

Women in Middle Eastern History: Shifting Boundaries in Sex and Gender



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This history of Middle Eastern women is the first to survey gender relations in the Middle East from the earliest Islamic period to the present. Outstanding scholars analyze a rich array of sources ranging from histories, biographical dictionaries, law books, prescriptive treatises, and archival records, to the Traditions (*hadith*) of the Prophet and imaginative works like the *Thousand and One Nights*, to modern writings by Middle Eastern women and by Western writers. They show that gender boundaries in the Middle East have been neither fixed nor immutable: changes in family patterns, religious rituals, socio-economic necessity, myth and ideology—and not least, women's attitudes—have expanded or circumscribed women's roles and behavior through the ages.

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