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Week 5: Gender

Question: Is Islam a hindrance to or a source of women’s emancipation in the Middle East? or What are the main barriers facing women in the Middle East today and how can they be overcome? or Pick a country in the Middle East and analyze the impact the Women’s movement had on the women of that country, and its general politics towards women. or Has Western involvement in women’s rights in the Middle East, helped or hindered the advancement of women’s rights? Please give 2 examples.

Required Readings


Barlas, Asma, (2002) "Believing Women" in Islam: Unreading Patriarchal Interpretations of the Qur'an, Austin, TX, University of Texas Press. (pp.31-89)


Enloe, Cynthia, Bananas, Beaches and Bases: Making Feminist Sense of International Politics (University of California Press, 1989). Chapters 1 (“Gender makes the World Go Round”), 3 (“Nationalism and Masculinity”) and 8 (“Just Like One of the Family”: Domestic Servants in World Politics”).

Kandiyoti, D. (ed) (1996), Gendering the Middle East (1-27)


Wadud, Amina (1999) Qur'an and Women: Rereading the Sacred Text from a Woman's
Recommended Reading:


Connell, R.W., (1987), Gender and Power (Polity)


Moghadam, V. (1993), Modernizing Women: Gender and social Change in the Middle East (pp.1-27).


The Qur'an.


Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty, “Can the Subaltern talk? Speculations of Widow sacrifice” In Wedge 7/8, 120-130


Talhami, Ghada (ed.), The Impact of War and Revolution on Women in the Arab World – Special Issue of Arab Studies Quarterly 15:2 (Spring 1993).


Islamic Feminists, Muslim Feminists, Islam and Women, WIKIPEDIA. (2006-7).

Young, Robert, Postcolonialism, (pp. 360-383, Women, Gender and Anti-Colonialism)