

The Politics of Yemen and the Arab Middle East: 1950 - The Present

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Course Content: This course examines the political history of the two Yemens (North and South) and unified Yemen since the mid-20th century and locates their politics in the politics and development of the Arab Middle East as a whole. It focuses on how the two Yemens, latecomers to the “modern world” and “modern politics”, encountered and responded differently to that world and its politics. It also focuses on how the very different Yemens dealt with each other and with the politics leading to, and following Yemeni unification in 1990. In short, into what have Yemeni politics evolved as of 2009, and where may they be heading?

Requirements: No prior knowledge of Yemeni politics is required for this short, intense course, but its participants will have some quick catching up to do. Students are expected to attend all in-class seminars and to be prepared to discuss the assigned topics and readings. The classes will be supplemented with obligatory meetings with relevant figures and gatherings in Sana’a and beyond. You will be graded about equally on the basis of in-class participation and, at the course’s end, a half-hour presentation on a topic that you have developed from the readings; the latter will be followed by a brief Q-and-A with those present. *The presentation and questioning will be open to the rest of the College and Select Invitees.*

Required Readings: The readings consist of chapters from Long, Reich and Gasiorowski (eds.), *The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa*, all of Paul Dresch, *A History of Modern Yemen* and a packet of 12 articles on Yemen by your professor. The last trace both the evolution of Yemen’s politics and the evolution of your professor’s take on Yemen and its politics since he first went there in 1975.

The Modern Arab World and the Emergent Yemens, 1950s-1960s

- L, R, and G, chapters on Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia (chs. 13, 9, 5, 10, 8 & 4)
- Dresch, Chs. 1-4
- Burrowes, “Historical Background (to *The Hostage*)” and “The Famous Forty”

State-building and Political Construction in the YAR and the PDRY, mid-1960s-1980s

- L, R and G, on the Arab Gulf states, Ch. 6
- Dresch, Chs. 5 & 6
- Burrowes, “State-building and Political Construction in the YAR,” “The YAR and the Ali Abdullah Salih Regime,” “The YAR’s Legacy and Unification,” and “Oil Strike and Leadership Struggle in the PDRY”

The Politics of Unification and the Republic of Yemen

---Dresch, Ch. 7

---Burrowes, "The ROY: Politics of Unification and Civil War," "It's the Economy, Stupid," "Ali Abdullah Salih and the Prospects for Democracy," and "Yemen: Political Economy and . . . Terrorism"

Prospects for the Future

---Burrowes and Kasper, "The Salih Regime and the Need for a Credible Opposition"

---Longley, "The High Water Mark for Islamic Politics: Yemen?"

---The Middle East Institute Viewpoints, "Discerning Yemen's Political Future"

---Burrowes, "Republic of Yemen" in L, R, G: 6th Edition (forthcoming)

Student Presentations