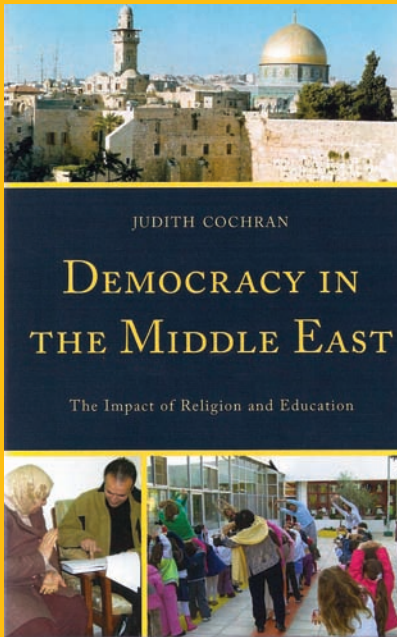


BOOK LAUNCH PROFESSOR JUDITH COCHRAN

Democracy in the Middle East The Impact of Religion and Education



Educated citizenry is the heart of the democratic future of any country. In the Middle East, there are strong and weak authoritarian regimes and failed states. Since the Arab Spring, the future of the Middle East has been in transition with many countries moving toward legitimate democracy. Beginning with a history of religious education through contemporary institutions, Cochran enables readers to understand existing conditions throughout the Middle East. Ancient Jewish, Christian and Muslim religions expand their impact on the region through the control of their religious and educational systems. Initially training judges, religious leaders, and emphasizing conversion, religious schools became the bedrock of education throughout the region. Building on interlocking monotheistic religious histories, this work demonstrates how political forces unknowingly began to develop elements of democracy through increasing access to education, technology, secularizing content and allowing ethnic communities to control their believers through the religious education of their leaders. Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Jordan and Egypt are profiled.

PROFESSOR JUDITH COCHRAN, College of Education, is the author of over thirty articles and five books. Fifteen of the articles and three books are on democracy, religion and education in the Middle East. She had a Fulbright to Egypt and lived there three years employed as the Director of the English Language Program at American University in Cairo and Ain Shams University.

Thursday 6 October 2011

4:30 - 5:30 pm

**331 Social Sciences & Business Building
University of Missouri–St. Louis**

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