

BOOK REVIEW

Minority Rights in the Middle East

Amy B. Sajoo*

Centre for Comparative Study of Muslim Societies & Cultures, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada

Joshua Castellino and Kathleen A. Cavanaugh. *Minority Rights in the Middle East* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013). 456 pages. ISBN 9780199679492. £70.

One can scarcely imagine a more acute test of democratic governance today—in the Middle East or beyond, including Europe—than the issue of minority citizenship. Indeed, this volume is part of a series of works from Oxford University Press on the legal and political aspects of minority rights at large. Over a decade ago, Will Kymlicka and Wayne Norman noted a stubborn general tendency to separate matters of democratic citizenship from minority equity, despite the resurgence of interest in both.¹ This is all the more vexing given the shared challenges: the public role of religion, globalized mobility, and the growing demands for communal autonomy, among others. In the Middle East, as elsewhere, these trends and their implications need to be understood in their unfolding historical context; the alternative is to reduce complexity to slogans such as ‘the clash of civilizations’ and ‘Islam is the problem’. It is salutary that the authors of *Minority Rights in the Middle East* are alert not only to Orientalist pitfalls but also to the need for a wider ethical critique of the normative frameworks at hand, regional and global alike.

Joshua Castellino and Kathleen Cavanaugh draw on their expertise as law professors to first sketch the construction of minority status in modern international legal instruments, notably with regard to human rights norms pertaining to such themes as religion, gender, migrants, and territorial minorities. The standard definition of a minority as a ‘numerically inferior’ and ‘non-dominant’ group, based on a landmark 1977 UN study,² is rightly found to be inadequate amidst the diverse political and social realities in which communities may find themselves (48–54). This analysis is briskly situated in the context of Middle East states as they emerged from colonial rule in the 19th–20th centuries with a vast array of ethnocultural and religious minorities.

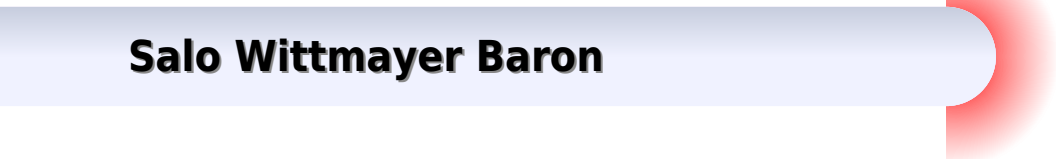
*Correspondence to: Amy B. Sajoo, Centre for Comparative Study of Muslim Societies & Cultures, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada. Email: asajoo@sfu.ca

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Citation: *Ethics & Global Politics*, Vol. 7, No. 1, 2014, pp. 41–45. <http://dx.doi.org/10.33044/egp.7.2351>

Minority Rights In The Middle East

Salo Wittmayer Baron



Minority Rights In The Middle East:

Minority Rights in the Middle East Joshua Castellino, Kathleen A. Cavanaugh, 2013-04-25 Minority rights in the Middle East are subject to different legal regimes national law and international law as well as Islamic law This book investigates the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities in the region both from a historical and contemporary perspective before addressing three case studies Iraq Syria and Lebanon **Minority Rights in the Middle East** Joshua Castellino, Kathleen A. Cavanaugh, 2013-04-25 Within the Middle East there are a wide range of minority groups outside the mainstream religious and ethnic culture This book provides a detailed examination of their rights as minorities within this region and their changing status throughout the twentieth and twenty first centuries The rights of minorities in the Middle East are subject to a range of legal frameworks having developed in part from Islamic law and in recent years subject to international human rights law and institutional frameworks The book examines the context in which minority rights operate within this conflicted region investigating how minorities engage with or are excluded from various sites of power and how state practice in dealing with minorities often ostensibly based on Islamic authority intersects with and informs modern constitutionalism and international law The book identifies who exactly can be classed as a minority group analysing in detail the different religious and ethnic minorities across the region The book also pays special attention to the plight of minorities who are spread between various states often as the result of conflict It assesses the applicable domestic legislative instruments within the three countries investigated as case studies Iraq Syria and Lebanon and highlights key domestic remedies that could serve as models for ensuring greater social cohesion and greater inclusion of minorities in the political life of these countries

Minorities in the Middle East ,1992 **Minorities in the Middle East** Mordechai Nisan,1991 Over time an indelible stereotype has emerged that the Middle East is a monocultural terrain stretching from the Sahara and Morocco in the west to southern Asia and the Indus Valley in the east inhabited by Muslims alone It has become customary as well to see the area from North Africa to the Persian Gulf as inhabited by Arabs speaking the Arabic tongue The reality which this work focuses on is that across the broad expanse of the Middle East various minorities have long persevered with their unique character and way of life Pressed to persist in a threatening environment these minorities Kurds Berbers Baluchi Druzes Alawites Armenians Assyrians Maronites Sudanese Christians Jews and others share similar experiences and have been known to cooperate for shared goals **Minorities in the Middle East** ,1992 *Minority Politics in the Middle East and North Africa* Will Kymlicka, Eva Pförtl, 2018-02-02 Projects of democratic reform in the Middle East and North Africa have said little about the place of minorities and minority rights in their vision of reform implying that these issues are best deferred to some indefinite future While many people describe the Arab Spring as a battle for pluralism there is a reluctance to discuss what this pluralism might actually mean for the political claims of minorities for fear of triggering divisive conflicts and undemocratic tendencies Is there an alternative to this fearful deferral of minority politics Can we imagine transformative

minority politics that is a form of minority politics that strengthens democratic reform in the region and that helps deepen a culture of human rights and democratic citizenship This volume explores whether this is indeed a realistic prospect in the Middle East and North Africa examining cases that include the Amazigh in North Africa the Copts in Egypt the Kurds in Iraq the Palestinians in Israel the minoritarian regimes in Syria and Bahrain and various ethnic minorities in Iran This book was originally published as a special issue of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*

Minority Rights in Asia Joshua Castellino, Elvira Domínguez Redondo, 2006 Countries in Asia with their diverse populations struggle with constructing legal systems that will deliver on the promise of equal rights to all its citizens This book evaluates these attempts in four Asian states India China Malaysia and Singapore

Minority Rights Jay A. Sigler, 1983-12-02 The unprecedented mass movement of populations since World War II has increased tensions among groups of people by breaking down the homogeneity of older countries and increasing the fragility of newly independent states encompassing several minorities within their borders These changes according to author Jay Sigler dictate the necessity of clarifying human and minority rights He highlights the main points of minority rights traces their history and demonstrates their distinctly modern features Sigler considers the theoretical implications of minority versus individual and collective rights and examines the efforts in this area made by the United States India the United Kingdom Belgium and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics Finally he proposes his own provisional theory of minority rights

Some Minorities in the Middle East Richard Tapper, Maria T. O'Shea, 1992

Sri Lanka Elizabeth Nissan, 1996

Resisting Minority Rights Norms Smruthi Rammohan, 2017

Ethnic Minority Rights Salo Wittmayer Baron, 1985

Middle Eastern Minorities Moshe Ma'oz, 1999 This is a broad survey of the historical and current role of religious and ethnic minorities in the Fertile Crescent Egypt and Sudan

Minority Rights Nankin Bagudu, 2003

Universal Minority Rights Alan Phillips, Allan Rosas, 1995 Of the CSCE 1990

Middle Eastern Minorities and Diasporas Moshe Ma'oz, Gabriel Sheffer, 2002 The Arab countries have been projected as homogeneous and united social and political entities Yet beneath the surface ethnic tensions and conflicts simmer This book looks at the factors forces and circumstances that affect relations in the region and point towards strategies that promote or hinder coexistence and integration or antagonism

Minority Rights in Yugoslavia Jan Briza, 2000

Minorities and Human Rights Law Patrick Thornberry, 1991 Minorities what are they

Islam and Equality Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (U.S.), 1999

GLOSSARY OF ARABIC TERMS

Promoting and Protecting Minority Rights United Nations, United Nations. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2012 The present guide offers information related to norms and mechanisms developed to protect the rights of persons belonging to national ethnic religious or linguistic minorities It includes detailed information about procedures and forums in which minority issues may be raised to minorities and by also covering selected specialized agencies and regional mechanisms the present Guide complements information contained in Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme A Handbook for Civil Society Introduction

Decoding **Minority Rights In The Middle East**: Revealing the Captivating Potential of Verbal Expression

In a period characterized by interconnectedness and an insatiable thirst for knowledge, the captivating potential of verbal expression has emerged as a formidable force. Its ability to evoke sentiments, stimulate introspection, and incite profound transformations is genuinely awe-inspiring. Within the pages of "**Minority Rights In The Middle East**," a mesmerizing literary creation penned by way of a celebrated wordsmith, readers attempt an enlightening odyssey, unraveling the intricate significance of language and its enduring affect our lives. In this appraisal, we shall explore the book is central themes, evaluate its distinctive writing style, and gauge its pervasive influence on the hearts and minds of its readership.

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