

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911011295203321
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Titolo	The Middle East and North Africa
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Berlin/Boston : , : Walter de Gruyter GmbH, , 2024 ©2024
ISBN	9783111254067 3111254062
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (498 pages)
Collana	Global Secularity. A Sourcebook ; ; Volume II
Altri autori (Persone)	YavariNeguin DresslerMarkus StadlerNurit
Disciplina	211.60956
Soggetti	RELIGION / Atheism
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Instructions for Use -- About the Editors -- Secularity in the Middle East and North Africa: Introduction -- Premodern Debates: Politics in Religion -- Introduction -- 1 Sa'adiah ben Yosef Gaon: The Book of Beliefs and Opinions (933) -- 2 Unur al-Mal: A Mirror for Princes (ca. Mid-late 11th Century) -- 3 Nim al-Mulk: Rules for Kings (ca. 1080) -- 4 Al-Mward: The Discipline of Religious and Worldly Matters (ca. 1050) -- 5 Al-Ghazl: Balance in Belief (ca. 1100) -- 6 Al-Qarf: Distinguishing Legal Opinions from Judicial Rulings (ca. 1250s) -- 7 Al-Tawd: Delightful and Intimate Conversations (983–985) -- 8 Ysuf Kh jib: Wisdom of Royal Glory (ca. 1060s) -- 9 Ibn Khaldn: Religion-based and Reason-based Politics (ca. 1380) -- 10 Anonymous: On the Good of the Muslims (ca. 1650) and Anonymous: The Praised Book (1620) -- (Ottoman-) Turkish Secularities between Expediency and Ideology: A History of Entanglements and Distinctions -- Introduction -- 11 Mustafa Fazl Paa: Letter to Sultan Abdülaziz (1867) -- 12 Ziya Paa: Law and Courts (1870) -- 13 Anonymous: Visit of Archbishop zmirliyan to the Sultan (1908) -- 14 Elmall Muhammed Hamdi (Yazr): Islam, the Caliphate, and the Sheikh ül-Islam (1909) -- 15 Misak Koçunyan: Dismantling the Patriarchates (1910) -- 16 Bediüzzaman Said Nursi: The Problem of

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Sommario/riassunto

This volume collects reflections on secularity from the Middle East and North Africa. To highlight proximate connections as well as resonances with debates elsewhere, it includes premodern contributions from the region as well as Jewish thought from Europe that have provided

significant references for modern appropriations of secularity. The texts, for the most part previously untranslated, reflect commonalities within the region as well as its great diversity. Thus, while Islam is a common reference for most of our authors, the selections point to its varied invocations in the interest of differing political ends. Others write from a Christian or Jewish perspective, or subscribe to non-religious intellectual traditions. They range from premodern Muslim jurists and philosophers to Ottoman statesmen, Arab socialist and nationalist intellectuals of the interwar period, Iranian revolutionaries, Israeli novelists, and finally, post-secular intellectuals, lay and religious, predominantly from the former Islamic heartland: modern Arab states and Iran. Several introductions weave together the swathe of topics raised in the discussions, beginning with a schematic presentation of the concerns that undergird the volume's organization
