Drawing on autobiographies, literary works, ethnographic accounts, and life-history interviews, The Middle East: A Cultural Psychology, offers the first comprehensive summary of psychological writings on the region, reviewing works by psychologists, anthropologists, and sociologists that have been written in English, Arabic, and French.

A sophisticated account of the Middle East's cultural psychology, The Middle East provides students, researchers, policy-makers, and all those interested in the culture and psychology of the region with invaluable insight into the lives, families, and social relationships of Middle Easterners as they struggle to reconcile the lure of Westernized life-styles with traditional values.

Features:

* Offers interpretive synthesis of the scholarly literature, based on a life-span developmental model
* Provides background on Middle East for readers unfamiliar with region, and background on psychological theories for readers unfamiliar with theories of development
* Avoids "national character" or "Arab personality" formulations, and emphasizes differences between men and women, ways of life (nomadic - agricultural - urban), traditional, modernizing and underdeveloping milieus, and the great range of individual variation
* Clarifies and offers new perspectives on critical issues: whether Arab-Muslim culture breeds fanaticism; whether traditional child-rearing fosters psychological authoritarianism; cultural constructions of masculinity and femininity; the duality of "modern" and "traditional" identities; the mixture of individualist and collectivist orientations; the psychological consequences of political despotism