ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

TRILEMMA IN COURT: THE SHAR'IA COURT IN BEER SHEVA AS A CONVEGENCE POINT OF THREE LAW SYSTEMS

Ido Shahar

The two main approaches to legal anthropology are lacking in their analysis of the interplay between varying legal systems. Based on "participant observations" at the Shar'ia court in Beer Sheva, this article analyzes court situations that emphasized the unique interaction between three different legal systems: Israeli civil law, Islamic Shar'ia law, and Bedouin custom (Urf). These legal systems represent three different worldviews distinguished from each other on the micro level (the meeting of the actors who operate in the court: the Qadi, the shar'i counsels and the litigants), and on the macro level (internal and external social processes occurring within Bedouin society and working to integrate it into the wide Israeli society). The incongruity of these three legal systems is utilized by Bedouin litigants; what is more, the appeal (or even the threat of appealing) to the Shar'ia court constitutes an effective social resource in diverse conflicts.

THE LATE ALBERT HOURANI AND ORIENTALISM

Gabriel Piterberg

The article proposes a framework for the examination of Albert Hourani's varied contribution to the study of the Middle East. The main argument is that in the late 1960s Hourani's thinking and writing underwent a major shift: from Orientalism to history. It is further argued that this shift was dialectical, and that it was embodied in Hourani's growing interest in Ottoman history and, in particular, in the Ottoman Middle East. The article consists of two parts: the first surveys Hourani's explicit views on the work of Edward Said, the debate it has given rise to and Said's references to Hourani's views; the second part discusses Hourani's own work in the light of the question of Orientalism.

ENGLISH ABSTRACTS

IN THE NAME OF REASON AND ORDER: THE THOUGHT OF ELIE KEDOURIE

Amnon Shor

Elie Kedourie's wide-ranging research has yet to receive due scholarly attention. Grounded in Edward Said's *Orientalism*, this paper analyzes the dichotomy between East and West as it is emphasized in Kedourie's writings, especially those which relate to his perception of nationalism, his view of Arab societies, and his overall cosmology. Kedourie inquired into these issues from the viewpoint three disciplines: history, political science and philosophy. This paper argues that an essentialist dichotomy between East and West is inexorably rooted in Kedourie's thought. However, to argue that Kedourie's writing lies within the Saidian critique is inadequate, since Kedourie's essentialism does not entail the concomitant Orientalist dichotomy between Western modernity and progress, on the one hand, and Eastern traditionalism and backwardness, on the other.

FORGETTING EGYPT'S OTTOMAN PAST

Ehud Toledano

The study focuses on Egypt's national memory, history and historiography. It shows how Egypt's Ottoman past has been erased from the collective memory of the Egyptian community. A reevaluation of Egypt's national memory came hand in hand with the emergence of a new national identity in the country. Reconstructing Egypt's collective memory had a significant impact on the identity of the Ottoman-Egyptian elite. Amnesia served as a means of legitimizing the Egyptian monarchical regime as an organic institution inexorably linked to the destiny of the Egyptian nation.