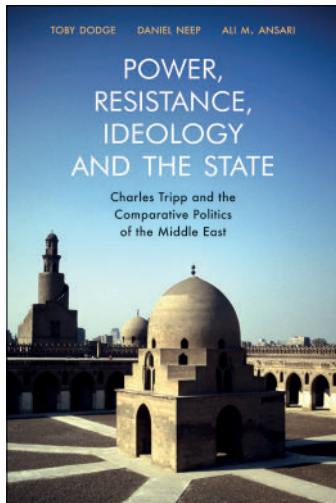


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ST ANDREWS SERIES

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*Charles Tripp and the Comparative
Politics of the Middle East*

Edited by Toby Dodge, Daniel Neep
and Ali M. Ansari

£50.00

8 May 2025

978-1-914983-30-6

Politics | History | Middle East

Royal Hardback, 153mmx234mm | 356 pp

A wide-ranging and innovative contribution to the field of Middle Eastern studies, political science and contemporary social theory which will appeal to numerous scholars working across different disciplines.

The work of Charles Tripp - professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) for over three decades - has shaped a distinct approach to the study of Middle East politics: an analytical sensibility that is empirically rich, theoretically insightful, and historically sensitive.

Power, Resistance, Ideology and the State brings together contributions from ten political scientists and historians from across Europe, the United States, and the Middle East, each of which takes Tripp's work as an intellectual point of departure for studying politics in the region.

The contributions focus on four central themes – power, resistance, ideology and the state – that are central in the field of Middle East politics as a means of examining political trends in cases ranging from Iran and Iraq to Jordan, Lebanon and Syria. Each chapter combines extensive field research and a knowledge of regional politics with methodological and philosophical reflexivity to produce a collection of papers at the cutting edge of contemporary Middle East Studies.

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Examining topics such as the rise of elite-promoted sectarianism in Iraq, thwarted attempts to manage neoliberalism in Lebanon, and new grassroots social movements in Syria, *Power, Resistance, Ideology and the State* offers an essential addition to the exploration of the politics of today's Middle East.

Charles Tripp is Emeritus Professor of Politics with reference to the Middle East at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. In 2012, he was elected a Fellow of the British Academy (FBA), the United Kingdom's national academy for the humanities and social sciences. From 2018 to 2022, he was Vice-President (British International Research Institutes) of the British Academy. From 1995 to 2008 Professor Tripp was also the General Editor of the *Cambridge Middle East Studies Series*. He is the author of numerous books and articles including *1996: Iran-Saudi Arabia Relations and Regional Order* (1996), *Islam and the Moral Economy: The Challenge of Capitalism* (2006), *A Short History of Iraq* (2007), and *The Power and the People: Paths of Resistance in the Middle East* (2013).

Toby Dodge is Professor of International Relations and Kuwait Professor at the London School of Economics and Political Science. His works include *Inventing Iraq: The Failure of Nation Building and History Denied* and *Iraq: from War to a New Authoritarianism*.

Daniel Neep is non-resident fellow at the Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University. He is the author of *Occupying Syria under the French Mandate: Insurgency, Space and State Formation*. His research has been published in *International Affairs*, *New Political Economy*, and *The Journal of Historical Sociology*.

Ali M. Ansari is Professor of Modern History with reference to Iran at St Andrews University. He is the author of works including *Iran, Islam and Democracy: The Politics of Managing Change* and *The Politics of Nationalism in Modern Iran*.

Contributors:

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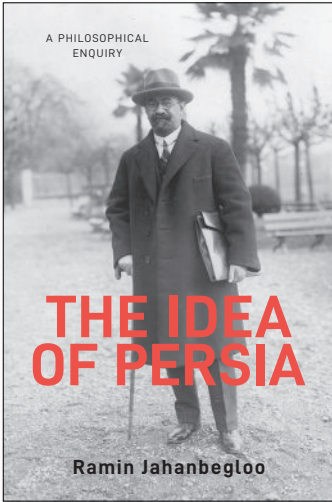
Toby Matthiesen, Sir Adam Roberts Senior Research Fellow in the International Relations of the Middle East, St Antony's College, University of Oxford.

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Benjamin Schuetze, Postdoctoral research fellow, University of Freiburg.



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Ramin Jahanbegloo

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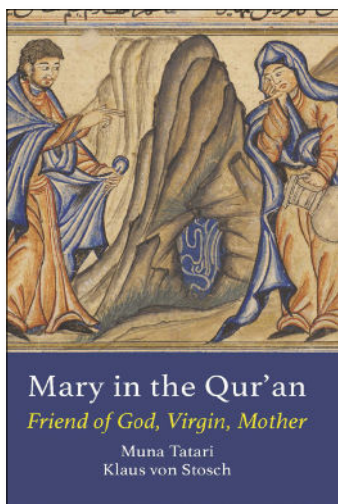
In 1721 the French philosopher Montesquieu posed the question *Comment peut-on être persan?* in the title to his famous *Persian Letters*. After centuries of invasion, destruction and authoritarian rule, the decay of political theory and the increasing dissolution in Iran's politics, this volume is an exploration into what the answer to that question might be today.

Jahanbegloo explores the idea of Persia as an investigation into the soul of this fascinating nation; but not as it has been constituted in the past, with reference only to the political experience of antiquity. Rather it examines the question of what it is to be Persian against the backdrop of centuries in which a common, plural subjectivity of Persian-ness has been continually delayed by those who believed in politics only as a means of ruling or of being ruled, without laws and in the absence of citizenship. The historical battle for social and political freedoms is still underway in Iran; and as the nation wrestles with the possibility of an extended period of political, social and cultural decline, it is a timely moment to return to the perspective embodied in the enlightened thinking of figures such as Muhammad Ali Foroughi (1877-1942), and his vision of a country possessing rational and moral capabilities, and of a possible renaissance of social and political institutions.

The Idea of Persia as it is presented here sees hope in the future as the means by which Iranians may liberate themselves from the duality of heroes and saints and thus remake their political mentality, while at the same time staying true to an age-old idea of Persia, and to the author's belief in freedom as a virtue that has to be taught.

Ramin Jahanbegloo is an Iranian-Canadian political philosopher. He is presently the Executive Director of the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Nonviolence and Peace Studies and the Vice-Dean of the School of Law at Jindal Global University, India.

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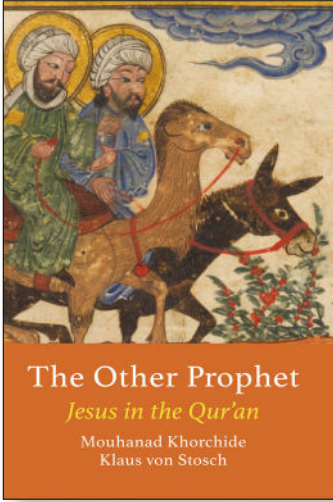
An entire surah of the Qur'an bears her name. She is the only woman mentioned by name in the Qur'an; indeed, her name appears more frequently than that of either Muhammad or Jesus. From the earliest times to the present day, Mary has continued to be held in high regard by Christians and Muslims alike. And yet Mary has also been the cause of much rancour and tension between these two world religions.

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Muna Tatari is Professor of Islamic Systematic Theology at the University of Paderborn and is a member of the German ethics council.

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Mouhanad Khorchide is Professor of Islamic Religious Education and Head of the Centre for Islamic Theology at the University of Münster.

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