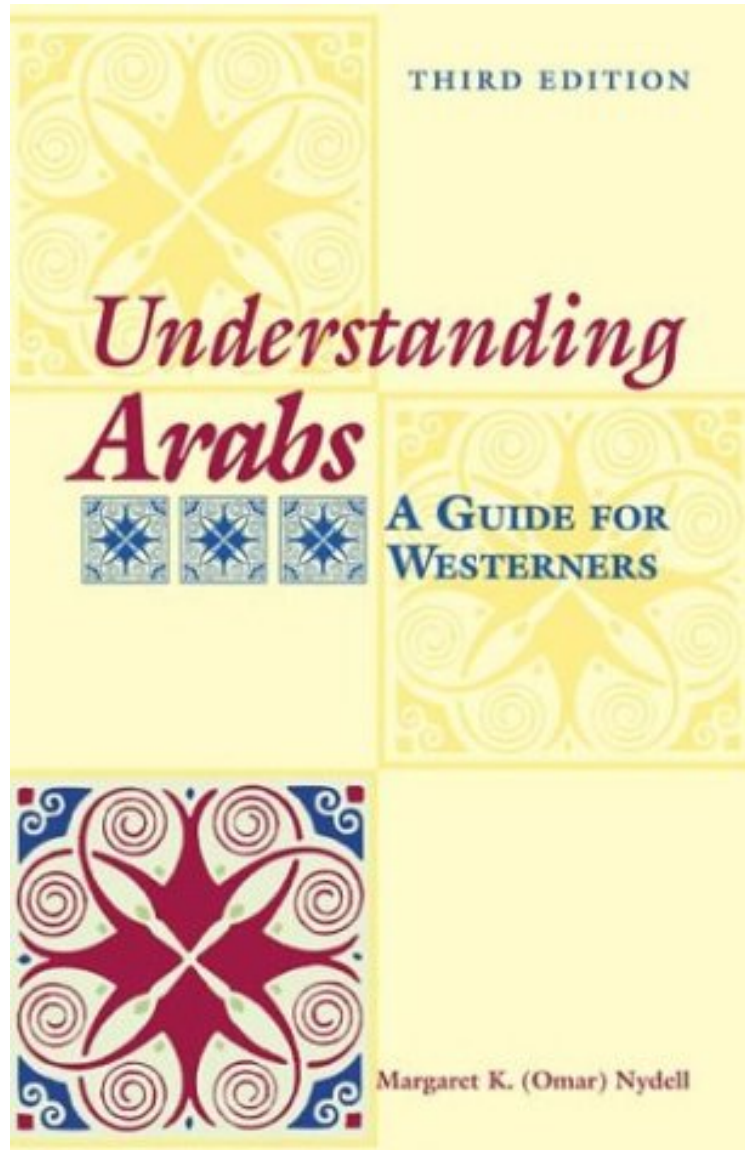


[Ebook pdf] Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners (The Interact Series)

Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners (The Interact Series)

Margaret K. Nydell

**Download PDF / ePub / DOC / audiobook / ebooks*



DOWNLOAD



+

READ ONLINE

#2733335 in Books 2002-08-02Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.52 x .76 x 5.52l, #File Name: 1877864153218 pages | File size: 19.Mb

Margaret K. Nydell : Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners (The Interact Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Understanding Arabs: A Guide for Westerners (The Interact Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. this is a great book. BridgetBy Bridget MurphyIf you are interested in culture, and want to know a little more about middle eastern people, this is a great book. Bridget Murphy9 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Understanding Arabs: A Guide for WesternersBy Daniel Pipes, Middle

East Forum, Philadelphia An American supervisor in Tunisia reprimands a local employee for habitually arriving late for work, and does so in front of the Tunisians subordinates. To which the employee replies in anger, I am from a good family! I know myself and my position in society! To which, no doubt, most Americans would respond with incredulity: whos talking about family or social status? But to Nydell, an Arabic language specialist with long experience in the Middle East, theres no mystery: the Tunisian felt his honor had been threatened and was not at all concerned with addressing the issue at hand. Much in this fine survey of Arab mores will surprise the novice; old hands might find explanations for recognizable but somewhat inscrutable patterns. Some highlights: Doing favors is much more a part of friendship among Arabs than Westerners. A good personal relationship is the most important single factor in doing business successfully with Arabs. To Arabs, honor is more important than facts. People are more important than rules. Good manners are the most salient factor in evaluating character. Nydell rightly points out that Westerners resident in Arab countries automatically belong to the upper class, with all the benefits (social prestige) and obligations (good grooming, no manual work in public) that that implies. Family loyalty and obligations take precedence over loyalty to friends or the demands of a job. Nothing path-breaking here, but true and useful insights. Middle East Quarterly, June 1997 32 of 36 people found the following review helpful. A Word from the Author By A Customer Interest has suddenly peaked, reviews are more numerous, and I want to say something about how the book is intended. It is a handbook, not a scholarly academic product, written to help people with personal interactions, and to explain differences and reasons for differences. I made every effort to have many Arabs and Muslims read it, checking for anything false or negative, and by this time, to my knowledge, everybody approves. I urge Arab readers not to assume that this is yet another negative evaluation of their society and culture. I speak Arabic, and collected information over the years from many people who do not speak English; I traveled and lived in the Arab World for over thirty years. The publisher gave the book its title; it does sound Orientalist, how "we" understand "the Arabs," but... I keep looking for anything in Arabic written by an Arab to help Arabs/Muslims/Mideasterners understand some of the behavior they observe in the West ("Understanding Americans/ Understanding Westerners"). I have never heard of anything like this, to date. There are so may misperceptions on both sides, we need anything we can find to explain, explain, explain. I welcome any comments about points which readers think need to be changed or modified, added or subtracted. My entire career has been devoted to writing Arabic-language materials, and directing Arabic-language classes, hoping to get as many Westerners as possible interested in the Arabic language and the Arab way of life. I hope there is nothing in the book that can be taken as gratuitous criticism or a value judgment as to whose way is better in any aspect. Having lived among Arabs my entire adult life, I do not think it impossible to have a genuine feeling for both Arabs and Westerners, how both groups think, live, what they care about, what they believe. We certainly need mutual understanding right now -- too many people are forming conclusions based on very wrong perceptions.

From the rise of fundamentalism to the historically uneasy relationship between the Arab World and the West, Margaret Nydell has expanded her highly respected book to bring today's complex issues into clearer focus. This third edition of "Understanding Arabs" introduces the complexities of Arab culture and Islam in an evenhanded, unbiased style. The book covers such topics as beliefs and values, religion and society, the role of the family, friends and strangers, men and women, social formalities and etiquette, and communication styles.

Understanding Arabs provides an objective examination of Arab values, beliefs, and perceptions and compares and contrasts them with those of Westerners. Margaret Nydell highlights the dynamic patterns of change that have influenced the Arab World in recent times and offers illuminating insights into the minds and hearts of Arabs, while avoiding the political quicksands that lay in the path of Arab-Western relationships. Understanding Arabs constitutes a kind of cross-cultural handbook. Succinct and written in simple, straightforward prose, it sheds light on those aspects of culture and thought which most critically affect cross-cultural interaction and suggest ways Westerners can be more effective in dealing with the Arabs they encounter. Understanding Arabs is=20 a rich resource for those who wish to better comprehend what they read and hear in the media and an invaluable guide for people who interact directly with Arabs and wish to do so with greater skill and understanding. Understanding Arabs is a perfect introduction into contemporary Arab-Western relations for both students of American middle-east policies, and the non- -specialist general reader with an interest in the understanding the background to today's national headlines and issues. -- Midwest Book About the Author Margaret Nydell is an experienced trainer and highly esteemed Arabist. She has directed Arabic language training at the Foreign Service Institute and its School of Arabic Language and Area Studies in Tunis. She currently teaches Arabic at Georgetown University and consults with public and private organisations.