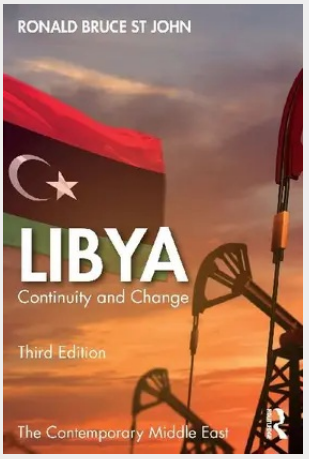
Bruce St John

Libya

Continuity and Change

Libya: Continuity and Change offers a comprehensive reappraisal of Libya’s modern history, challenging conventional narratives that overemphasize rupture while overlooking enduring structural patterns. This third edition traces Libya’s development from its early historical foundations through the colonial and post-colonial periods to the rule of Muammar al-Qaddafi and the instability that followed his fall in 2011. Moving beyond leader-centric accounts, the book situates Qaddafi’s policies within broader historical, social, and political continuities, showing how his revolutionary project both drew upon and reconfigured existing structures. It further demonstrates how, in the post-Qaddafi era, deep-rooted institutional and socioeconomic legacies have continued to shape political fragmentation, conflict, and governance challenges. By highlighting the interplay between continuity and change, the study offers a more nuanced understanding of Libya’s trajectory and the persistent influence of the past on present dynamics. This book will appeal to students and scholars of Middle East and North African politics, international relations, and modern history, as well as policymakers and analysts seeking a deeper understanding of Libya’s ongoing political crisis and prospects for stability.

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