

# Becoming American The Early Arab Immigrant Experience M E R I Special Studies

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## GAEL REILLY

*America Alone* Harvard University Press

Uncovers the surprising history of Muslim life in the early American Midwest. The American Midwest is often thought of as uniformly white, and shaped exclusively by Christian values. However, this view of the region as an unvarying landscape fails to consider a significant community at its very heart. *Muslims of the Heartland* uncovers the long history of Muslims in a part of the country where many readers would not expect to find them. Edward E. Curtis IV, a descendant of Syrian Midwesterners, vividly portrays the intrepid men and women who busted sod on the short-grass prairies of the Dakotas, peddled needles and lace on the streets of Cedar Rapids, and worked in the railroad car factories of Michigan City. This intimate portrait follows the stories of individuals such as farmer Mary Juma, pacifist Kassem Rameden, poet Aliya Hassen, and bookmaker Kamel Osman from the early 1900s through World War I, the Roaring 20s, the Great Depression, and World War II. Its story-driven approach places Syrian Americans at the center of key American institutions like the assembly line, the family farm, the dance hall, and the public school, showing how the first two generations of Midwestern Syrians created a life that was Arab, Muslim, and American, all at the same time. *Muslims of the Heartland* recreates what the Syrian Muslim Midwest looked, sounded, felt, and smelled like—from the allspice-seasoned lamb and rice shared in mosque basements to the sound of the trains on the Rock Island Line rolling past the dry goods store. It recovers a multicultural history of the American Midwest that cannot be ignored.

**Arab Americans** BoD - Books on Demand

"Four american moslem ladies": early U.S. Muslim women in the Ahmadiyya Movement in Islam, 1920-1923 -- Insurgent domesticity: race and gender in representations of NOI Muslim women during the Cold War era -- Garments for one another: Islam and marriage in the lives of Betty Shabazz and Dakota Staton -- Chadors, feminists, terror: constructing a U.S. American discourse of the veil -- A third language: Muslim feminism in Smerica -- Conclusion: Soul Flower Farm

*Arab Routes* SIU Press

While conventional wisdom points to the Arab-Israeli War of 1967 as the gateway for the founding of the first Arab American national political organization, such advocacy in fact began with the Syrian nationalist movement, which emerged from immigration trends at the turn of the last century. Bringing this long-neglected history to life, *The Making of Arab Americans* overturns the notion of an Arab population that was too diverse to share common goals. Tracing the forgotten histories of the Free Syria Society, the New Syria Party, the Arab National League, and the Institute of Arab American Affairs, the book restores a timely aspect of our understanding of an area (then called Syria) that comprises modern-day Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine. Hani Bawardi examines the numerous Arab American political advocacy organizations that thrived before World War I, showing how they influenced Syrian and Arab nationalism. He further offers an in-depth analysis exploring how World War II helped introduce a new Arab American identity as priorities shifted and the quest for assimilation intensified. In addition, the book enriches our understanding of the years leading to the Cold War by tracing both the Arab National League's transition to the Institute of Arab American Affairs and new campaigns to enhance mutual understanding between the United States and the Middle East. Illustrated with a wealth of previously unpublished photographs and manuscripts, *The Making of Arab Americans* provides crucial insight for contemporary dialogues.

**Homeland Insecurity** Univ of California Press

This concise reference covers the diverse roots of Arabs in America, tracing the changing face of this

community from the 19th century until today. From the restrictive immigration laws that the United States Congress passed against Arabs in the early 20th century to the backlash against this community following September 11, Arab Americans have faced both successes and challenges in their quest to become part of American culture. This timely study explores the history of this multifaceted people from their traditions, to their religious beliefs, to the role women play in society, their roots in war torn countries, and the impact of the War on Terrorism on their collective psyche. An easy-to-read narrative and chronologically arranged chapters reveal the enduring story of Arab American immigration and immersion. Topics include perceptions of Arab immigrants, being Arab American in an age of terrorism, framing an American identity, and faith, beliefs, and community practices—both Orthodox Christian and Muslim. Throughout the work, profiles of famous Arab Americans underscore the importance of this culture to our American identity, featuring St. Jude Children's Research Hospital founder Danny Thomas, rapper Omar Offendum, and others.

*Between Arab and White* Routledge

Reproduction of the original: *The Book of Khalid* by Ameen Rihani

**Becoming America** University of Texas Press

Alixia Naff explores the experiences of Arabic-speaking immigrants to the United States before World War II, focusing on the pre-World War I pioneering generation that set the pattern for settlement and assimilation. Unlike many immigrants who were driven to the United States by dreams of industrial jobs or to escape religious or economic persecution, these artisans and owners of small, disconnected plots of land came to America to engage in the enterprise of peddling. Most of these immigrants planned to stay two or three years and return to their homelands wealthier and prouder than when they left.

*Arabs in the New World* Praeger

Presents a collection of poems by such Arab American authors as Samuel Hazo, Lawrence Joseph, Khaled Mattawa, and Naomi Shihab Nye.

*Bint Arab* Penguin

This book introduces an interdisciplinary lens by bringing together vital research on culture, psychosocial development, and key aspects of health and disease to address a wide range of salient concerns. Its scholarship mirrors the diversity of the Arab American population, exploring ethnic concepts in socio-historical and political contexts before reviewing findings on major health issues, including diabetes, cancer, substance abuse, mental illness, and maternal/child health. And by including policy and program strategies for disease prevention, health promotion, and environmental health, the book offers practitioners--and their clients--opportunities for proactive care. Featured in the coverage: Family, gender and social identity issues Arab Americans and the aging process Acculturation and ethnic identity across the lifespan Arab refugees: Trauma, resilience, and recovery Cancer: Crossroads of ethnicity and environment Health and well-being: Biopsychosocial prevention approaches Arab American health disparities: A call for advocacy Rich in cultural information and clinical insights, *Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Arab Americans* is an important reference that can enhance health practices across the disciplines of medicine, nursing, rehabilitation, social work, counseling, and psychology.

*Arab/American* NYU Press

Americans of Arab heritage have made major contributions to U.S. society, and this is a timely and unique overview of their immigration patterns, settlement, adaptation, and assimilation for a general audience. The first wave of Arab immigrants, mostly Christian men from Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, arrived in the United States between 1880 and 1925. This book discusses their history as it looks at the successive waves of immigrants, including the post-1965 immigrants, who have brought more diversity to the Arab American community. The latest immigrants have included more Muslims, many are from Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan. The continuing interest in the Middle East, Islam,

and the Muslim way of life make this a must-have source for those seeking to understand current events and our multicultural society. Americans of Arab heritage have made major contributions to U.S. society, and this is a timely and unique overview of their immigration patterns, settlement, adaptation, and assimilation for a general audience. The first wave of Arab immigrants, mostly Christian men from Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria, arrived in the United States between 1880 and 1925. This book discusses their history plus looks at the successive waves of immigrants, including the post-1965 immigrants, who have brought more diversity to the Arab American community. The latest immigrants have included more Muslims and many are from Egypt, Iraq, and Jordan. The continuing interest in the Middle East, Islam, and Muslim way of life make this a must-have source to help understand current events and our multicultural society. The book begins by giving a broad political and social history of the Arab world since the advent of Islam in 632 CE. Kayyali also takes care to be inclusive of the different groups who can be classified as Arab, and the discussion of who these people are, with their different religions and beliefs, is an enlightening base to understand their experiences as Arab Americans. Early immigrants typically became peddlers or worked in the new factories and mills. As they gave up thoughts of returning to their home countries, they fought to be classified as white to gain citizenship, and the impact of the Census on their struggle is discussed in detail. Their assimilation and adaptations are discussed, and readers will learn about family issues, women's issues, food, media, and religious practices in the Arab American communities. Within the larger Arab American community, the main issues of pan-Arab identification, Christian and Muslim identities, and generational differences are covered, along with their social networks and celebrations. A final chapter focuses on the impact of Arab Americans on U.S. society, from the arts to politics, with insight into intergroup relations and the impact of 9/11. A sampling of noted Arab Americans, such as Ralph Nader, a glossary, statistical tables, and photos are included as well.

**Becoming American?** Edinburgh University Press

This book is about the transformation of Europe into "Eurabia," a cultural and political appendage of the Arab/Muslim world. Eurabia is fundamentally anti-Christian, anti-Western, anti-American, and antisemitic. The institution responsible for this transformation, and that continues to propagate its ideological message, is the Euro-Arab Dialogue, developed by European and Arab politicians and intellectuals over the past thirty years.--From publisher description.

**All American Yemeni Girls** University of Arkansas Press

Shakir tells the long neglected story of the bint arab--the Arab woman--in the United States. Weaving together a survey from the late 19th century to the present, she focuses on each generation's negotiation between traditional Arab values and the social and sexual liberties permitted women in the West. Interspersing oral histories, Shakir challenges stereotypes and creates a unique and fascinating portrait of an often misunderstood group.

**The Arab Americans** Greenwood

Arab-American poetry is an especially rich, people-involved, passionate literature that has been spawned, at least until recently, in isolation from the American mainstream. This anthology reflects the current renaissance in the literature of what may be the latest ethnic community to assert itself. Twenty poets are represented in this collection, fifteen of them living, five of them women. They start with Ameen Rihani and Kahlil Gibran and include celebrated contemporaries who write in Arabic or English or both. Contributors: Kahlil Gibran o Ameen Rihani o Jamil Holway o Mikhail Naimy o Elia Abu Madi o Etel Adnan o D.H. Melhem o Samuel Hazo o Joseph Awad o Eugene Paul Nasser o H.S. (Sam) Hamod o Jack Marshall o Fawaz Turki o Doris Safie o Ben Bennani o Sharif Elmusa o Lawrence Joseph o Gregory Orfalea o Naomi Shihab Nye o Elmaz Abinader.

**Biopsychosocial Perspectives on Arab Americans** NYU Press

Through his own life story, from childhood through is life as an adult, El Rassi illustrates the prejudices and discrimination Arabs and Muslims experience daily in American society. He contends with ignorant teachers, racist neighbours, bullying classmates and a growing sense of alienation. He also examines the roles that media and popular culture play and with examples from film and news media, he shows how difficult it is to have an Arab identity in a society saturated with anti-Arab messages.

**The Arab Americans** University of Michigan Press

Army Reserve Captain Kevin Shroud is assigned to an extraordinary Reserve Unit in Los Angeles, California. He thinks he and his beautiful four year old daughter, Marie are on their way to fulfilling the American dream. Unknown to Kevin he was specifically selected to join the 666th Support Battalion. Kevin should have listened to his brother, Charles an ex-LA gang's member, who warned him that the Army was just one big gang. A Criminal Investigation Division Officer, Major Christine Bradley, daughter of the Secretary of Defense, approaches Kevin. After their conversation Kevin finds himself reeling; not only from what she says, but from how she looks. Christine looks exactly like his deceased wife. Stryker a CIA agent working for the battalion relentlessly pursues Kevin,

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suspecting he has become an informant for the CID. Kevin is forced to try and outwit the battalion, their powerful cohorts and save the life of his daughter and himself. The Pentagon, covert government operations, love, greed, murder and particularly the political details that occur behind a conspiracy being played out in America and her Armed Forces are chief elements of Reserve Affairs. **Arab Americans in Metro Detroit** Stanford University Press

**Mideast Meets West--On Being and Becoming a Modern Arab American** is a humorous look at the problems Arab Americans have, whether born or naturalized. Dating, language, assimilation and September 11th--these are only a few of the troubles mentioned by author Sally Bishai, who has lived through all of them (if not more!) and draws upon the testimonies and life stories of over 350 Arab Americans (herself included!). Written in an accessible and engaging style, **Mideast Meets West** has something for everyone, including: The Immigrant The First-Generation American The American who frequently deals with Arab Americans The Intercultural Communications Buff

**Muslims of the Heartland** Fairleigh Dickinson Univ Press

Gregory Orfalea's new and definitive work spans a century and a half of the life of Arab immigrants and their descendants in the United States. In **The Arab Americans: A History**, Orfalea has marshaled over 150 interviews and 25 years of research to tell the story that begins in 1856, when camel driver Hajdi Ali (or Hi Jolly) was hired by Jefferson Davis to cut a "camel trail" across the Southwest, and continues through the 2005 arrest of a former Virginia high school valedictorian accused of plotting with al-Qaeda. Once seen as the "benevolent stranger," as the author points out, today Arab Americans are "the malevolent stranger." His book, however, is an assault on such ignorance, both celebration and warning. **The Arab Americans** is the culmination of a life's work, a landmark in the history of what it means to be an American. It is also the history of a community uniquely repressed in American scholarship, history, literature, and politics. **The Arab Americans** fills a sizable void, and it could not be more timely. With American troops sprawled across the Arab and Muslim world, Orfalea's work is like light in a dark tunnel--facts, not stereotypes; people, not shadows; the vibrant world of a lost American experience come to life. Orfalea brings to this work an historian's love of meticulous and telling detail, a poet's ear, and a novelist's sense of story. The cumulative effect is symphonic and its arrival none too soon.

**Between Arab and White** Last Gasp

Arab Americans have been an integral part of Detroit's history since the 1880s. Early Arab immigrants worked as peddlers, grocers, and unskilled laborers, first settling downtown and later on the east side of Detroit. Their numbers increased after the First World War. They were attracted to the area by the booming automobile industry, and Ford's \$5 for an 8-hour work day. This visual journey explores the history of four generations of Arab Americans in metro Detroit. It takes us to the days that preceded the automobile to modern 21st-century Arab America. Through more than 180 images, this book portrays the challenges and triumphs of Arabs as they preserve their families, and build churches, mosques, restaurants, businesses, and institutions, thus contributing to Detroit's efforts in regaining its position as a world class city.

**The Development of Arab-American Identity** Olive Branch Press

"This ingenious study . . . will transform how we conceptualize immigration, race, gender, and the histories and boundaries of Arab and Latin America" (Nadine Naber, author of Arab America). Los Angeles is home to the largest population of people of Middle Eastern origin and descent in the United States. Since the late nineteenth century, Syrian and Lebanese migration to Southern California has been intimately connected to and through Latin America. **Arab Routes** uncovers the stories of this Syrian American community, one both Arabized and Latinized, to reveal important cross-border and multiethnic solidarities in Syrian California. Sarah M. A. Gualtieri reconstructs the early Syrian connections through California, Texas, Mexico, and Lebanon. She reveals the Syrian interests in the defense of the Mexican American teens charged in the 1942 Sleepy Lagoon murder, in actor Danny Thomas's rise to prominence in LA's Syrian cultural festivals, and in more recent activities of the grandchildren of immigrants to reclaim a sense of Arabness. Gualtieri reinscribes Syrians into Southern California history through her examination of powerful images and texts, augmented with interviews with descendants of immigrants. Telling the story of how Syrians helped forge a global Los Angeles, **Arab Routes** counters a long-held stereotype of Arabs as outsiders and underscores their longstanding place in American culture and in interethnic coalitions, past and present.

**Through and Through** Springer Science & Business Media

Chapters arranged by subject present information about the history, immigration, economics, languages, religion, holidays, literature, education, jobs, politics, and other aspects of Arab Americans.

**Silent Victims** Univ of California Press

A vibrant collection of writings about America from its earliest Arab immigrants, as they reflected on and described the United States for the very first time.