

effort to find a solution to the multifarious constitutional problems. Perhaps the book from over the border may be cited as one such effort. Both books naturally refer back to the Qurʾān; while the quotations from it in the more composite work are given in Arabic as well as English. Dr Kemal, however provides the reader with an Index, amply sufficient.

There is no index in the longer volume, but there are three Appendices and a biographical sketch of Syed Maudūdī. The most valuable of these appendices is that which discusses "The Rights of Non-Muslims in an Islamic State", naturally a burning question since "Pakistan". Dr Kemal deals with the subject but much more cursorily. His concern is more academic and general; for further details there can be reference to a Bibliography of the relevant material in Arabic, Urdu and English. In the longer book the reader must find his way about through headings and captions. But for up-to-date studies by responsible and reliable authorities the student of the modern Islamic outlook on life and development in thought will be rewarded.

Dr Kemal presents his views and expounds his principles positively (a glance at the Table of Contents will reveal that though the views are his the principles are Islamic), Maulana Maudūdī and his "disciples" believe that there have been "distorted interpretations of Islam" which needed counteraction and negation. In these days when the hope of the renewal of the "give-and-take" in things cultural and religious sometimes seems dim, these books suggest that time would be well spent in the unhurried and mutual exchange of ideas in small groups of Muslims and Christians, who have more than a mere "smattering" of each other's background. This may be more possible for the remainder of this century in Pakistan, while not forgetting the Indian Muslim minority or the still smaller Christian Church, than in other parts of the world where these two monotheistic religions come into contact.

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Kuwait and her Neighbours. By H. R. P. Dickson, London, George Allen & Unwin, Ltd., 1956. pp. 627, with maps and charts. 75 s.

This companion volume to Lieut.-Col. Dickson's *The Arab of the Desert* is like the earlier book in that it is invaluable, indeed, indispensable and delightful, more enchanting than *The Arabian Nights*, because it is more true to the real life and thought of the Arabs. Unfortunately, it has similar flaws to the earlier volume.

This Quarterly, in April 1950 and January 1951, published reviews of *The Arab of the Desert*, both highly appreciative of the book. That by Dr. S. M. Zwemer praised it with the enthusiasm of another intimate friend of the Arabs. Dr. George Rentz, in his extensive remarks, whose very length expressed his great appreciation of the book's worth, disclosed his high regard for the author's contribution to the really great literature on Arabia. Through the changes he suggested for later editions he enhanced the book's value to specialists on Arabian affairs, as well as others who need valid transliterations of

Arabic words and correct historical, geographical and social information.

This volume has been edited for publication by Clifford Witting. Its chapters are grouped in four sections, which will vary in interest for different readers. Part One describes the early modern history, the geography and the tribal population of Eastern and Central Arabia. It is based on Col. Dickson's firsthand, that is, eye and ear information. For the physical features of the places he visited no better descriptions could be desired. For the history of the last and the present century, his reports vary in accuracy with the soundness of the knowledge of his informants. Some of it is only hearsay and would require checking and re-checking. But much is autobiographical, recorded at the time of the experiences. These parts are both thoroughly reliable and full of interest, because of the author's participation in the political and social life of peoples of strategic importance for the world.

Peaceful and mutually advantageous association with the peoples of Central and Eastern Arabia and Iraq requires the intimate knowledge and the sympathetic attitude that Col. Dickson possesses, exemplifies and describes in both these books. Study of them should be required of all non-Arabs who are concerned directly or indirectly with Arab affairs. Others whose interest is in cultural patterns and changes due to new material wealth and increased scientific and humanistic studies will find fascinating material in both books.

Some of the subjects dealing particularly with women's interests, such as the *zār* (exorcism customs) were written by Col. Dickson's talented wife, thus adding to the worth of this splendid work.

It is hoped that the author will publish an account of the great changes he has seen in Kuwait and in the character of the people there, as oil wealth and mechanistic modernism increase their influence.

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EDWIN E. CALVERLEY

Ancient and Modern Man in Southwestern Asia. By Henry Field, University of Miami Press, Coral Gables, Florida, 1956, xiii and pp. 342.

The title of this volume raises the question of its pretension. Yet those readers who are familiar with the long list of publications to the credit of Henry Field, who know that he has tramped the limitless sands and historic caravan routes of the entire Fertile Crescent, will recognize in the author an authority of no mean stature on the history and prehistory of this "Cradle of Civilization."

The title is somewhat deceptive, for the content is descriptive only in the boldest outline. Essentially, the book is a manual of the physical anthropology of Southwest Asia, though the author repeatedly uses the term "anthropogeography" as if he were seeking a compromise between the American meaning of physical anthropology and the continental European meaning of ethnography.

Each of the countries covered by this study (Sinai, Israel, Jordan, the Lebanon, Syria, Turkey, the Caucasus, Iran, Iraq, Bahrain, the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Afghanistan, and Baluchistan) is subjected to the same formula: (a) geography, including fauna and flora; (b) prehistory — Paleolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic; and (c) modern man, his racial characteristics and distribution.

The text reads like the notebook of an archaeologist in the field as he passes from site to site on a carefully planned expedition. The value of the book, therefore, lies not in the text, but in the comprehensive bibliographies, footnotes, tables, and maps. It is of considerable importance to three classes of readers: first, the student of the area who seeks reference to original source material; second, anthropologists and archaeologists who wish to have close at hand a thorough record of major discoveries in the region explored; and third, officials, civil and religious, who are involved in evaluation, for practical purposes, of the history and distribution of the peoples who yesterday and today populate the Fertile Crescent.

The format of this volume, as well as the text, will disappoint the general reader, for whom it is presumed this book was not intended. The data compiled is often of questionable value. There is no hint that the elaborate anthropometric statistics are anything but scientific. Their static nature is not questioned, and there is pedantic concern for variations in the mean of the cephalic indices recorded that amount to one-tenth of one per cent.

The maps are often inadequate, though twenty-four are given. For example, the site of the rock drawings of the so-called Kilwa Culture (in Jordan) cannot be located on the maps represented. Many place names of isolated oases and desert ruins mentioned in the text are not shown on the accompanying maps, nor are they to be found on such well known maps as that of the National Geographic Society (1946), though this map coincides almost exactly with the area covered by Dr. Field. In other words, the difficult geography of the region is not particularly clarified by this work which purports to treat of anthropogeography.

But these limitations aside, this is an encyclopedic work that makes a major contribution to the literature about the Arabic world and its adjacent territories.

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NOTES OF THE QUARTER

A Soviet Assessment of Islam. Several issues of Vol. xxxv of *The Light*, Lahore, in February and March last, devoted a series of editorials to a book on Islam by a noted Russian scholar, Professor L. Klimovich, with the title: *Islam, its Origin and Social Substance*. The book is said to have been published by the Soviet Society for the Propagation of Political and Scientific Knowledge. According to *The Light*, Professor Klimovich declared the Qur²ān to be a rehash of old myths and asserted that it was composed during the reigns of the early Caliphs and that its attitudes precluded genuine scientific research. He added that every effort to defend religious dogma meant in effect an attempt to rescue an outmoded thing.

The Editor of *The Light* energetically refutes and repudiates the Soviet writer. His analysis however, as does this note, depends only on the American news report about the contents of the work. His refutation follows familiar lines. "We invite Mr Klimovich... to produce a chapter like that of the Holy Book, perfect and elegant in diction, incomparable and unique in conciseness and most comprehensive and complete in the subject matter." It may well be, however, that the work in question, were its contents fully known and handled, needs a more discerning and searching refutation than the indignant rebuttals here noted.

The Islamic Call. A book of this title is the first of a series projected in Cairo by what is described as "a committee of specialised University professors and leading Egyptian writers," the address of the Committee being 22 Sulaiman Pasha Street, Cairo. This work of 212 pages is in English and has a foreword from the pen of the Egyptian President, Jamāl ʿAbd-al-Nāṣir. The author is Muḥammad Muṣṭafā ʿAtā, the original being in Arabic.

Though the work is nicely produced it is a pity that it is afflicted with so many verbal errors, for these occur on almost every page. Spellings of names are not unified. Thus we have Hira, Hera and Hiraā. But of more moment is the question the book raises in the reader's mind as to the real genesis of Islam. The opening chapter analyses what is necessary to successful religious mission: tact, knowledge of men, timing, psychological insight, moderation, opportunism and the like, and then finding these all abundantly in the Prophet explains in these terms the successful launching of Islam. The problem, of course, is not new. But the question remains how far Islam is to be understood as the outcome of supreme leadership-genius and how far as the work of God in revelation. Islam is here depicted as "the ideal achievement." (p. 13). Much is also made of the suitability of Islam to the Arab temperament. "The foresighted reformer versed in people's psychology and social evolution should make his bricks from the soil on which he is trying to raise his superstructure, and from its rocks should cut and chisel his foundation stone." (p. 107). Whether or not we can be satisfied about this kind of thesis as a valid account of Islamic origins, the emphasis is interesting. "The judicious

application of psychological principles" (p. 121) is the gist of this Islamic call.

The author does not introduce many markedly new elements into his discussion but offers a familiar and attractive resumé of well-known apologetic. He discusses surprisingly little the deep inward sources of Muḥammad's call but concentrates rather on the successful issue of rightly conceived principles of reform. *Egypt: A Historical Analysis* is the next promised title in the series.

Iranian Railway Development. A new railway line has recently been inaugurated in Iran — the first important stretch of Iranian railway to be completed since World War II. It links Teheran with Meshed near the Afghan frontier. Work on the section between Shahrud and Meshed was accomplished at a phenomenal speed. Between February 1955 and January, 1957 about 310 miles were laid at a rate of a little less than half a mile per day, through all weathers, varying from blizzard to fierce sunlight. Some eighty thousand tons of rail and sleeper were laid in those 22 months at a cost of about four million dollars. There are fifty stations and halts between Teheran and Meshed, the Meshed terminal being the biggest station in Iran. The cost of the railway has been borne wholly by the Iranian Government without direct assistance from any foreign aid programs.

It is evident that the new line will greatly facilitate pilgrimage to the shrine of Imām Reza located at Meshed. It is also hoped this year to complete the unfinished line to Tabriz in the Caspian Sea area and later to link up the Iranian railway system with Turkish and Pakistani railways, making possible rail travel from the Indian sub-continent to the English Channel.

"The Leader Speaks." No. 71 of *Kitāb al-Hilāl*, a popular monthly book series which sells for ten Egyptian piastres, consists of speeches and writings of the Egyptian President, Jamāl 'Abd al-Nāṣir. It contains the Arabic text of *Falsafat al-Thaurah*, "The Philosophy of the Revolution," first published in the summer of 1954, and ten addresses given on various occasions since the transition from the leadership of Muḥammad Naguib. These deal with Arab and Muslim unity, the Bandung Conference, national co-operation and the army, a popular Constitution, the (British) withdrawal and the age of freedom, the holy crusade, peaceful co-existence and total independence and three addresses connected with the Suez crisis.

There are two prefaces: the first by Minister of State Fathy Raḍwān, who very fulsomely discusses the impact of the President upon Egyptian and international life. Rarely in the last hundred years has the world been so pre-occupied by any man. He is the first truly Egyptian leader for six thousand years during which royal rule has prevailed over Egypt. It is matter of legitimate national and personal pride that his word and his authority are the concern of the whole world. After analysing the situation in 1952, Fathy Raḍwān assesses the superlative achievements that followed and ends with a tribute to the thoughtfulness and integrity which characterise the utterances that