

church, this did not mean they forgot the icons that had been vital to their religious worship for centuries. Thomas Cranmer, a Protestant archbishop, was widely disliked due to his involvement in the destruction of religious objects that had been sacred to communities for generations.

Duffy provides a well-organized and excellently written account of both traditional religion and the methods by which it was taken away from the English people. The way the Church of England and the Reformation is viewed by readers will never be the same.

Lindsey Kish

Jeremy Salt. *The Unmaking of the Middle East: A History of Western Disorder in Arab Lands*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2009. Pp. 480. Paper \$26.95.

Jeremy Salt, a former journalist and now Professor of Political Science at Bilkent University, Turkey, argues that we need to know the long history of Western intervention in Arab territories to understand the contemporary Middle East. The book is addressed to students who study politics and readers simply interested in the history of the Middle East. It sheds light on major events that have influenced the formation of modern politics and the relationship between the West and the Middle East. Salt argues that conflicts between the West and the Middle East are based political interests, such as oil and strategic geographic location, rather than a result of Western racism or intolerance to Islam. The book includes multiple examples of conflicts initiated by Western powers, such as the French in Algeria and the British in Egypt in the nineteenth century. It also covers the seemingly never-ending Palestine-Israeli conflict and one of the latest western interventions, the U.S. war in Iraq started in 2003. The author offers mainstream readers an alternative opinion about the major political events in the

modern history of the Middle East. According to the book, these events are part of the unending campaign by the West to dominate the Middle East, emphasizing the human cost for such policies.

The book is structured thematically. First it introduces the author and the events that influenced his decision to study the history of the Middle East and become an academic. As a journalist he visited many middle-eastern countries, interviewed hundreds of people that became victims of continuous war. Years of living in Turkey changed his opinion of the political relationship between the West and Middle East. From the beginning it is clear that the book does not offer a balanced view. Instead, Salt wants to point to the negative influence of Western civilization on the Middle East which has resulted in enduring conflict between two cultures. Salt still works in Turkey and relies on the memories of Turkish policymakers to prove his point that the propaganda of Islamophobia is widely used by Western media to excuse intervention in the Middle East. The book critically analyzes events such as the publication of caricatures of the Prophet Mohamed in September 2005 in the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, as well as inscriptions of verses from the Quran on naked women, offending Muslims across the globe. One of the benefits of the book is that it describes the cultural particularities of both regions. It briefly narrates the foundation, principles, and the distinctions between the two cultures.

Salt is not blaming the West for everything. He simply offers his point of view on the latest events and the role of the West in the modern political life of the Middle East. *The Unmaking of the Middle East* is thought provoking and suitable for scholars as well as general readers.

Adres Mangal