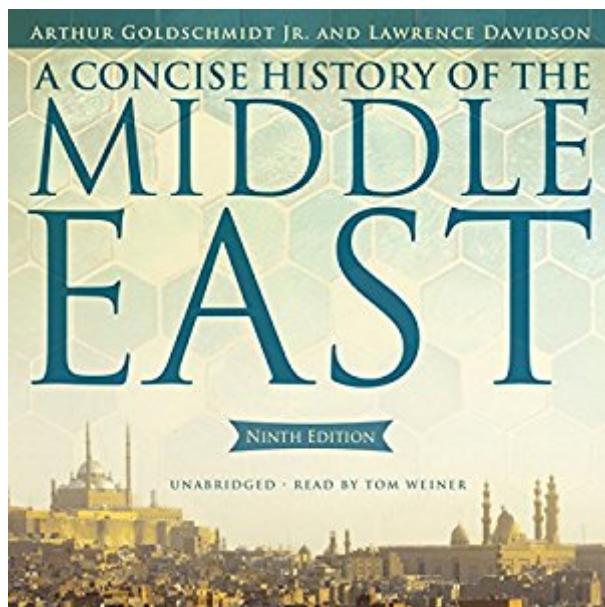


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# A Concise History Of The Middle East, Ninth Edition



## **Synopsis**

The ninth edition of this widely acclaimed text has been extensively revised to reflect the latest scholarship and the most recent events in the Middle East. As an introduction to the history of this turbulent region from the beginnings of Islam to the present day, the book is distinguished by its clear style, broad scope, and balanced treatment. It focuses on the evolution of Islamic institutions and culture, the influence of the West, the modernization efforts of Middle Eastern governments, the struggle for political independence, the course of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the roles of Iraq and Iran in the post-9/11 Middle East, and more. Arthur Goldschmidt, Jr., is professor emeritus of Middle Eastern history at Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of *Modern Egypt: Foundation of a Nation-State* and the recipient of the Amoco Foundation Award for Outstanding Teaching and the 2000 Middle East Studies Association Mentoring Award. Lawrence Davidson is a professor of history at West Chester University. He is the author of several books, including *America's Palestine and Islamic Fundamentalism*.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 18 hours and 9 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: June 2, 2010

Language: English

ASIN: B003P64OHG

Best Sellers Rank: #75 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > Middle East #85 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Politics & Current Events > International Relations #87 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > History > World

## **Customer Reviews**

This is the ninth edition of Arthur Goldschmidt's classic textbook. Goldschmidt is emeritus professor of history at Penn State and a specialist on Egypt. Lawrence Davidson has been brought in on this edition to bring the text up to date with current developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and the latest Gulf War, a task for which Davidson is eminently suitable. Previous editions of this textbook had become unwieldy because of the sheer volume of work that has been produced on Southwest Asia in the last two decades and, of course, in light of current events: 9/11, the Iraq War,

and the breakdown of the peace process in Palestine. The authors in my opinion have done an excellent job in trimming the text and fashioning what is once more the most succinct and clearly written history of the Middle East, one that is free of overt bias--that is to say, the authors do not shy from offering arguments based on evidence, but they avoid an overt presentist, political agenda. The new edition also has an excellent chronology of events, useful, clear maps, a thorough glossary of terms, and bibliographic essay with suggested readings on everything touched on in the book. The chapters are divided into short sections on specific themes, which also makes the work an excellent, easy-to-use reference book. Finally, they have included short--usually one page--accounts of key figures and events. There may be a lack of primary source material in the text; but this book is for students, who, in my experience want clear explication and a lively presentation of the material and often ignore the primary source "blurbs" provided in most textbooks. If you want to read primary sources, there are any number of good source readers on the Middle East, Islam, etc. from which to choose.

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