they are heeded.</p>

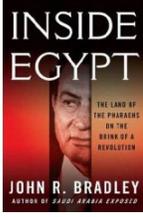
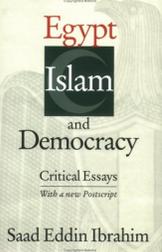
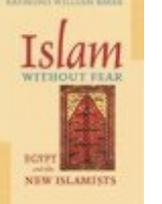
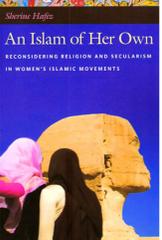
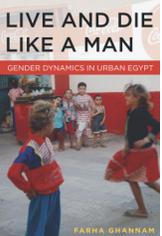
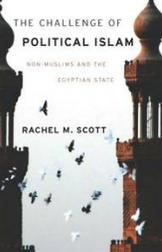


	<p><i>On the State of Egypt</i>, by Alaa al-Aswany—Aswany is best known as a novelist, but this book is a collection of columns he has contributed to two Egyptian newspapers over the past few years. The columns help the reader understand the context in Egypt in that period, and are courageously written. Aswany discusses issues of corruption, policy brutality, religion and its place in society, (false) piety, and the question of Egyptian Christians, among others. As a Muslim, it is important for his voice to be amplified, and this book is a vehicle for that. He is a critique of the former regime, and concludes many of his columns with the sentence, “Democracy is the solution.”</p>
	<p><i>Egypt, the Arabs, and the World</i>, by Hani Shukrallah—In a collection of columns written between 1995 and early 2011 organized thematically, Shukrallah, an Egyptian journalist, weighs in on a variety of topics, including the so-called “clash of civilizations,” Islamic activism, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Arab politics, and the situation in Egypt as it has evolved, culminating with the 2011 Tahrir demonstrations. Shukrallah’s observations and thoughts are insightful and sharp; they are helpful to get a sense of the view from Cairo.</p>
	<p><i>Morbid Symptoms</i>, by Gilbert Achcar—This book is comprised of two long essays, focusing primarily on the aftermath of 2011 in Syria and Egypt. Achcar is highly critical of how things have developed in both countries and of the role the US played in the so-called “Arab Spring.” Even though his recommendations for US involvement may not concur with those of the church and our partners in the Middle East, this critical read is very worthwhile.</p>
	<p><i>Democracy Prevention: The Politics of the US-Egyptian Alliance</i>, by Jason Brownlee—Students of <i>realpolitik</i> will not be surprised by Brownlee’s conclusions but his analysis is comprehensive. In this volume, the US-Egyptian relationship is examined and the principles on which it was based through Mubarak’s presidency are identified. These principles led to policy consequences, which are also explored. It remains to be seen what the new era of Egypt’s political history will mean for this relationship.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt in the Era of Hosni Mubarak</i>, by Galal Amin—In this perceptive and insightful book, Amin does more than characterize Mubarak’s era, but rather compares Mubarak’s presidency with that of Sadat and Nasser before him. Clearly, Amin is sympathetic to Nasser more than either of Sadat and Mubarak, but his approach, as an economist and as a social commentator, provide helpful perspective on the post-1952 revolution. Mubarak’s terms have been characterized less by ideology and more by the imperative of maintaining power, according to Amin. This book, like others he has written, is enhanced by personal anecdotes.</p>



	<p><i>Whatever Happened to the Egyptians?</i> and <i>Whatever Else Happened to the Egyptians?</i>, by Galal Amin—Amin is an Egyptian economist, but these two short books give the reader a sense of the changes in Egypt in various fields, including religion, dress, economy, culture, technology, and more importantly, their impact on society. Amin is a serious, but entertaining writer who offers important insights on cultural shifts that, while reflecting on Egypt, offer a recognizable lament for readers in other places as well.</p>
	<p><i>Colonizing Egypt</i>, by Timothy Mitchell—This book takes a post-modernist approach to examining interaction with Egypt. It is described as “a study of the emergence of modern modes of government in the colonial period and an exploration of the forms of reason, power and knowledge that define the experience of modernity.” Complex but worth the effort, this book is Mitchell’s first. He is an eminent scholar of the Middle East.</p>
	<p><i>Sadat and After: Struggles for Egypt’s Political Soul</i>, by Raymond William Baker—In Baker’s fascinating and highly readable case studies about Egypt, he demonstrates life in civil society, political parties, governmental ties with big business, and religious opposition. The models are relevant and helpful in understanding political structure.</p>
	<p><i>Thirteen Days in September</i>, by Lawrence Wright—In this briskly paced book, Wright chronicles the 1978 Camp David summit that led to the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty the following year. But this book is more than that; it provides important biographical background of Presidents Carter and Sadat, and Prime Minister Begin. It is a study of the characters involved and the historical contexts that led them each to Camp David. Positions staked out then have bearing on the state of the conflict today, and is therefore is an especially relevant as contemporary insight.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt’s Diplomacy in War, Peace and Transition</i>, by Nabil Fahmy—In this volume, Fahmy offers a front-row seat into Egypt’s foreign relations over the past decades, including his own direct involvement in formulating it and carrying it out. Fahmy offers insight into Egypt’s domestic politics as well as engagement with regional and global issues. There is much detail included on Egypt’s interactions with the US, Russia, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states, the Palestinians and Israel, Turkey, China, and others. In addition, Fahmy shares an insider’s perspective on the period of Egypt’s two “revolutions” and transition. This is a valuable contribution.</p>
	<p><i>Making the Arab World</i>, by Fawaz Gerges—In this fascinating and well-documented historical treatment, Gerges, a prominent professor at the London School of Economics, examines the dynamics and tensions between President Gamal Abd al-Nasser and Sayyid Qutb, who broke from the Muslim Brotherhood. Questions of Arab nationalism vs. Islamism, and military vs. civilian rule, are the themes of this narrative, which also tells the story of the intersection of the two main individuals. This is a well-told and thoughtful treatment of debates that have impacted the contemporary Arab world and politics.</p>



	<p><i>Inside Egypt: The Land of the Pharaohs on the Brink of a Revolution</i>, by John R. Bradley—This book is a harsh appraisal of many aspects of Egypt, and caused a stir in Egypt. The author goes back and forth between anecdotal and investigative writing, but can’t seem to decide which he prefers. Some of the information an insight is quite helpful, yet the tone is quite negative. This book should not be one’s only background reading on Egypt. [Only his subtitle predicted a revolution; he didn’t make a strong case for it within.]</p>
	<p><i>Egypt, Islam, and Democracy: Critical Essays</i>, by Saad Eddin Ibrahim—This collection of scholarly articles written by one of Egypt’s outspoken social and political critics is a helpful perspective on issues that are current. Ibrahim was among the first to publish a sociological analysis of Egypt’s Islamic groups, and that is the opening article in this collection. His articles are insightful and valuable, especially in the current context of change.</p>
	<p><i>Islam Without Fear: Egypt and the New Islamists</i>, by Raymond William Baker—Baker gives voice to Egyptian Muslim thinkers who are carving a way forward that is different than the more extreme versions of political Islam. He offers portraits of several important figures in Egypt today.</p>
	<p><i>An Islam of Her Own</i>, by Sherine Hafez—A book that is intellectually rigorous and empirically grounded, Hafez’s study of Muslim women’s community development work sets out to de-gender what she calls “Islamic activism.” In doing so, Hafez sheds a bright light on the kind of volunteer and non-profit work that is being carried out by faith-based groups in Egypt to provide social services. This exploration is challenging to common paradigms on Muslim women, and quite accessible.</p>
	<p><i>Live and Die Like a Man</i>, by Farha Ghannam—With much focus on women in the Arab world, Ghannam explores the socialization of men in urban Egypt in this anthropological study. She looks at different stages of life, who is involved and how, and magnifies the role of women (sisters, mothers, wives, etc.) in contributing to maleness in Egypt today. Relying on over a decade of field research in a Cairene neighborhood, she has unique access. This is a helpful and exceptional study.</p>
	<p><i>The Challenge of Political Islam: Non-Muslims and the Egyptian State</i>, by Rachel M. Scott—It is often said that Egypt is a bellwether for the Arab world. If that is the case, then this book will have implications well beyond Egypt. In Scott’s well-written and –researched book, she presents the theoretical aspects of the political place of non-Muslims, especially focusing on the so-called Wasatiyya movement, or moderate Muslims. The debate centers on individual or communal rights, and the distinction is important. Is Egypt headed toward a more secular model, or a more religiously identified rule of law? Scott’s presentation and analysis is exceptional, and important.</p>



	<p><i>Religious Difference in a Secular Age</i>, by Saba Mahmood—In this detailed and extremely nuanced book, Mahmood conveys very helpfully issues, ideas, and debates surrounding the intersection of politics and religion in Egypt, particularly as it applies to state-Coptic and state-Baha’i relations. Mahmood’s argument is that, as the Egyptian state emphasizes secular values, it is increasingly relied upon to referee sectarian issues. Mahmood knows the Egyptian context very well and helps convey this to the reader in a flowing and fascinating account.</p>
	<p><i>Christians versus Muslims in Modern Egypt: The Century-long Struggle for Coptic Equality</i>, by S.S. Hasan—Hasan writes an engaging history of Christian-Muslim relations in Egypt, focusing particularly on the Coptic Orthodox Church and the reform movement with it. This contribution is useful for a study of the 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the Church and of interfaith relations in Egypt.</p>
	<p><i>Between Religion and Politics</i>, by Nathan Brown and Amr Hamzawy—The emergence of Islamic groups and parties on the Middle East’s political scene has been a cause of concern. Brown and Hamzawy analyze this emergence, focusing on the development of such groups’ participation, their contexts, their platforms, and outlook. Each chapter deals with a different country in the region, including Egypt and the Muslim Brotherhood, Palestine and Hamas, and several others (Algeria, Morocco, Kuwait, Yemen, and Jordan). This book represents sound academic research and writing. (Interestingly, Hamzawy was elected to the Egyptian parliament from a Cairo district in December, 2011.)</p>
	<p><i>Nationalism and Minority Identities in Islamic Societies</i>, Maya Shatzmiller, ed.—This collection of academic papers is of special value for its focus on minorities, variously defined. Three articles focus on the Copts of Egypt, and other articles focus on the Christians in Pakistan; the Kurds of Iraq and Turkey; and the Berbers of Morocco and Algeria.</p>
	<p><i>Muslim Extremism in Egypt: The Prophet and the Pharaoh</i>, by Gilles Kepel—A magisterial work on the history of extremist Muslim thought and action in Egypt. Kepel wrote this book after spending much time in Egypt and becoming very familiar with his subject.</p>



	<p><i>Shop Floor Culture and Politics in Egypt</i>, by Samer Shehata—In a fascinating ethnography of textile workers in two Alexandrian factories, Shehata explores workers’ culture, including their relationships with each other and management. Through participant observation, Shehata reveals much about this particular setting that is insightful and recognizable in other work settings, as well. Forms of accommodation and protest are identified. The book offers an entryway into Egypt’s industry and its workers’ milieu.</p>
	<p><i>Kidnapping in Milan: The CIA on Trial</i>, by Steve Hendricks—This book reads like a great novel, but is non-fiction. Hendricks has done a fine job of putting many pieces together in this account of the CIA’s work—in cooperation with and independently of Italian authorities—to take into custody a suspected leader in a cell of terrorists in Milan. This book is about the US, Italy, and Egypt. At some points, it is graphic, but in that is accurate.</p>
	<p><i>Taxi</i>, by Khaled al-Khamissi—This book is a very quick read, but extremely insightful. It is a set of almost 60 conversations with taxi drivers in Cairo, all in the course of normal taxi rides. Each one gives a sense of some aspect of current life in Egypt, though the eyes of literally the “man in the street.” Issues of economics and politics, religion and even a few good jokes are included. The translation is quite good and the content is even better. “You can’t make this stuff up” would be an appropriate description.</p>
	<p><i>Hold On To Your Veil, Fatima!</i>, by Sanna Negus—This is a smart and thoughtful treatment of social and political issues in Egypt over the past few years. Negus is a Finnish journalist who have lived in Egypt for years and clearly has a command of Arabic. The book is less formal than an academic book, but immensely readable and very informative, as it deals with the important history, as well as popular issues. Chapters deal with political Islam, Christians in Egypt, the veil, feminist movements, the role of the military, and culture and the arts. This book is a must-read for those interested in contemporary life in Egypt.</p>
	<p><i>Playing Cards in Cairo: Mint Tea, Tarneeb, and Tales of the City</i>, by Hugh Miles—Miles is a British journalist who lives in Cairo. This book, with his courtship of an Egyptian young woman as the background, touches on cultural facets of Egyptian society from the perspectives of Miles himself and his Egyptian friends, though their conversations. A book that reads like a novel, concludes with a fairly strong assessment of Islam.</p>



	<p><i>I Want To Get Married</i>, by Ghada Abd al-Aal—In this example of new Arabic writing, abd al-AI is a blogger who recounts in witty and sharp terms the culture of getting married in Egypt, and the encounters with possible grooms her family and family’s friends arrange for her to meet. Blunt and observant, the blog on which this book was based is very popular, and the idea has been adopted into a TV series. This book is enjoyable and insightful.</p>
	<p><i>Accommodating Protest: Working Women, the New Veiling, and Change in Cairo</i>, by Arlene Elowe MacLeod—This book “explores the subculture framing the behavior of lower-middle-class women in Cairo and evaluates their constraints and opportunities in a rapidly changing city. MacLeod examines the conflicting ideologies of the lower middle class, where economic pressures compel women to enter the workplace, even as traditional values encourage them to stay home as wives and mothers” (from the book jacket).</p>
	<p><i>A Border Passage: From Cairo to America—A Woman’s Journey</i>, by Leila Ahmed—In this reflective memoir, Prof. Ahmed delves into the complex interrelationship of politics, history, identity, and the plural roles of women in both Egypt and the US. Ahmed’s writing is smooth, and her perspectives acute as she explores many issues through the lens of autobiography.</p>
	<p><i>Understanding Cairo: The Logic of a City out of Control</i>, by David Sims—In a rigorous presentation of Cairo’s growth and geography in the last four decades, Sims has done a masterful job to present the city as an exceptional case of urban logic. While Cairo is often included in studies of the global south, Sims argues that the city is in fact one that follows its own logic, often in spite of deliberate policies of the Mubarak regime to address problems and issues. This book is an important urban study of the largest city in Africa.</p>
	<p><i>Cairo: Histories of a City</i>, by Nezar AlSayyad—A fascinating tour across the ages of this city, literary and architectural examinations of eras and places in Cairo provide the vehicle for AlSayyad’s delicious presentation of the “city victorious” or “the oppressor city.” Spanning the various eras, especially the Islamic periods, the author shares insight to the city by contemporary historical figures. This is a fascinating read, and reference.</p>



	<p><i>Cairo: The City Victorious</i>, by Max Rodenbeck—The city of a thousand minarets, Cairo is a city of infinite stories. Rodenbeck has lived there before and during his career as a correspondent for <i>The Economist</i>, and tells the history of the city, which stands for the country, in a fashion that is intense and very informative. The book requires the reader’s attention, but that is not hard to give. From the Pharaohs to the late 1990s, Rodenbeck relates the sights, sounds, and stories of this, the largest city in Africa in a thoroughly pleasurable and challenging way.</p>
	<p><i>Egypt’s Culture Wars</i>, by Samia Mehrez—This book is an excellent introduction into contemporary Arabic literature (especially Egyptian) and window into the world of culture in Egypt in the dawn of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Mehrez is not a disinterested observer, but rather an active participant as a professor of Arabic literature at the American University in Cairo. She herself has been a party to a battle in the war she presents. The war has been much larger, however, especially in literature, but also in other areas.</p>
	<p><i>The Cairo Trilogy</i>, by Naguib Mahfouz —A remarkable story, told over generations of a family in three novels, which gives an insightful perspective on historical and social aspects of 20<sup>th</sup> century Egypt. Mahfouz, of course, won the Nobel Prize for Literature.</p>
	<p><i>Before the Throne</i>, by Naguib Mahfouz—In brevity and in profundity, the Egyptian Nobel Laureate has written a remarkable book in which a long line of Egyptian leaders stand before the throne at the day of judgment. From the Pharaohs to Sadat, each is presented before trial at the gates of the afterlife, and their accomplishments weighed. This book is a mixture of Machiavellian discourse on leadership, of theology and what it takes to gain entry (as well as the complicating factor of multiple religious systems over the course of Egyptian history), and of insight into Mahfouz’s perspectives on these topics. It is a slim volume, and each “trial” is handled deftly.</p>
	<p><i>Karnak Café</i>, by Naguib Mahfouz—Mahfouz is the Nobel laureate and this short story, divided into chapters corresponding with the various characters’ narratives of the same events, is up to the author’s reputation. The story is about four young people who meet regularly at the café until they are taken for interrogation. How they, and the café, are impacted is the denouement.</p>



	<p><i>The Televangelist</i>, by Ibrahim Issa—In this superbly written (and translated) novel, Issa tells the story of a (fictional) television shaikh who is very popular in Egypt. The plot of the story is gripping because the characters are well developed, but the clear message is the close relationship of state, religion, and money. The book, which is a cutting social critique, is also a very good education about some of the debates in Islam from theological and historical points of view. The story has been made into an Arabic movie, and the book has been banned in Egypt.</p>
	<p><i>The Yacoubian Building</i>, by Alaa al-Aswany—Touted as Egypt’s next Mahfouz, Aswany’s first major novel is rife with intrigue and is surprisingly revealing of issues facing Egypt today. Told through a narrative of characters who all live in the same apartment building in Cairo, the reader gets to know the characters and what they represent. This novel caused a stir in Egypt, and was made into a major film. Aswany’s contribution is important.</p>
	<p><i>Chicago</i>, by Alaa al-Aswany—Aswany’s second novel, Chicago is about Egypt, through the perspective of Egyptians living and studying in the US. Building on the success of <i>The Yacoubian Building</i>, Aswany’s prose is addictive. He identifies generational and social divides in Egypt, as they are manifest through these characters.</p>
	<p><i>Friendly Fire</i>, by Alaa al-Aswany—This collection of short stories, and one novella, transcends the conditions in Egypt, touching the human condition. The situation in Egypt is the setting, and you will learn quite a bit about Egyptian society through these stories. Al-Aswany’s introduction is also informative as to the reality writers face. This book is timely in the wake of the major protests taking place in Egypt in early 2011.</p>
	<p><i>Chronicle of a Last Summer</i>, by Yasmine ElRashidi—In this compact and fast paced novel, ElRashidi presents three summers in the coming of age of the narrator, spanning Egypt’s contemporary political history. The book culminates with a treatment of the narrator’s engagement with the Egyptian revolution of the Arab Spring.</p>
	<p><i>Aunt Safiyya and the Monastery</i>, by Bahaa’ Taher—In this novella told through the eyes of young rural Egyptian boy, Taher explores the customs and relationships in an Upper Egyptian village. Poignant and perceptive, it shows the ties that bind neighbors and family, and the factions that can develop. The story depicts as context the especially respectful relationship between members of a primarily Muslim village and its neighboring Coptic Orthodox monastery. The novella is rich and helpful in understanding this unique context, while revealing something about common humanity.</p>



	<p><i>The Pistachio Seller</i>, by Reem Bassiouney—A novella, this story set in the 1990s in Egypt is of love and of politics. The basic story of Ashraf and his relationships is an allegory for the complexity of international relations, including the colonial relationships that have persisted for Egypt and the Middle East. It is also a story of economics that the impact of sudden change in financial power. The question of identity is also central to this book. Ashraf, Lubna, and Wafaa are well-developed characters that require alertness on the part of the reader to follow the various levels of the themes.</p>
	<p><i>Zaat</i>, by Sonallah Ibrahim—In this highly allegorical novel, Ibrahim tackles issues of corruption, religion, and bureaucratic run-around in Egypt during the Mubarak presidency. The protagonist is Zaat, an Egyptian woman dealing with her husband and family, her neighbors and colleagues, and her job. Every other chapter is about her struggles and experiences, interrupted by chapters that simply set the context by reproducing headlines and news items from the Egyptian press. Ibrahim is a strong critic of the regime, and this book is surprisingly blunt.</p>
	<p><i>The Committee</i>, by Sonallah Ibrahim—Kafkaesque in its presentation, the story is allegorical on many levels: Egyptian and Middle Eastern politics and regimes, conspiracy theory groups, even theological in one interpretation. This story of a man who is summoned to meet the committee (who is it? what does it want with him?) is gripping in its simplicity and stimulating in its profundity.</p>
	<p><i>The Queue</i>, by Basma Abdel Aziz—A “post” revolutionary novel, the Egyptian writer Abdel Aziz depicts the Kafkaesque nature of governmental bureaucracy and the impact of social and political activism on individual lives. This novel traces the quest of an individual caught in the upheaval of a revolution as he seeks, with the help of friends and in the context of others, medical treatment. Reminiscent of Sonallah Ibrahim’s writing, this book asserts that some things do not change.</p>
	<p><b>Morocco</b></p>
	<p><i>a palace in the old village</i>, by Taher Ben Jelloun—Ben Jelloun, himself an emigrant from Morocco living in France for decades, addresses in this novella issues of migration, culture, and generational perspectives. Part commentary on life in France and life in Morocco, part discussion of competing values, this poignant tale is about dreams and family.</p>



	<p><i>The Moor's Account</i>, by Laila Lalami—In this fascinating novel of historical fiction, Lalami offers a chronicle of the Spanish exploration of the “new world” through the eyes of a Moroccan slave, Mustapha ibn Muhammad ibn Abdas-salaam az-Zamouri, also known as Estabianco, who accompanied major expeditions to La Florida and Mexico in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This book shows another side of the conquest, the treatment of people on the American continent, and the discrepancies between official recording of history and a possible, more complete/objective, version. Well written and honest, this book is full of wisdom and reflection for all time.</p>
	<p><i>Dune Song</i>, by Anissa M. Bouziane—In this novel set in Morocco and New York City, we are confronted with responses to 9/11 and human trafficking, each through the lens of the protagonist, who is Moroccan living in New York. The push and pull of both places are strong, and ultimately, Jeehan Nathaar has to decide where she wishes to be, and therefore has to confront the issue of her identity and that of her family. Bouziane is a gifted writer who gives the reader access to a culture and a country in a lyrical and compelling way.</p>