

THE INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STUDIES

LONDON

THE MIDDLE EAST AND POLITICAL ISLAM

The course covers the basic elements of Middle East history and politics with special emphasis on political Islam. It begins with a broad introduction to the main features of the region and the historical background to the twentieth century. The contemporary period is then analysed in greater detail by focusing on the rise of the state system, the establishment of Israel, the emergence and discrediting of Arab nationalism, and the post-Cold War Middle East. All these twentieth century developments are examined for their own sake but also because of their contribution to the rise of political Islam, which is studied in the second part of the course. It will elaborate on political Islam as ideology and its ambiguous relationship with the nation-state, democracy and human rights and violence. The course will attempt to link the study of Islam and the Middle East with the events on and after September 11th in an in-depth manner.

Part 1 - The Middle East

- 1 & 2 General facts about the region; historical introduction
- 3 Colonialism and the rise of the state-system in the twentieth century
- 4 The creation of Israel and its impact on the region
- 5 Arab nationalism
- 6 & 7 The Middle East after the end of the Cold War

Part 2 - Political Islam as Ideology and Movement

- 8 Political Islamism as ideology
- 9 Islam and politics
- 10 Political Islam and the nation-state
- 11 Political Islam, democracy and the West

READINGS

Main books:

- Patrick Bannerman - *Islam in Perspective: a guide to Muslim society, politics and the law*
- William L. Cleveland - *A History of the Modern Middle East*
- M. E. Yapp - *The Near East since the First World War*

Also extensively used:

Sami Zubaida - *Islam, the People and the State: political ideas and movements in the Middle East*

Fred Halliday - *Islam and the Myth of Confrontation: religion and politics in the Middle East*

Fred Halliday – *Two Hours that Shook the World: September 11, 2001: Causes and Consequences*

Peter Mansfield - *A History of the Middle East*

Peter Mansfield - *The Arabs*

Roger Owen - *State, Power and Politics in the Making of the Modern Middle East*

Dale F. Eickelman - *The Middle East: an anthropological approach*

Katerina Dalacoura - *Islam, Liberalism and Human Rights: implications for international relations*

Alan Richards and John Waterbury - *A Political Economy of the Middle East: state, class, and economic development*

METHOD OF ASSESSMENT

Seminar discussion

Two essays of at least 2500 words

The first to be submitted at the end of week 5

The second at the end of week 12

Note: If enrolment for this particular course is too low for it to be held as a two hour seminar with two required essays per semester it may be possible to run it as a one hour supervision with three essays per semester.