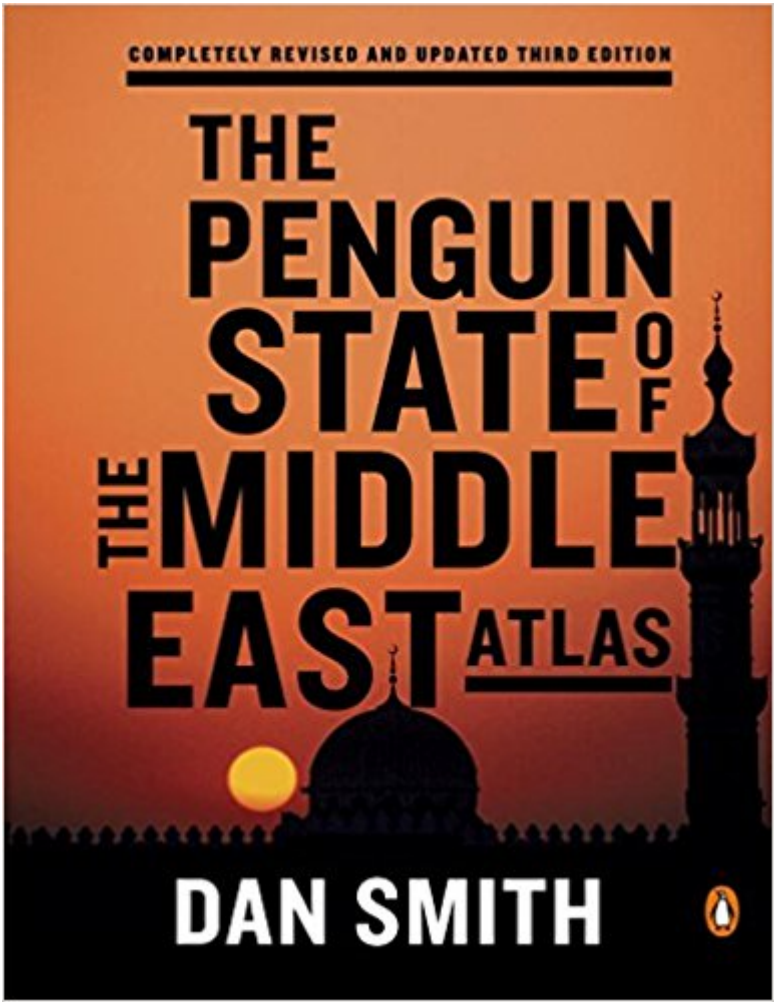
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The Penguin State Of The Middle East Atlas: Completely Revised And Updated Third Edition



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Synopsis

From the author of The Penguin State of the World Atlas, an essential tool for understanding the modern Middle EastThe Middle East is in a constant state of change, and understanding it has never been more important. In this essential guide to the region and its politics, Dan Smith unravels the history of the Middle East from the Ottoman Empire to the present day. With the acute and fair-minded analysis readers have come to expect from him, Smith highlights key issues and maps their global implications to explain why the Middle East has become, and will remain, the focal point of foreign policy. There can be no one-line summary of the Middle East, but in The Penguin State of the Middle East Atlas, Smith gives readers the primer they need to understand the ongoing conflicts in the region.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

DAN SMITH is the secretary general of the London-based international peace-building organization International Alert, and former Director of the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO). He was awarded the OBE in 2002, and lives in London.

I really enjoyed this text- my professor, however, was awful. It’s an important book and offered so so much information about what’s actually going on in MENA.

I hope they update this atlas regularly. It’s good and worthwhile and needs updating to keep up with the rapid changes in the region.

It’s been a few years since I’ve had one of this series, and again, always excellent.

This is an excellent reference book, with outstanding graphics. The writing is much better than usual in an atlas like this. It covers the Middle East, which is about the most controversial region any book can address. According to the "About the author" blurb, Smith directs the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, which is quite impressive. Some readers may dislike Smith’s sections on Israel and the Palestinians, which criticizes Israel on such matters as settlements on the West Bank and appropriation of water resources. The atlas is also somewhat critical of Britain, and USA and other influences on the region. And, while somewhat critical of European colonialism, Smith does say that colonialism brought modernity to the region.Note that Turkey is not included in the atlas, except for the very important history of the Ottoman empire. The book’s coverage includes North Africa in the region.The atlas has informative sections on the Ottoman empire, European colonialism, decolonization and Arab nationalism, the formation of Israel, oil, and the US presence. A second section describes some interesting aspects (generally 2 to 4 pages) on internal politics of each nation, faith, ethnicity, wealth and inequality, gender relations, water, refugees and wars.A third section looks at "Arenas of conflict," which include Israel/ Palestine (10 pages), Lebanon, Algeria, the Kurds, Iran, Iraq, the Iran/ Iraq war, the Gulf wars, the "new Iraq", Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, the Gulf states and ISIS. I think the most informative sections are on Egypt, Algeria, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Syria--I have a better understanding of the complicated events in Syria and Yemen.Readers may find some surprises. I was unaware of border fences on a large scale. Iran has a 435 mile barrier on the border with Pakistan, separating the Baloch people in the two countries. And the Saudis are constructing a security barrier stretching from Jordan to KuwaitOne section may already be out of date, concerning Iran’s nuclear program and the deal made to stop weapons development. The atlas sees reason to be optimistic about it, but the recent US presidential election may affect the matter in yet unknown ways.

Before I begin the review, I will state few important items:A. This review has nothing to do with , because if I desired, would gladly take the item back, return the money or give me a gift card. I have been an shopper, reviewer and associate since started. Through the years, went out of her way to satisfy me.B. What makes me qualified to write this review is the fact that I am a historian, geographer, researcher, professor, journalist and an author.C. This review is not opinion but facts. I am not subjective here, but pure objective.Now letÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s roll:I have pre ordered this

book and waited for a year to get it. After reading it, the only reason that I kept this book is to show my students and disciples, what a ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Liberal Biased AtlasÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• looks like!This Atlas unlike many other Atlases which I have reviewed (read my other reviews) is for most not factual based but authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s opinion. I can state many flaws of this Atlas but due to lack of space, I will only state a few:I. Author has intentionally revised the famous, historically known and globally accepted name of the 2500 years old body of water from ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Persian GulfÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• to ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The GulfÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• in all his maps except one small one! This shows Anti Persian (Iranian) sentiment of the author and indeed pandering to the oil rich Arab Muslims via revising the global history and geography.II. The complete bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s text and historical timelines are clearly Anti Semitic. Jews are portrayed as agitators and oppressors, but then Arab Muslims are portrayed as innocent victims. For most, Islamist terrorism throughout the history has been justified by the author. This makes the author clearly Anti Semitic, Anti Jew and again pandering to the oil rich Arab Muslims.III. Throughout the book, over and over, United States of America, Great Britain and France have been portrayed as Imperialists, Intervening and oppressing powers, while again Arab Muslims have been portrayed as innocent victims!IV. Throughout the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s time lines events (on the right and left sides of the pages), historical timelines and events are not general but were selected due to authorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s bias to prove his point.This next one is the ultimate revision and twisting of the Middle Eastern history! Are you ready for this one?V. The chaos in the Middle East is vastly blamed on the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Manmade Global WarmingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• caused by the Imperialist global powers such as United States of America! Out of all the historical reasons, author views the ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“Manmade Global WarmingÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• (still in debate by the scientists and viewed by many authorities as fantasy) as the major cause of the Middle EastÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s chaos throughout the centuries. Not a single word of historical realities as the main causes of the Middle East Chaos are mentioned, facts such as:1. Obama and Clinton AdministrationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s role in sparking and starting civil wars in Syria, Libya, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt and so on which enflamed the complete Middle East in to chaos.2. Islamist Terrorism3. Corruption and oppression of the Arab Muslim Monarchs and Dictators victimizing their own people.Author is typical European liberal socialist academic with a massive agenda and a point to prove. In this book, author went as far as revising and twisting the world history, geography and social statistics to get his point across. This is not an Atlas but a Subjective, Liberal Bias Propaganda pandering to the oil rich Arab Muslims.To think of me, waiting for a year for this book to arrive is a nightmare but then again, this book will be used by me greatly to teach my students on

the methods of how Liberal Socialist Academics produce, sell and teach propaganda in the name of science, geography and history! I give this Atlas 1 star due to its colorful maps and charts.To study and read true and factual based material, I recommend other Atlases on (see my other reviews).

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