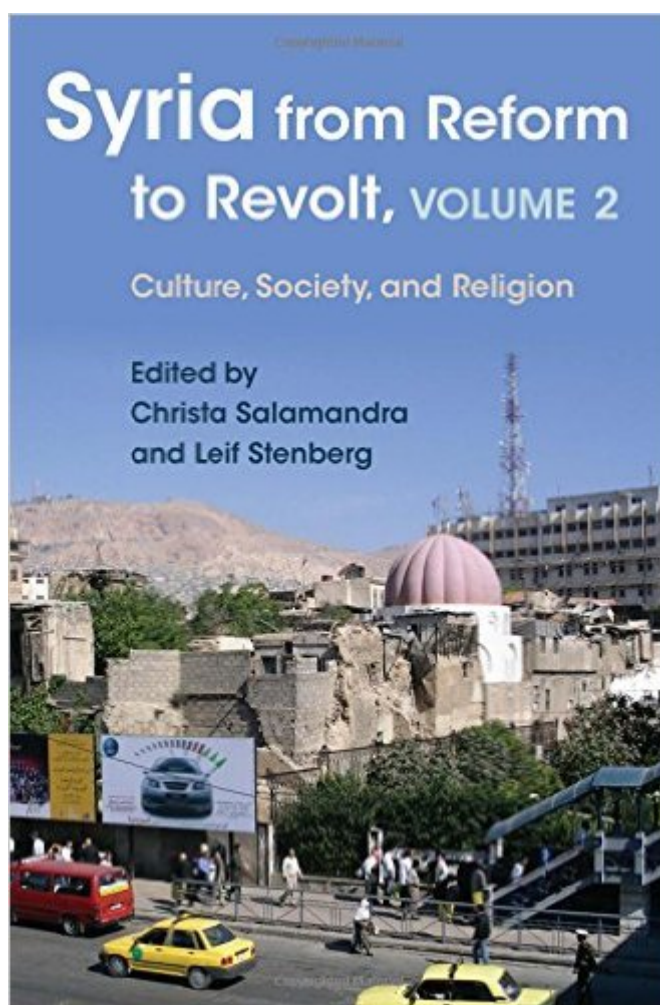


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Syria From Reform To Revolt, Volume 2: Culture, Society, And Religion (Modern Intellectual And Political History Of The Middle East)



Synopsis

As Syria's anti-authoritarian uprising and subsequent civil war have left the country in ruins, the need for understanding the nation's complex political and cultural realities remains urgent. The second of a two-volume series, *Syria from Reform to Revolt: Culture, Society, and Religion* draws together closely observed, critical and historicized analyses, giving vital insights into Syrian society today. With a broad range of disciplinary perspectives, contributors reveal how Bashar al-Asad's pivotal first decade of rule engendered changes in power relations and public discourse-dynamics that would feed the 2011 protest movement and civil war. Essays focus on key arenas of Syrian social life, including television drama, political fiction, Islamic foundations, and Christian choirs and charities, demonstrating the ways in which Syrians worked with and through the state in attempts to reform, undermine, or sidestep the regime. The contributors explore the paradoxical cultural politics of hope, anticipation, and betrayal that have animated life in Syria under Asad, revealing the fractures that obstruct peaceful transformation. *Syria from Reform to Revolt* provides a powerful assessment of the conditions that turned Syria's hopeful Arab spring revolution into a catastrophic civil war that has cost over 200,000 lives and generated the worst humanitarian crisis of the twenty-first century.

Book Information

Series: Modern Intellectual and Political History of the Middle East

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Syracuse University Press (December 1, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0815634153

ISBN-13: 978-0815634157

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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