The international politics of the Middle East

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This text aims to fill a gap in the field of Middle Eastern political studies by combining international relations theory with concrete case studies. It begins with an overview of the rules and features of the Middle East regional system—the arena in which the local states, including Egypt, Turkey, Iran, Israel and the Arab states of Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, operate. The book goes on to analyse foreign-policy-making in key states, illustrating how systemic determinants constrain this policy-making, and how these constraints are dealt with in distinctive ways depending on the particular domestic features of the individual states. Finally, it goes on to look at the outcomes of state policies by examining several major conflicts including the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf War, and the system of regional alignment. The study assesses the impact of international penetration in the region, including the historic reasons behind the formation of the regional state system. It also analyses the continued role of external great powers, such as the United States and the former Soviet Union, and explains the process by which the region has become incorporated into the global capitalist market.

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a general overview of some of the chief issues of contemporary Middle Eastern politics. Consequently, it will examine the interplay of numerous factors that help us to better understand and to critically analyze the Middle East. The purpose of this course is to discuss the international relations of the Middle East within the larger context of theories on international relations. One central question concerns whether or not IR theoretical literature can account for the behavior of Middle Eastern states and/or whether the study of these cases demands a reevaluation of the literature in the field. The theoretical objective of this course is to demonstrate the political interrelationship between regional political change and international political conflict. Department of Politics and International Studies. International politics of the Middle East. Module Code: 15PPOC027. Since the age of European colonial rule in the Middle East came to an end around the Second World War, nominally independent nation-states in the region have tried to negotiate the opportunities and challenges of the Cold War, regional conflict and co-operation, underdevelopment, and more recently, globalisation. This module takes up the study of this rich politics through two different approaches, the first thematic, the second through the study of inter-state politics.