



From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt: Religion, Identity and Politics after the Arab Conquest (Library of Middle East History)

By Maged S. A. Mikhail



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The conquest of Egypt by Islamic armies under the command of Amr ibn al-As in the seventh century transformed medieval Egyptian society. Seeking to uncover the broader cultural changes of the period by drawing on a wide array of literary and documentary sources, Maged Mikhail stresses the cultural and institutional developments that punctuated the histories of Christians and Muslims in the province under early Islamic rule. *From Byzantine to Islamic Egypt* traces how the largely agrarian Egyptian society responded to the influx of Arabic and Islam, the means by which the Coptic Church constructed its sectarian identity, the Islamisation of the administrative classes and how these factors converged to create a new medieval society. The result is a fascinating and essential study for scholars of Byzantine and early Islamic Egypt.



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Review

This is a tour de force of historical analysis...The data is meticulously analyzed and the conclusions drawn from it impressively documented. It is a rich and layered work that challenges some widespread and long-held views on the relationship between Christian and Muslim identity and community in Egypt. Jamal J. Elias, Walter H. Annenberg Professor in the Humanities, University of Pennsylvania

About the Author

Maged S. A. Mikhail obtained a PhD in the History of the Near and Middle East from the University of California, Los Angeles, USA, for which he received an Honourable Mention for the Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award from the Middle East Studies Association of North America. He currently teaches at California State University, Fullerton.

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