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

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