

From the Editor

In this second issue of the *Review of Middle East Studies*, we premier a new feature, comprehensive critical review articles on important issues in the field. “Representing Settlers,” by Joyce Dalsheim and Assaf Harel, examines the development of the literature on Israeli settlers in the Occupied Territories, tracing the ways (mostly) Israeli scholars have sought to understand their motivations and their contrasts or connections to the broader Zionist project within the Green Line. Critical literature reviews will become a regular feature in the Winter issue each year, balancing the MESA Presidential Address which is published each Summer. We welcome proposals for critical literature reviews, particularly on topics less well represented in the field (art and architecture, economics, environment and ecology, minority communities).

Also in this issue we present our latest special section, “Culture Concepts in Political Struggle.” Organizers Amahl Bishara and Jessica Winegar introduce us to a collection of articles exploring the way “culture” in its various meanings functions as an object and as a means of political contestation from Morocco to Dubai.

In the next two issues you will read Virginia Aksan’s provocative 2009 MESA Presidential Address and an energetic response to it; two articles on historical archives in the United States and in Tajikistan; a special section on environmental history; an examination of the possibilities and constraints of teaching at new higher education institutions in the Gulf; and much, much more.

As they say here in the South, come see us.

Gregory Starrett
Editor