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on the basis of new evidence from the ottoman archives in istanbul karl barbir challenges the current interpretation of ottoman rule in damascus during the eighteenth century he argues that the prevailing themes of decline and stagnation usually applied to the entire century in fact apply only to the latter half of the century this discovery he contends affords a more balanced and realistic view of the near east s ottoman past than previous studies have suggested originally published in 1980 the princeton legacy library uses the latest print on demand technology to again make available previously out of print books from the distinguished backlist of princeton university press these editions preserve the original texts of these important books while presenting them in durable paperback and hardcover editions the goal of the princeton legacy library is to vastly increase access to the rich scholarly heritage found in the thousands of books published by princeton university press since its founding in 1905

the dead sea scrolls continue to shed ancient light on both the text and interpretation of the hebrew bible during the second temple period among the scrolls are several copies of genesis dating from the first century bc to the mid first century ad that contain portions of text from the creation account these fragmentary copies have provided an unprecedented glimpse into the condition of the text in antiquity and have also provided a unique window into certain scribal practices in the copying of the text in addition several texts from qumran contain the most ancient surviving interpretations of the genesis creation account dating from the mid second century bc to the first century ad a literary analysis of these texts reveals how ancient jews interpreted and employed the creation account these diverse texts address issues such as the creation of various entities the universe angels eden humanity adam s dominion and knowledge in eden god s election of israel on the first sabbath the prohibition in the garden and adam s rebellion and the garden of eden as an archetype of the sanctuary

as bashar al asad rescinds emergency rule in the face of demonstrations and protests syria finds itself in a key position in a middle east beset by regional tensions the repercussions of the global war on terror and popular uprisings the bloodless coup by general hafez al assad in 1970 put in place a powerful autocratic machinery at the core of the state which continues till today under the control of his son bashar here radwan ziadeh presents a fresh and penetrating analysis of syria s political structure a despotic state monopoly a bureaucratic climate marked by fear and the administrative structure through which centralized control is exercised with a focus on syria s intelligence services which have significant influence in legal and policy decisions and the

conditions and patterns of foreign policy decision making particularly vis a vis the us power and policy in syria is essential reading for all those interested in syria the modern middle east international relations and security studies

i have been in more than one bible study class in which someone thought that paul wrote thessalonians to the people in a country called thessalonica and galatians to the people of the city of galatia and to add to their confusion they had no idea whatsoever where either was located in my studies of the bible and apocrypha i have discovered that an understanding of the places involved often adds a whole new meaning to the stories and events in many cases the background topography history and culture of a place either help to make sense of an otherwise rather enigmatic situation or enrich and flesh out a statement or event

as a small sect that emerged from islam over a thousand years ago the druze religion and society has long been cloaked in a tradition of secrecy veiled from the outside world the religious tenets have been vulnerable to distortion misunderstanding and misrepresentation in this book dr anis obeid a druze layman provides a penetrating analysis of druze scriptures and beliefs tawhid presenting a chronological narrative of the foundation and development of the faith he explains the historical conditions and religious rationale behind this closed religion the druze faith is the product of abrahamic monotheism as it coalesced with other philosophies belief systems and political structures of the west and the east and as obeid maintains should be recognized for its core monotheism and not fundamentally different from judaism christianity or islam he argues convincingly with examples and translations from the druze scriptures only now accessible to a non initiate public that tawhid is a progressive and dynamic spiritual process based on freedom of choice this rich exploration of their faith the author s appeal for a sincere cultural dialogue will resonate with a wide audience in the west and in the middle east

this invaluable resource provides students with a comprehensive overview of the syrian civil war with roughly 100 in depth articles by leading scholars on an array of key topics and several important primary source documents

who s who in the arab world 2007 2008 compiles information on the most notable individuals in the arab world additionally the title provides insight into the historical background and the present of this influential and often volatile region part i sets out precise biographical details on some 6 000 eminent individuals who influence every sphere of public life in politics culture and society part ii surveys the 19 arab countries providing detailed information on

the geography history constitution economy and culture of the individual countries part iii provides information on the historical background of the arab world indexes by country and profession supplement the biographical section a select bibliography of secondary literature on the middle east is also included

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