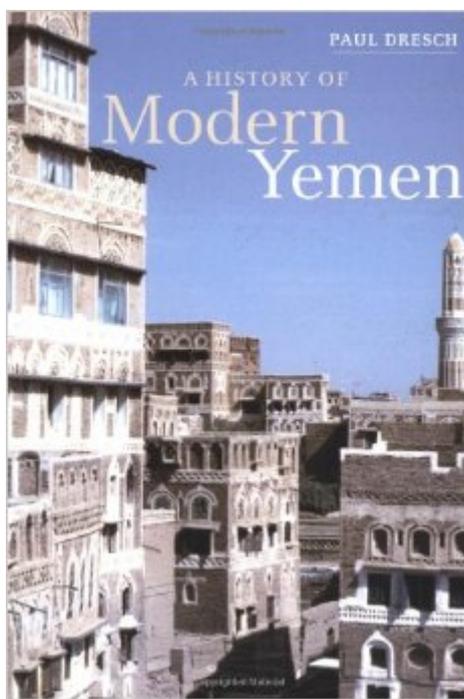


The book was found

A History Of Modern Yemen



Synopsis

Yemen's modern history is unique and deserves to be better understood. While the borders of most Middle East states were defined by colonial powers after the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, a single Yemeni state was not formed until 1990. In fact, much of Yemen's twentieth-century history was taken up constructing such a state, forged after years of civil war. The book is augmented by illustrations, maps and a detailed chronology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Written eleven years ago in 2000, Dresch's work is even more relevant today, as the "war on terrorism" which conflates with "the war for US interests everywhere" continues and finds a particular focus of tension in Yemen. While the author definitely describes the rise of Islamist schools and political groups in the imperfectly-welded parts of this ancient land, even a cursory reading of A MODERN HISTORY.... will lead to the realization that much of the Western media have little or no idea what is going on there. I fear the same is true of the politicians and decision makers. Yemen is a most complex country, divided in many ways, but making up a society nevertheless. Tribes, religious factions (all Islamic), economic, military, and political groups create complex webs with a bedrock underlay of personal and family ties, making predictions about who will do what extremely difficult. Dresch tackles Yemen only from the beginning of the Imam Yahya's reign in 1906. Right there you come to a problem....do you say "reign" when speaking about an Imam, not a king? Yemen moved from an Imamate with little feeling of nationhood in the modern sense, to being more of a kingdom. The British had occupied the port of Aden in the 19th century and gradually extended their sway over the entire southern and eastern stretches of what had been

known as "Yemen", a region. When the second modern Imam died in 1962, modernists tried to take control, only to face a vastly confusing civil war in which both Egypt (military) and Saudi Arabia (money) took part. The south freed itself from British rule by 1968 and turned into a (would-be) Marxist state which still displayed firm Yemeni characteristics.

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