

# Discovering Cyrus: The Persian Conqueror Astride the Ancient World

By Reza Zarghamee

Genre : Middle East

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**Discovering Cyrus: The Persian Conqueror Astride the Ancient World by Reza Zarghamee** is Middle East Some of the most fascinating human epochs lie in the borderlands between history and mystery. So it is with the life of Cyrus the Great, founder of the Persian Empire in the sixth century B.C. By conquest or gentler means, he brought under his rule a dominion stretching from the Aegean Sea to the Hindu Kush and encompassing some tens of millions of people. All across this immense imperium, he earned support and stability by respecting local customs and religions, avoiding the brutal ways of tyranny, and efficiently administering the realm through provincial governors. The empire would last another two centuries, leaving an indelible Persian imprint on much of the ancient world. The Greek chronicler Xenophon, looking back from a distance of several generations, wrote: "Cyrus did indeed eclipse all other monarchs, before or since." The biblical prophet Second Isaiah anticipated Cyrus' repatriation of the Jews living in exile in Babylon by having the Lord say, "He is my shepherd and will accomplish all that I please." Despite what he achieved and bequeathed, much about Cyrus remains uncertain. Persians of his era had no great respect for the written word and kept no annals. The most complete accounts of his life were composed by Greeks. More fragmentary or tangential evidence takes many forms - among them, archaeological remains, administrative records in subject lands, and the always tricky stuff of legend. Given these challenges, **Discovering Cyrus: The Persian Conqueror Astride the Ancient World** is a remarkable feat of portraiture. In his vast sweep, Reza S. Zarghamee draws on sources of every kind, painstakingly assembling detail, and always weighing evidence carefully where contradictions arise. He describes the background of the Persian people, the turbulence of the times, and the roots of Cyrus' policies. His account of the imperial era itself delves into religion, military methods, commerce, court life, and much else besides. The result is a living, breathing Cyrus standing atop a distant world that played a key role in shaping our own. **Top Books, Featured Books, Top Textbooks, Top Free Books, Top Audiobooks, Audiobooks, Arts and Entertainment Books, Biographies and Memoir Books, Business and Finance Books, Children and Teens Books, Comics and Graphic Novels Books, Computers and Internet Books, Cookbooks Food and Wine Books, Fiction and Literature Books, Health, Mind and Body Books, History Books, Humor Books, Lifestyle and Home Books, Mysteries and Thrillers Books, Nonfiction Books, Parenting Books, Politics and Current Events Books, Professional and Technical Books, Reference Books, Religion and Spirituality Books, Romance Books, Sci-Fi and Fantasy Books, Science and Nature Books, Sports and Outdoors Books, Travel and Adventure Books**

## More Recommended Books

### [Roots of the Islamic Revolution in Iran](#)

By : Hamid Algar

In the summer of 1979, at a time when the viability of the Islamic Republic of Iran was being widely questioned in the Western media and the historical background of the revolution that had led to its establishment was largely unknown, Hamid Algar delivered four lectures on the Islamic Revolution

at the Muslim Institute in London. In clear and concise fashion, he examined the historical links between Iran and Shi'a Islam; the life and personality of Imam Khomeini, leader of the Islamic Revolution; the career and ideas of Ali Shari'ati, "religious intellectual;" and the course of the events that in little more than a year led to the overthrow of one of the most deeply entrenched dictatorships in the Muslim world. Now reissued in substantially revised form, the text of these lectures remains a useful introduction to the revolution, arguably the most important event in modern Muslim history. New translations made by the author from the writings of Imam Khomeini and Ali Shari'ati enhance the utility of the work.

## **The ISIS Hostage**

By : **Puk Damsgård & David Young**

The Number One International Bestseller The dramatic story of freelance photographer Daniel Rye, who was held hostage for 13 months by ISIS, as told by an award-winning writer. In May 2013, freelance photographer Daniel Rye was captured in Syria and held prisoner by Islamic State for thirteen months, along with eighteen other hostages. The ISIS Hostage tells the dramatic and heart-breaking story of Daniel's ordeal and details the misery inflicted upon him by the British guards, which included Jihadi John. This tense and riveting account also follows Daniel's family and the nerve-wracking negotiations with his kidnappers. It traces their horrifying journey through impossible dilemmas and offers a rare glimpse into the secret world of the investigation launched to locate and free not only Daniel, but also the American journalist and fellow hostage James Foley. Written with Daniel's full cooperation and based on interviews with former fellow prisoners, jihadists and key figures who worked behind the scenes to secure his release, The ISIS Hostage reveals for the first time the torment suffered by the captives and tells a moving and terrifying story of friendship, torture and survival.

## **The Race for Paradise**

By : **Paul M. Cobb**

In 1099, when the first Frankish invaders arrived before the walls of Jerusalem, they had carved out a Christian European presence in the Islamic world that endured for centuries, bolstered by subsequent waves of new crusaders and pilgrims. The story of how this group of warriors, driven by faith, greed, and wanderlust, created new Christian-ruled states in parts of the Middle East is one of the best-known in history. Yet it offers not even half of the story, for it is based almost exclusively on Western sources and overlooks entirely the perspective of the crusaded. How did medieval Muslims perceive what happened? In *The Race for Paradise*, Paul M. Cobb offers a new history of the confrontations between Muslims and Franks we now call the "Crusades," one that emphasizes the diversity of Muslim experiences of the European holy war. There is more to the story than Jerusalem, the Templars, Saladin, and the Assassins. Cobb considers the Arab perspective on all shores of the Muslim Mediterranean, from Spain to Syria. In the process, he shows that this is not a straightforward story of warriors and kings clashing in the Holy Land, but a more complicated tale of border-crossers and turncoats; of embassies and merchants; of scholars and spies, all of them seeking to manage a new threat from the barbarian fringes of their ordered world. When seen from the perspective of medieval Muslims, the Crusades emerge as something altogether different from the high-flying rhetoric of the European chronicles: as a cultural encounter to ponder, a diplomatic chess-game to be mastered, a commercial opportunity to be seized, and as so often happened, a political challenge to be exploited by ambitious rulers making canny use of the language of jihad. An engrossing synthesis of history and scholarship, *The Race for Paradise* fills a significant historical gap, considering in a new light the events that distinctively shaped Muslim experiences of Europeans until the close of the Middle Ages.

## [The Secret Anglo-French War in the Middle East](#)

By : **Meir Zamir**

The role of intelligence in colonialism and decolonization is a rapidly expanding field of study. The premise of *The Secret Anglo-French War in the Middle East* is that intelligence statecraft is the "missing dimension" in the established historiography of the Middle East during and after World War II. Arguing that intelligence, especially covert political action and clandestine diplomacy, played a key role in Britain's Middle East policy, this book examines new archival sources in order to demonstrate that despite World War II and the Cold War, the traditional rivalry between Britain and France in the Middle East continued unabated, assuming the form of a little-known secret war. This shadow war strongly influenced decolonization of the region as each Power sought to undermine the other; Britain exploited France's defeat to evict it from its mandated territories in Syria and Lebanon and incorporate them in its own sphere of influence; whilst France's successful use of intelligence enabled it to undermine Britain's position in Palestine, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. Shedding new light on the clandestine Franco-Zionist collaboration against Britain in the Middle East and the role of the British secret services in the 1948 Arab-Jewish war in Palestine, this book, which presents close to 400 secret Syrian and British documents obtained by the French intelligence, is essential reading for scholars with an interest in the political history of the region, inter-Arab and international relations, and intelligence studies.

## [A First Century Traveller's Guide to Palestine](#)

By : **Dennis Hawkes**

"A 1st Century Traveller's Guide to Palestine" is a small, easy-to-read ebook, by Professor Hawkes that aims to give an impression of what it was like in the time of the New Testament part of the Bible. Set in the year AD60 and written as a contemporary guide book it covers topics such as traveling to Palestine, what people eat, politics, what accommodation is like etc. The book is well researched with a comprehensive bibliography ideal for history teachers, bible teachers and bible students as well as a general readership.

## [Gayri Resmi Yakın Tarih](#)

By : **Mustafa Akyol**

Geçmiş, kalır. Kişiler kadar, toplumların hayatlarında da, dün yaşananlar bugünü etkiler ve bugün onları nasıl yorumladığımıza göre yarını da belirler. Dolayısıyla, bugünümüz ve yarınımız için, dünü de doğru bir şekilde bilip anlamaya ihtiyacımız var. Tarihin "olduğu gibi" değil, "olması istendiği gibi" anlatılıp sunulduğu bir toplum için, bu bilhassa gerekli. Gayri Resmi Yakın Tarih, işte bu ihtiyaca cevap veren bir kitap. Gazeteci-yazar Mustafa Akyol, bugünün problem alanlarını tarihsel arkaplanı içinde irdelerken, resmî tarih algısındaki eksiklere ve yanlışlara cesaretle işaret ediyor ve düne dair ezberleri bozuyor... Gayri Resmi Yakın Tarih'in sayfaları arasında ilerlerken, şu gerçeği göreceksiniz: Doğru bilgi, çözümün en yakın arkadaşdır!

## [Attraverso la sublime porta](#)

By : **Andrea Castagnino**

La Turchia nei resoconti dei viaggiatori italiani del Settecento. In un secolo quale fu il Settecento, secolo dei lumi, l'Europa attraversata da una nuova cultura, si volgeva verso l'Oriente islamico con una rinnovata attenzione; non più terra di misteri, luogo di orrore e quindi di continue incomprensioni con l'Occidente cristiano, bensì ora un mondo da scoprire e svelare secondo i canoni della nuova cultura illuminista legata alla razionalità assoluta. I territori dell'Impero ottomano verranno attraversati da viaggiatori e ricercatori come Giuseppe Sorio, Giacomo Casanova, Giovanni Battista Casti e Domenico Sestini che, in un progressivo prolungamento di quello che fu il Grand

Tour dell'Europa continentale e peninsulare, si spingeranno in queste terre penetrandovi fin nel loro cuore. Si trattava soprattutto di studiosi dalla poliedrica formazione, i quali, dapprima interessati alle antiche vestigia del mondo classico, non trascurarono poi di penetrare una cultura così diversa dalla loro ma da secoli presente sia nell'area dell'Europa mediterranea sia in quella continentale.

## [A Short History of the Ottoman Empire \(Illustrated\)](#)

By : **Charles Horne**

From the doubtful kingship of a petty border state to the assured sovereignty of a mighty empire, is no easy climb; nor did the Osmanli achieve it in a single generation. Emir Osman himself was busy all his life warring against the Greek cities of the Black Sea. These had seen the rise and then the fall of many a power such as his, and, protected by walls and fleets, had managed to maintain a practical independence of all. They treated the new conqueror with but half-veiled scorn. They admitted that he might be able to ravage their outlying territories others had done, or storm an occasional country fortress; but the great cities themselves he could not harm—and he too would pass away. Osman, however, was more patient than earlier conquerors. Outside each city's gates he erected forts which served to shelter permanent garrisons; his soldiers remained year after year to plunder all who ventured forth. Yet the cities, provisioned by their fleets, continued to defy him, and it was not until the very year of his death that Osman, or rather his son Orchan, achieved the capture of Brusa after a siege of eight long years. Brusa, situated on the little sea of Marmora looking toward Europe, was one of the three greatest of the Greek cities of Asia Minor, and its fall drew the startled attention of all the East. The dying Osman commanded with pride that his body should be buried there in remembrance of the triumph he had achieved. In studying the career of Osman we can see what has given such permanence to the Turkish dominion. It was established, at least in its earlier advance, by love, not fear, by benefits conferred, rather than sufferings inflicted. Other Asiatic monarchs have built up more sudden, more wide-spreading empires; but these terrible men have flashed like blood-stained meteors before the eyes of a devastated world. Their conquests have been vast raids of destruction, which left behind only hatred of themselves. Their captured provinces, held only by force, have broken away at the first sign of the conqueror's exhaustion. The power of Osman was not thus lost in the winning. It was extended slowly. Between his wars, there were long periods of peace. As each neighboring province was acquired, it was carefully assimilated. Though known to his people as a warrior, he was even more admired as a just and generous ruler. They called him Kara Osman, which means the black Osman, but not in the evil sense the term would have with us, for the Turks admire swarthy men. Hence the phrase suggests to them Osman the darkly beautiful, the nobly attractive and commanding. Despite that sudden slaying of his uncle, so repellent to Western ideas, Osman is regarded by his countrymen as almost a saint. The wish with which each new Sultan of Turkey is greeted is that he may be, not as great, but as good as Osman.

## [The Arab Spring, Democracy and Security](#)

By : **Efraim Inbar**

This volume analyzes the political, economic and strategic dimensions of the recent upheavals in the Middle East known as the Arab Spring. Mass demonstrations in many Arab states challenged the political status quo and the existing political and cultural system in the region. While it is too early to offer a definitive analysis of the impact of the widespread discontent in the Arab world, the trajectory of the events indicates regime change in several states, containment of political unrest in most states, increase in Islamic tendencies, centrifugal tendencies in a number of political units and deterioration of economic conditions. This volume presents an initial assessment by a selected group of Israeli scholars of the implications of the Arab Spring. The chapters focus on important issues such as democratization, the role of economic factors in political change and explanations for variations in regime stability in the Middle East. Taking an international relations perspective, the book not only examines the evolving regional balance, but also explores the link between external

and internal politics and the implications of terrorism for regional security. The chapters also address the implications of the Arab Spring for Israel and its chances of existing peacefully in the region. This volume will be of much interest to students of Middle East politics, international security, foreign policy and international relations.

## **Revolutionary Iran: A History of the Islamic Republic**

By : **Michael Axworthy**

In *Revolutionary Iran*, Michael Axworthy guides us through recent Iranian history from shortly before the 1979 Islamic revolution through the summer of 2009, when Iranians poured into the streets of Tehran by the hundreds of thousands, demanding free, democratic government. Axworthy explains how that outpouring of support for an end to tyranny in Iran paused and then moved on to other areas in the region like Egypt and Libya, leaving Iran's leadership unchanged. The Iranian Revolution of 1979 was a defining moment of the modern era. Its success unleashed a wave of Islamist fervor across the Middle East and signaled a sharp decline in the appeal of Western ideologies in the Islamic world. Axworthy takes readers through the major periods in Iranian history over the last thirty years: the overthrow of the old regime and the creation of the new one; the Iran-Iraq war; the reconstruction era following the war; the reformist wave led by Mohammed Khatami; and the present day, in which reactionaries have re-established control. Throughout, he emphasizes that the Iranian revolution was centrally important in modern history because it provided the world with a clear model of development that was not rooted in Western ideologies. Whereas the world's major revolutions of the previous two centuries had been fuelled by Western, secular ideologies, the Iranian Revolution drew its inspiration from Islam. *Revolutionary Iran* is both richly textured and from one of the leading authorities on the region; combining an expansive scope with the most accessible and definitive account of this epoch in all its humanity.

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