



What's Really Wrong With The Middle East

Brian Whitaker

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"A passionate call for political and social change in Arab countries . . . and a stern critique of the status quo." Jeremy Bowen, BBC Middle East editor

The problems in the Middle East are always someone else's fault.

While the West blames dictators and extremists, Arabs often blame centuries of foreign interference. For many, both in the East and West, the root problem is a lack of freedom.

Looking beyond the turmoil reported on our TV screens, *Guardian* journalist Brian Whitaker examines the "freedom deficit" that affects Arabs in their daily lives: their struggles against corruption, discrimination, and bureaucracy, and the stifling authoritarianism that pervades homes, schools, and mosques as well as presidential palaces.

Drawing on a wealth of new research and wide-ranging interviews, Whitaker analyzes the views of Arabs living in the region and argues that in order to achieve peace, prosperity, and full participation in today's global economy, Arabs should embrace political and far-reaching social and cultural change.

Brian Whitaker was Middle East editor at the *Guardian* for seven years and is currently an editor for the newspaper's Comment is Free website. He is the author of *Unspeakable Love: Gay and Lesbian Life in the Middle East* (Saqi Books, 2006; also published in the United States by the University of California Press, 2006). His website, www.al-bab.com, is devoted to Arab culture and politics.

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Nadia says

I CANNOT STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS BOOK! Whoever is interested in the Middle East, its complexities and muffled beauty should definitely read this book. Whitaker is a genius for assembling all the right information from all the right angles and bringing them forth in this book.

Yazan Arnaout says

This book should be translated to Arabic

Omar says

recommended read

Fuad Athamnah says

That's an easy 5 starts, great book.

Saad Al Dosari says

This is a great book. The author talks about the Middle East as an insider rather than a British journalist. He touched on subjects that are faced daily by Arabs who, by reading about them, would feel a bit surprised that they are keeping up with such subjects without giving them a second thought!

Recommended read ... honest and direct to the point.

Taqwa says

because im from arab i really want to read this book
