

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910136586003321
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Titolo	Britain and the Arab Middle East : World War I and its aftermath // Robert H Lieshout
Pubbl/distr/stampa	London : , : I.B. Tauris, , 2016
ISBN	9781350985575 1350985570 9780857729330 0857729330
Edizione	[First edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (389 pages) : illustrations, maps
Disciplina	940.415
Soggetti	International relations World War, 1914-1918 - Arab countries World War, 1914-1918 - Great Britain Arab countries Foreign relations Great Britain Great Britain Foreign relations Arab countries
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Compliant with Level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. Content is displayed as HTML full text which can easily be resized or read with assistive technology, with mark-up that allows screen readers and keyboard-only users to navigate easily.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and indexes.
Sommario/riassunto	"The profound effects of the British Empire's actions in the Arab World during the First World War can be seen echoing through the history of the 20th century. The uprising sparked by the Husayn-McMahon correspondence and led by 'Lawrence of Arabia'; the Sykes-Picot agreement which undermined that rebellion; and memoranda such as the Balfour Declaration all have shaped the Middle East into forms which would have been unrecognizable to the diplomats of the 19th century. Undertaken during the First 'World' War, these actions were not part of a coordinated British strategy, but in fact directed by several overlapping and competing departments, some imperfectly referred to as the 'Arab Bureau'. The British and the Middle East is unique in its comprehensive treatment of how and why the British generals and

diplomats acted as they did. By taking as his starting point the voluminous, contradictory and revealing records of the policy-makers in the British government, Robert H. Lieshout shows convincingly that many concerned with foreign policy making were quite oblivious to the history and complexities of the Islamic World. Covering the full sweep of British involvement in Arabia, Lieshout makes a lasting contribution to our understanding of the period in which the British Empire changed the world, and shows how shallow and confused the understanding of those that shaped the future of the Middle East really was."--
Bloomsbury Publishing.
