

to take form. Unlike many modern anthologies, *New Writing from the Middle East* is unique in its use of a geographic frame, rather than provoking limitations which might stem from the utilization of a single nation, religion, or genre. In their attempt to provide new and fresh Middle Eastern literature worthy of consideration and reflection, the editors have succeeded.

The structure of the volume lends itself to easy reference and provides a categorical display of "bite-size" portions of literary material for the reader to consume. There is an excellent general introduction to the volume, and each of the five cultural traditions have an informative introduction, which includes background material, historical data, and additional references. Within each of the successive traditions, sections are devoted to fiction, poetry, and drama, with the exception of the Armenian literature section, which unfortunately does not display exemplary drama. The editors have very thoughtfully included biographical notes on each of the writers included in the volume. Thus, the reader attains some sense of who the author is and what his or her background is.

The range of writing style is as diversified as the writers in this volume. Some of the writers are particularly traditional, whereas others can be classified as *avant-garde*. Because of these reasons and others, this book will be of special interest to those seeking new and significant examples of Middle Eastern literature. It should also, however, be of broad interest to all experiencing a need and desire to understand more about the lands touching the eastern Mediterranean and the Caspian Seas and those who inhabit those lands.

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GEORGINA ASHWORTH (Editor). *WORLD MINORITIES*, Vol. 2. Middlesex, England: Quartermaine House, Ltd., 1978, 159 pp., \$7.50 paper.

At the present time, *World Minorities* is a very appropriate title for a book, since it coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and President Jimmy Carter's strong, favorable stand for them. The publication of the second volume of *World Minorities* by the Minority Rights Group based in London, England, is a welcome addition to the many voices recently raised to safeguard and in defense of the rights of minorities around the world.

Georgina Ashworth deserves commendation and encouragement for the timely editing of two volumes of *World Minorities* within two years. The first volume was published in 1977 and included about

forty-five papers on different minorities of the world. The second volume, published in 1978, includes thirty-three articles by scholars and authorities who have a moral and a serious academic commitment to this particular area. Each author has discussed the plight of a different minority group from a different part of the world. The widely diverse articles cover the problems of small minority groups, such as the "Irish Traveller" or "Tinker," and large minority groups, which number into the millions. It is worth mentioning at this point that the articles have brought to the surface the sufferings of thousands of religious, ethnic, linguistic, and racial groups, as well as the sufferings of those nomadic people who live as minorities.

The articles included in *World Minorities* present ways in which different minorities in different areas face some of their basic problems. It is a relief to note that there are few countries in the world in which minorities have been subjected to the rioting and mass killing which India has experienced. For a long time, Hindus have been killing Muslims by the thousands without arousing the conscience of the world and with very little shame on their own part.

In this present volume, only a few writers have covered the minor scale "riots" in a few countries. Most of the scholars have carefully projected only the basic problems of economic and political discrimination. Each author briefly relates the historical background of his particular minority group before focusing on their sufferings and their economic, social, religious, and political problems. Others have pointed out that there are cases where the minority has managed to rule over the majority. For instance, though the Taiwanese (Formosans) comprise 80 percent of the island's population, the Chinese who fled from mainland China in 1949 and took refuge in Formosa are the minority, but are the ruling class.

Since the end of World War II, tremendous migration has taken place in the world for various political, economic, religious, and ideological reasons. Many minority groups have migrated from their homelands and settled down in different places, but their status as a minority has not changed, nor have their problems been solved. Nizar A. Motani provides a classic example of this dilemma in his article, "Uganda's Asian Refugees in North America." He writes, "In Uganda, the Asians were a minority faced with some form of discrimination. Their resettlement in North America has eliminated neither" (p. 142). However, it could be said that most immigrants in North America are economically much better off than they were before.

This volume contains three interesting articles on North America: "Mexican Americans" by P. J. Viggers, "Uganda's Asian Refugees in North America" by Nizar Motani (mentioned previously), and "Vietnamese Refugees in the United States" by Sara Jane Hawthorne. All three articles are interesting and important as

they shed some light on the problems facing different types of minorities who have migrated to the United States, for various reasons, and are now trying to resettle themselves under alien conditions.

The longest and most detailed article in this volume, "The Peoples of Kazakhstan and Soviet Central Asia" by Ian Cummins, is a well-written and a very well-researched paper. It provides the reader with a significant amount of information on the subject matter. It is unfortunate that the other authors did not conduct more research and present their topics with as much detail as did Mr. Cummins.

The preface, by Richard Pierre Claude, "Need for Case Study in Minority Rights Research," stresses the importance for studies on minority problems. It is a well-written and well-thought-out article. Perhaps there will be no one who will dispute the following statement by Mr. Claude with regard to the book under review:

It is clear that in the serious pursuit of scholarship on minority rights, we are both data-poor and theory-weak. We stand at the earliest stage of scholarship in any field of inquiry. It is the stage at which no greater contribution can be made than that of careful case studies developed by independent scholars. It is at this fundamental level that publications of the Minority Rights Group and this second volume of *World Minorities* make their contribution.

In conclusion, one can say that both volumes of *World Minorities* are useful books for any course in the area of minority studies. These volumes also provide a good framework for detailed and comprehensive research study for those who are interested in the problems and fundamental rights of minorities around the world.

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