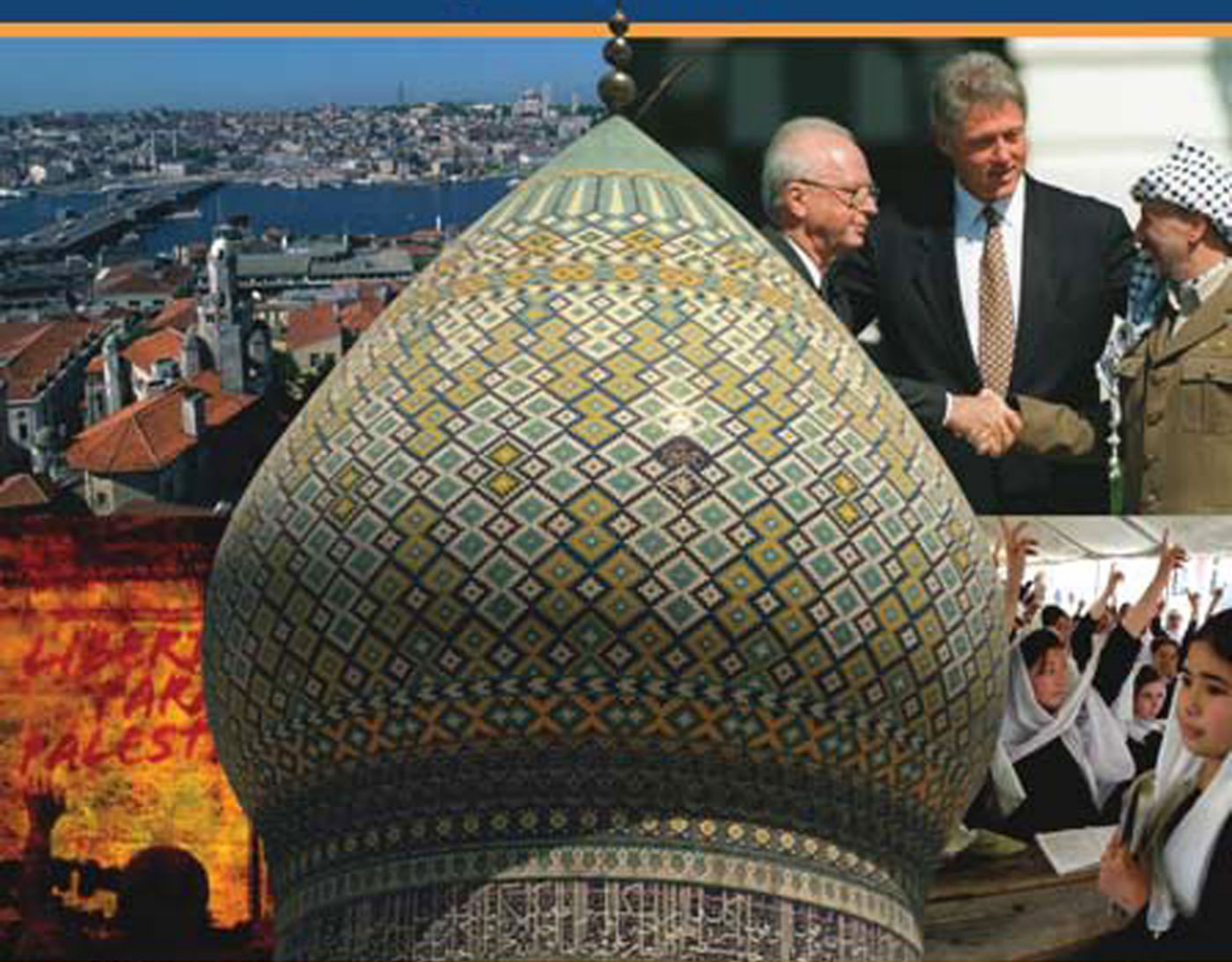


# THE CONTEMPORARY MIDDLE EAST

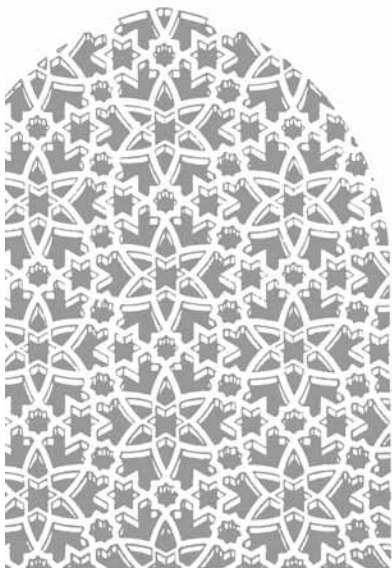
## A Documentary History

John Felton



The  
Contemporary  
Middle East  
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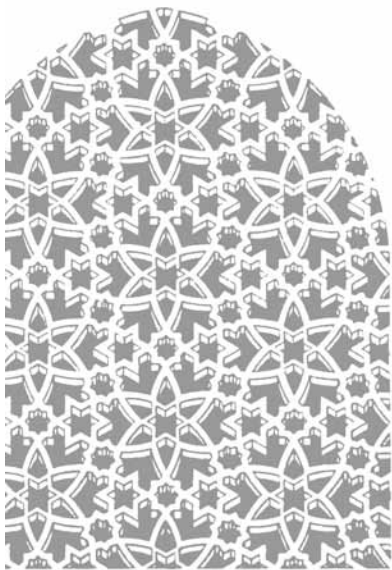


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## Preface

*The Contemporary Middle East: A Documentary History* centers around speeches and diplomatic agreements, UN and other resolutions, and additional texts that effected or reflect important events and remain of enduring significance. In some cases, the documents are of no immediate urgency to events today, but examining the role they played in the past is essential to a full understanding of the contemporary world. Such examples include the secret agreement in which Britain, France, and Israel decided to invade Egypt in 1956 to seize the Suez Canal. Other documents remain as compelling today as when they were originally produced. Examples of these include the treaties that brought peace (or at least the absence of war) between Israel and two of its immediate neighbors, Egypt and Jordan. These treaties—reflective of decisions by Arab leaders to come to terms with Israel’s existence in exchange for the return of captured land and other concessions—continue to influence the course of events in the region on a daily basis.

“Foundations of the Contemporary Middle East,” the introduction to chapter 1, sets the stage for all subsequent chapters by examining the events of the World War I era that played such an important role in the creation of today’s Middle East. The other chapters deal with the conflicts involving Israel and its Arab neighbors, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon and Syria, and Turkey. The table of contents for each chapter features part titles to identify periods of conflict and trends in foreign policy and diplomacy. A comprehensive chronology of major events since 1914 provides additional historical context for the documents and is followed by a bibliography.

An introduction precedes each document or set of related documents, establishing context with a brief explanation of the relevant history. For comprehensive histories, readers should consult the bibliography and other available resources on the Middle East elsewhere. Most of the documents are presented in their entirety, but for reasons of space, some of the longer ones have been excerpted but retain their essence. Editorial notes and wording added for clarity appear in brackets.

Original source documents have been used whenever possible. In other cases, however, the primary source documents are difficult or nearly impossible to obtain or exist