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some succeeded more than others. But his main point is clear. The British Empire survived the challenges of the War, the Allies, pan-Islam, and local nationalism. Although it did not achieve some of its most ambitious projects in Egypt and Southwest Asia after World War I, it managed to guard its essential interests for another generation to come.

Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr., Department of History, the Pennsylvania State University.

Leadership and Development in Arab Society, ed. by Fuad I. Khuri. Beirut: American University of Beirut, 1981. ix + 250 pages.

Reviewed by Nikolaos van Dam

This book contains 14 papers presented at a conference at the American University of Beirut in 1979, held with the aim of exploring problems of leadership and development in Arab society, and particularly how different types of leaders affect different policies of development.

Editor Fuad Khuri introduces the book by presenting a useful analysis of the various presented papers, and by giving us an idea of some general themes that emerged from the conference. He groups them under four headings: (1) cultural unity and socio-political fragmentation, (2) interaction between local leaders and national structures, (3) the capacity of different types of leadership to mobilize for action, and (4) the contradictions of development.

The quality of the papers presented is diverse, and their levels of analytical abstraction vary highly. Although all papers have to do with some aspects of leadership and/or development, several of them deal more or less exclusively with only one of these themes, thereby leaving out of consideration the central conference theme, being a combination of the two.

The published papers include: (1) "Problems facing the Ibn Khaldun model of traditional Muslim society," by Ernest Gellner, who proposes to explain cultural unity and

socio-political fragmentation in Arab society in terms of interplay between ecology, social organization and religious ideology. The model has already been outlined elsewhere by Gellner in his *Muslim Society*, and here he merely summarizes the main theoretical problems facing it. (2) "A socio-cultural paradigm of pan-Arab leadership: the case of Nasser," by Saadeddin Ibrahim, who offers some useful criticism of earlier writings on Nāṣir, but whose Arab nationalist-inspired theory for pan-Arab/pan-Islamic leadership is rather hypothetical for lack of other personalities fitting into it. (3) In his paper "The political elite as a strategic minority," Iliya Harik criticizes modern social science interpretations of power politics in the Middle East which, in his opinion, overestimate the importance of social class or ethnic origins of political elites, and proposes "to shift the emphasis from background analysis of elites and elite-class theory to (political) network analysis," thereby providing an interesting theory for such network analysis. (4) Nabeel Khoury's paper "Leadership in crisis: A comparative study of Lebanon (1975-1979) and Jordan (1970-1971)" deals with confrontations in these states between central authorities and the Palestinian armed resistance movement in the periods mentioned. Although the comparison between Lebanon and Jordan may sometimes give the impression of an academic *tour de force*, Khoury's paper provides useful insights, particularly in light of the scarcity of social science studies on Jordan.

The book further includes articles on Tunisia, women leadership in Egypt, "legislators and leadership" in Lebanon, and the role of the public sector in development in the Arab world.

Taken as a whole, this reviewer found *Leadership and Development in Arab Society* somewhat disappointing in that some papers fail to satisfactorily answer the expectations created by the stated aims of the conference. When applied selectively, however, some parts of the book should be of interest to social scientists and economists studying the Middle East.

Nikolaos van Dam, First Secretary at the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon, is the author of The Struggle for Power in Syria. Sectarianism, Regionalism and Tribalism in Politics, 1961–1980.

Oil and Security in the Arabian Gulf, ed. by Abdel Majid Farid. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1981. 158 pages. Index to p. 162. \$19.95.

Reviewed by R. K. Ramazani

The relationship of oil and security in the Gulf region continues to capture the imagination of scholars and statesmen alike. The studies that have been produced as a result, however, continue to fall short of raising, let alone satisfying, the more fundamental questions involved. For example, what is the relationship between the oil supply and demand equation and the disruption of Gulf oil supplies at a given point in time? Why did the Arab oil embargo in 1973, and the Iranian Revolution in 1978–79, produce "oil shocks," while the Iraq-Iran war since 1980 has not so far caused a third oil shock? Is it because the war has disrupted the flow of oil supplies less than the two previous crises did, or is it because the oil supply disruption at the present time happens to coincide with a worldwide "oil glut"?

Although this slender volume does not address such basic questions, it contains a variety of perspectives on the general relationship between oil and security. These perspectives, however, do not have equal merit. For example, of 14 contributions contained in the first part of the volume, the chapter on the attitudes of Iran and those on the British and French attitudes represent serious efforts, and the one on the Soviet perspective, which is juxtaposed against the American, is refreshing, but the rebuttal of the Soviet view in chapter 5 leaves much to be desired. Chapter 14, which attempts to look at the domestic sources of instability, could be a much better contribution on this all-important subject. The treatment is too brief, and when it deals with Shī'ī unrest, for example,