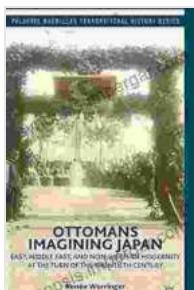


# East Middle East and Non-Western Modernity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century



## Ottomans Imagining Japan: East, Middle East, and Non-Western Modernity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century (Palgrave Macmillan Transnational History Series)

by Diana Jean Schemo

5 out of 5

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A Voyage into the Transformation of Global Perspectives and Societies

## Prologue: The Dawn of a New Era

As the 19th century gracefully bowed out, a burgeoning spirit of modernity began to permeate the very fabric of global society. The East, characterized by its rich traditions and ancient civilizations, the Middle East, brimming with cultural diversity and geopolitical significance, and the vast tapestry of Non-Western nations, each possessing their unique heritage and aspirations, all stood poised at the cusp of profound transformation.

The turn of the 20th century heralded an era where the East, Middle East, and Non-Western world boldly stepped onto the stage of global modernity,

embracing its transformative potential while navigating its complexities. This book invites you to embark on a captivating literary journey, delving into the diverse experiences, encounters, and perspectives that shaped this momentous period.

DE GRUYTER

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**Wörtinger, Renée. *Ottomans Imagining Japan. East, Middle East, and How Western Modernity at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012. xviii + 350 S., ISBN 978-1-1373-8459-1.**

Dieses Buch der Historikerin und Osmanistin Renée Wörtinger über osmanische Japanbilder an der Wende zum 20. Jahrhundert wurde lange erwartet. Es basiert auf Wörtingers 2001 an der University of Chicago angenommenen Dissertation, die in Forschungen zu den osmanisch-japanischen Beziehungen bereits weit rezipiert worden ist und die inzwischen über die Proquest-Datenbanken auch online eingesehen werden kann.<sup>1</sup> In der Zeit bis zum Erscheinen des vorliegenden Buches hat sich Wörtinger mit einem gelungenen Sammelband<sup>2</sup> und mehreren Aufsätzen<sup>3</sup> zu osmanischen und ägyptischen Japanbildern hervorgetan. *Ottomans Imagining Japan* fasst diese Leistungen zusammen und leistet durch seine Untersuchung der lang vernachlässigten osmanischen Auseinandersetzung mit Japan einen wertvollen Beitrag dazu, einerseits osmanische Geschichte aus ihrer diachronischen Beziehung zu Europa zu befreien und stärker in globalen Prozessen zu verorten, andererseits auch die Wirkung des Aufstiegs Japans auf Intellektuelle im Nicht-Westen besser zu begreifen. Durch diesen globalgeschichtlichen Fokus lässt sich Wörtingers Buch in eine Reihe stellen mit den einflussreichen Studien Rebeccas Kark oder Cemil Aydins, die demonstriert haben, inwieweit das Bewusstsein asiatischer Eliten im späten 19. und frühen 20. Jahrhundert durch globale Zusammenhänge geprägt war.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wörtinger, Renée (2001): *Comparing Perceptions: Japan as Archetype for Ottoman Modernity, 1876–1945*; Dissertation, Ann Arbor: UMI.

<sup>2</sup> Wörtinger, Renée (Hg.) (2007): *The Islamic Middle East and Japan: Perceptions, Arguments, and the Birth of Indo-Asian Modernity*. Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> Wörtinger, Renée (2004). „Sick Man of Europe“ or „Japan of the Near East?“ Contrasting Ottoman Modernity in the Hamidian and Young Turk Eras“, *Int. Journal of Middle East Studies* 36(2): 207–230; Wörtinger, Renée (2007). „Japan's Progress Rebuffed, Modernity and Arab Dissent in the Ottoman Empire“ in: *The Islamic Middle East and Japan: Perceptions, Arguments, and the Birth of Indo-Asian Modernity*, Hrsg. von Renée Wörtinger, Princeton: Markus Wiener Publishers, 91–119; Wörtinger, Renée (2012). „Seeing-San Over East: The Impact of the Russo-Japanese War Upon the Young Turks“ in: «L'orientale in Europa. L'Asia nell'Europa da 1905 alla Guerra ottomano», Hrsg. von Enrico Giorgini... Parma, 1–10; 155–185.

<sup>4</sup> Vgl. Kark, Rebecca (2003): *Staging the World. Chinese Nationalism at the Turn of the Twentieth Century*. Durham, N. C.: Duke University Press (Asia/Pacific: Culture, Politics, and Society);

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## Chapter 1: East Encounters West: The Exchange of Ideas and Innovations

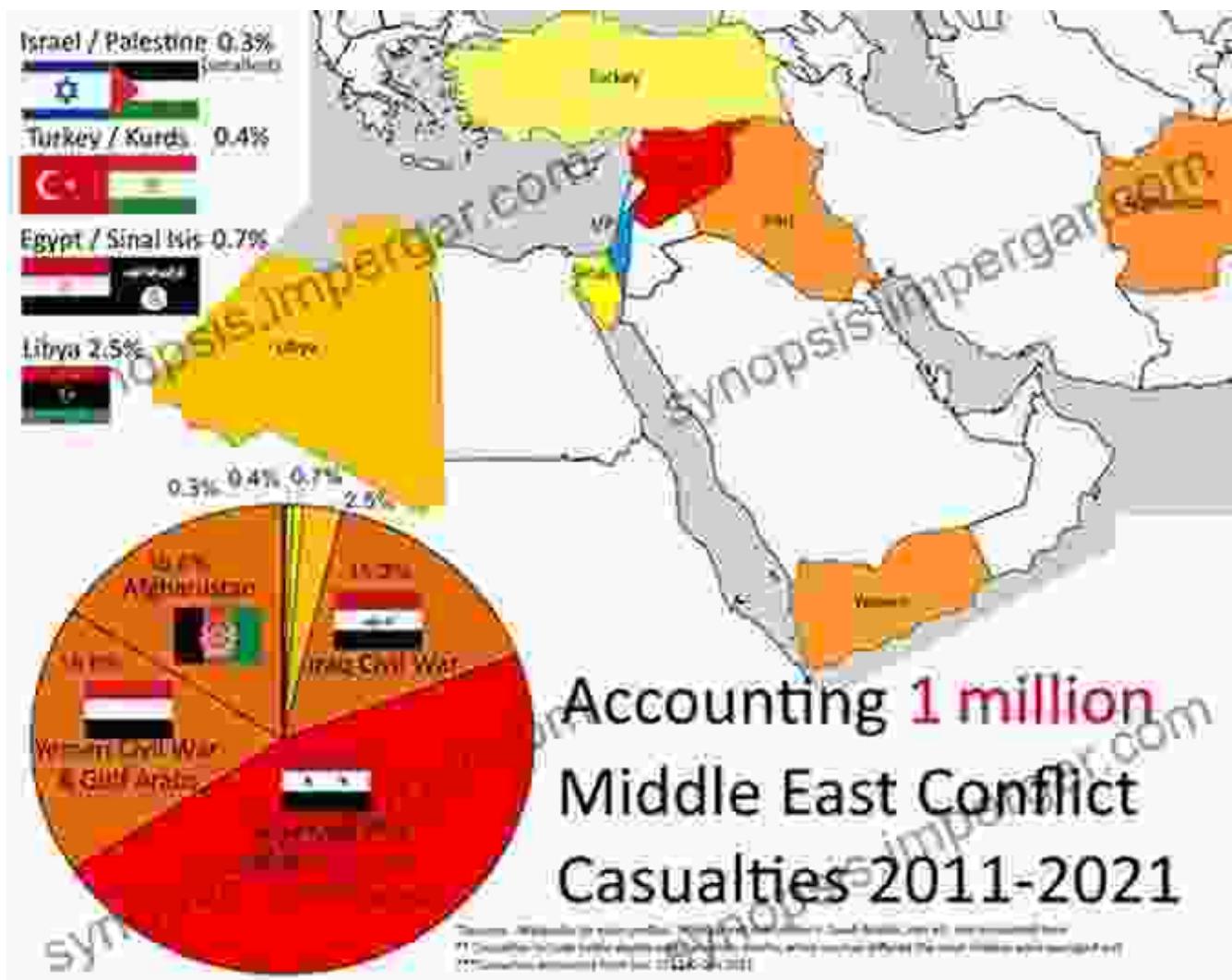
The early 20th century witnessed an unprecedented exchange of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices between the East and the West. As Western powers extended their global reach, they brought with them their scientific advancements, industrial prowess, and political ideologies. Conversely, the East captivated the Western imagination with its ancient wisdom, artistic treasures, and spiritual traditions.

This chapter explores the dynamic interplay between East and West, highlighting the reciprocal influences that shaped art, literature, music, and social thought. From the allure of Orientalism to the rise of nationalist movements, we trace the complex power dynamics and cultural encounters that marked this era.

## **Chapter 2: The Middle East: A Crucible of Modernity and Conflict**

The Middle East, a region of immense geopolitical importance, stood at the crossroads of empires and civilizations. As the Ottoman Empire began to crumble, European powers jockeyed for control, vying for influence over its strategic waterways and vast resources. Amidst this turmoil, Arab nationalism emerged as a powerful force, seeking to forge a new path.

This chapter examines the multifaceted experiences of the Middle East during this pivotal period. We delve into the rise of modern nation-states, the impact of colonialism, and the ongoing conflicts that continue to shape the region's destiny.



The complex interplay of modernity and conflict in the Middle East.

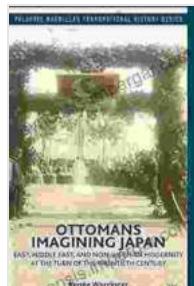
### Chapter 3: Non-Western Modernity: Diverse Paths and Perspectives

Beyond the East and Middle East, a diverse array of Non-Western nations embarked on their own unique journeys of modernity. From the burgeoning economic power of Japan to the anti-colonial struggles in Africa, Non-Western societies grappled with the challenges and opportunities of the modern world.

This chapter explores the diverse experiences of Non-Western nations, showcasing their cultural resilience, political aspirations, and economic transformations. We highlight the unique contributions of these societies to global modernity and their ongoing influence in shaping our contemporary world.

## **Chapter 4: The Global Impact: Redefining Cultural and Political Boundaries**

The East, Middle East, and Non-Western modern



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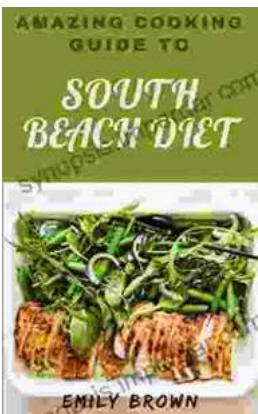
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