

# For Your Library

• Accad, Evelyne: *Des Femmes, Des Hommes et la Guerre: Fiction et Réalité au Moyen-Orient (Women, Men and War: Fiction and Reality in the Middle East)* Paris: Côté-Femmes Editions. 1993. ISBN 2-907883-55-0

Evelyne Accad gives priority to the link between sexuality and war.

By examining how the Middle East expresses itself in its fiction, we learn — Kathleen Barry notes in her preface — how men and women view the war, perceive its effects, experience its ravages and reinforce hope for the future.

Evelyne Accad knows how to guide us into the lives of women in the Lebanese war. She strikes the core of the problem by focusing her analysis on sexuality. As poet, novelist, literary critic and analyst of society, her work presents a kind of mosaic that links these different forms of knowledge to take us into the subjective reality of women in the Arab world.

Renown scholar, prominent writer, poet and musician, Evelyne Accad — Andrée Chedid remarks — expands the analysis on the relationship between war and sexuality in order to echo a reawakening of conscience everywhere.

• Accad, Evelyne: *Blessures des Mots: Journal de Tunisie (The Wounds of Words: Tunisian Diary)* Paris: Indigo/Côté-Femmes. 1993. ISBN 2-907883-67-4.

Tunis, Salammbô, Cartage, La Medina, Le Club Taher Haddad. The women's movement, meetings, birth of the women's publication, Nissa' ; meetings and quarrels, affections/intimacies, difficulties of the domestic world, loneliness, mother/daughter relationships ....

She speaks of the images and the wounds she witnessed during the year she spent in Tunis. She speaks about the women's movement and the importance of breaking silence.

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• *In Problems of the Modern Middle East in Historical Perspective: Essays in honour of Albert Hourani.* Edited by John P. Spangnolo. St. Anthony's College, Ithaca Press Reading, 1992.

Badran, Margot. "From Consciousness to Activism: Feminist Politics in Early Twentieth Century Egypt," pp. 27-49.

A review of the emergence of a feminist vision in Egypt and how it moved into public space paving the way for other women, by focusing on three pioneering middle and upper class feminists.

The three women are: Huda Sha'arawi, Nabawiyya Musa, and Malak Hifni Nasif better known by her pseudonym, Bahithat al-Badiyya [Searcher in the Desert]. Badran gives a biography of each and compares the circumstances, achievements and their statements they made with their actions.

- Fawaz, Leila. "Women and Conflict in Lebanon." pp. 63-77.

A bold and profound review of Lebanese women's political role(s) in the wars of Lebanon. Fawaz speaks of how the few powerful and feudal women influenced the events of the war in the middle of the nineteenth century, and examines the general absence of women from the political arena throughout the modern wars of Lebanon. It is an in-depth analysis of changes in the status of women produced by wars and the development of society. She critically notes that changes in women's status were rather minimal and that their domestic role and image continues to prevail.

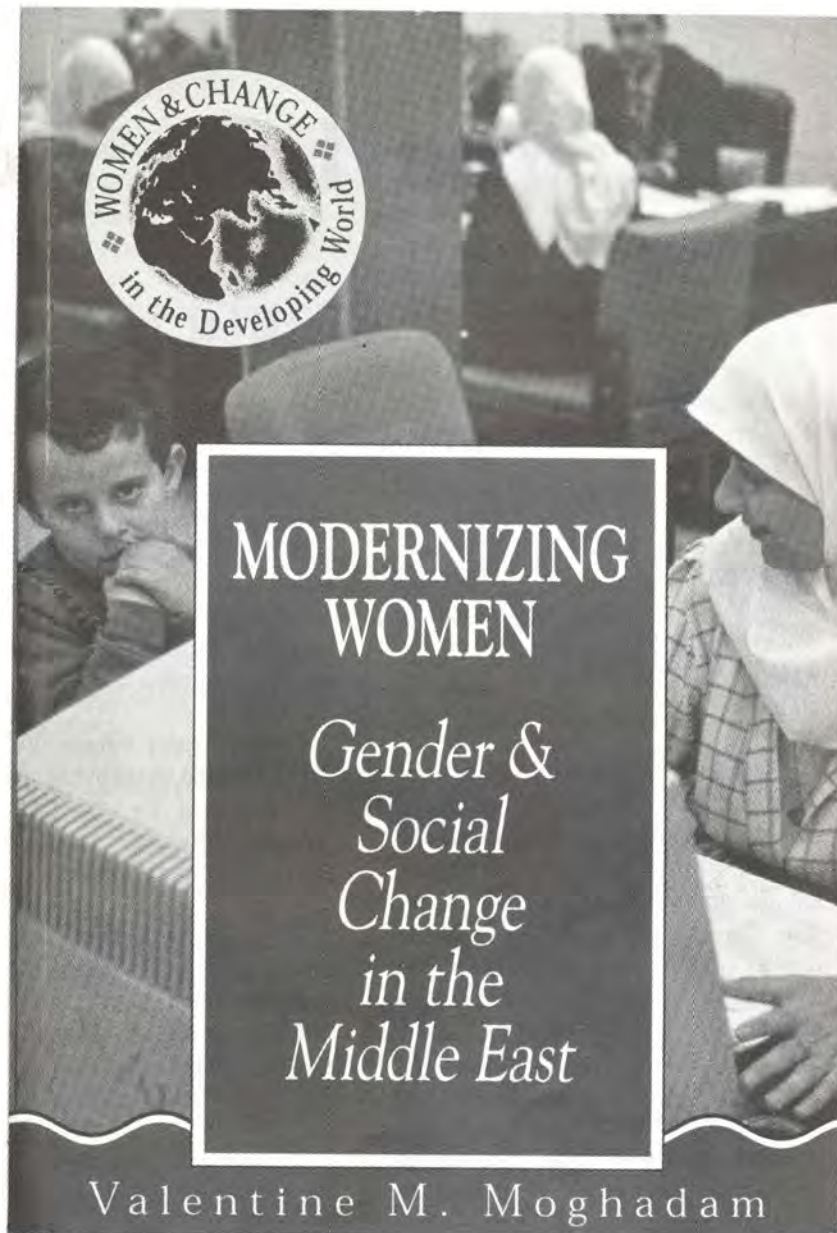
- Marsot, Afaf Lutfi al-Sayyid. "Revolutionaries, Fundamentalists and Women: Alternative Groups in the Arab World." pp. 169-188.

An analysis of social groups that are not characterized with clear lines of demarcation, but emerge in response to other stimuli. Marsot examines what they are, why they exist, and what their nature is. Women are analyzed as a main alternative group in the Arab world, emerging as a reaction to social, political and religious movements, and whose roles, functions and impact are strong behind the scene since like other alternative groups, they are not institutional and do not have a governmental nature.

• Moghadam, Valentine M.  
*Modernizing Women: Gender and Social Change in the Middle East.*  
Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1993. ISBN 1-55587-346-4 cl., 1-55587-354-5 paper.

Exploring the impact of social change in the Middle East on women's status and roles, as well as women's varied responses, this book focuses on the gender dynamics of some of the major social processes in the region: economic development and women's employment, reforms and revolutions, the changing family, and Islamic movements. In doing so it reveals that middle-class women are at the center of change and discourses about change in the region.

Moghadam crafts a conceptual framework based on the role of the state, development strategies, class, and culture in the shaping of women's lives. Data from a number of countries are presented, including in-depth case studies of Afghanistan and Iran.



### correction

In the review of volume 1 of *Tunisiennes en Devenir*, *The becoming of Tunisian Women* entitled *Comment Vivent Les Femmes*, i.e. *How Women Live* (Al-Raida,

*Why Feminism*, Winter 1993, Vol.X, No.60, pg. 25) mention was made to female circumcision in Tunisia. The relevant story reviewed spoke of a midwife who

witnessed a ritualistic rite whereby women are marked on the knee and not circumcision. Please take note that female circumcision is NOT practiced in Tunisia.