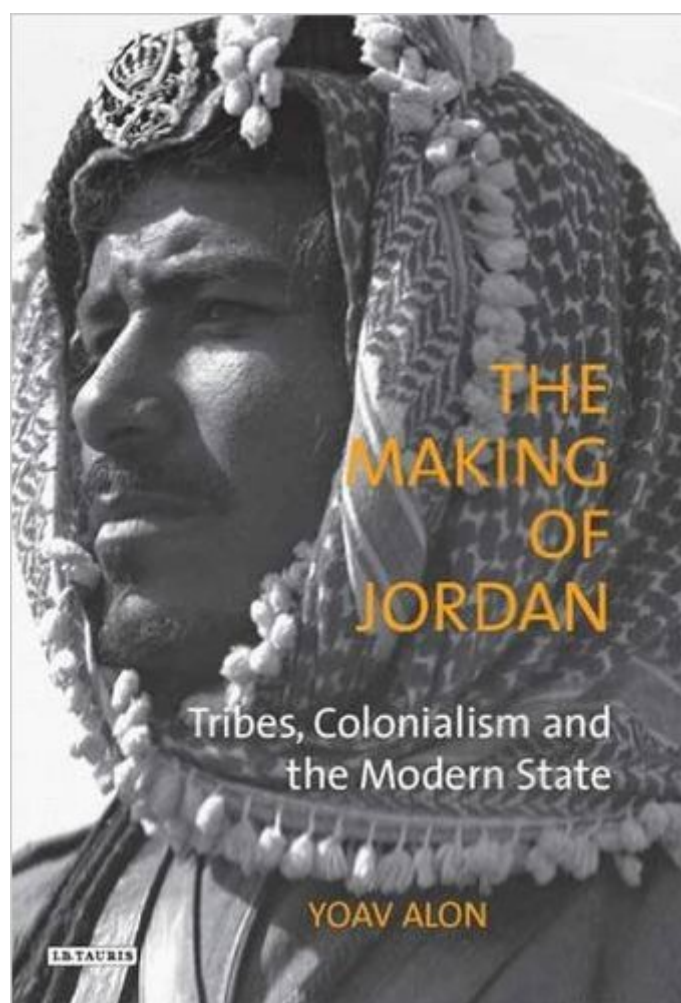


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The Making Of Jordan: Tribes, Colonialism And The Modern State (Library Of Modern Middle East Studies)



Synopsis

At the beginning of the 20th Century Jordan, like much of the Middle East, was a loose collection of tribes. By the time of its independence in 1946 it had the most firmly embedded state structures in the Arab world.Â Drawing on previously untapped sources, Yoav Alon examines how the disparate clan networks of Jordan were integrated into the Hashemite monarchy, with the help of the British colonial administrators. Looking at the growth of key state institutions from a grassroots perspective, Alon shows how they co-opted the structures of tribal society, and produced a distinctive hybrid between modern statehood and tribal confederacy which still characterizes Jordan to this day. Alon's innovative approach to the origins of modern Jordan provides fresh insights not only into Jordan itself but into colonialism, modernity and the development of the state in the Middle East.

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The Making of Jordan: Tribes, Colonialism and the Modern State is absolutely fascinating, surprisingly accessible to non-academics, and is impressively well-researched. The language is precise, well-organized, and thorough. It is a multi-faceted, subtly nuanced, in-depth analysis of the tribes' integral role in state formation. The bibliography alone provides a wealth of previously overlooked historical sources in English, Arabic and Hebrew. This book is a must read for anyone interested in Jordan, its politics, people, society, or history.

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