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Main content

Article Preview:

Nine historians, seven anthropologists, and nine scholars from neighboring disciplines have written the twenty-five biographies of "ordinary" modern Middle Eastern men (twenty) and women (five), which, along with the editor's introductions, comprise the text of this book. The selection is arranged chronologically from c. 1850 to the recent past, and it includes people of differing wealth and political stature. There is much stylistic variation among the essays in the amount of space given to historical setting relative to the amount of detail describing the individual subject. A couple of "persons" are imaginary constructions. However, the majority of these brief accounts makes one wish for further acquaintance with the subjects.

The editor writes that the biographies will "allow us to refine...

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