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Sommario/riassunto	Since the West's very early flirtations with the modern Near East, and especially in the past 100 years of East-West relations, there has been considerable difficulty in understanding and defining the Middle East, the Arab world, pan-Arabism, Arab nationalism, and Middle Eastern identities in general. The Western impulse of conflating national identity with language, state, and ethnicity-often subsuming Arabic language into Arab ethnicity-has contributed to this misunderstanding and misreading of the region. For, while the Middle East can be accurately referred to by way of t

