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Sommario/riassunto	The Arab world has long been subjected to super-power rivalry for influence and control. The area has been characterized by bloody conflict with Israel and the internal instability that has been particularly prevalent in the last few years. Whilst these political struggles have been highly visible and at times spectacular over the decades, other transformations have taken place within the societies and peoples of the region, on a less pronounced - although just as profound - scale. The integration of the region into the world economy and the spread of Islamic revivalism are perhaps the most