Among The Copts

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this report which has been written by saad eddin ibrahim director of the ibn khaldoun center for development studies in cairo carefully examines the historical role played by the copts and the tensions to which they are vulnerable the report aims to promote constructive responses the recommendations reflect this approach and stress the importance of freedom of worship equal access to employment opportunities an education which recognizes the coptic contribution to egyptian history the importance of preventing stereotypical and defamatory remarks about copts in the egyptian media and the need to end discrimination against women please note that the terminology in the fields of minority rights and indigenous peoples rights has changed over time mrg strives to reflect these changes as well as respect

the right to self identification on the part of minorities and indigenous peoples at the same time after over 50 years work we know that our archive is of considerable interest to activists and researchers therefore we make available as much of our back catalogue as possible while being aware that the language used may not reflect current thinking on these issues

the copts of egypt who consist of 10 15 per cent of the population have traditionally been viewed as a beleaguered and persecuted minority using newly discovered coptic archival sources vivian ibrahim presents a fresh and vivid alternative reading of the community during the twentieth century avoiding the established portrayal of a monolithic entity headed by the coptic pope ibrahim examines the multifaceted dimensions of the coptic community assessing coptic state relations on one hand and coptic intra communal dimensions on the other examining the impact of the british occupation of egypt on the making of new national identities she explores the emergence of a new politically active coptic class highlighting popular coptic grassroots mobilisation during the 1919 revolution through the case study of the coptic priest gommus sergius she discusses the centrality of the copt and wafdist makram ebeid on constitutional politics and his role as a whistleblower during the black book affair breaking with the portrayal of a defenceless community ibrahim also reveals a strong coptic response to the emergence and threats of political islam through the press she presents and analyses for the first time the unique satirical ode to the fezzed shaykh aimed at muslim brotherhood leader hassan al banna in the copts of egypt ibrahim also reveals fierce factionalism within the coptic community in its struggle for modernisation examining mass corruption in monasteries and in the run up to papal election campaigns she analyses the ways in which the church used the egyptian state to bolster its claim to political as well as religious representation over the community through the establishment of benevolent and philanthropic societies ibrahim argues that coptic youths were amongst the first to negotiate a role for themselves in post revolutionary egypt adopting president nasser s revolutionary rhetoric of tathir or cleansing ibrahim examines how a group of coptic youths abducted their pope and forced through their own agenda of religious and political reform this book will be essential reading for scholars of the coptic community and middle east studies

this work explores all the important themes of the copts from the earliest moments of christian history to the present day achieving a balance between a critical re examination of coptic history and research it contains small biographies to show the coptic experience as it is lived

in seventeenth century europe the copts or the egyptian members of the church of alexandria were widely believed to hold the key to an ancient wisdom and an ancient theology their language was thought to lead to the deciphering of the hieroglyphs and their church to retain traces of early christian practices as well as early egyptian customs now available in paperback for the first time this first full length study

of the subject discusses the attempts of catholic missionaries to force the church of alexandria into union with the church of rome and the slow accumulation of knowledge of coptic beliefs undertaken by catholics and protestants it ends with a survey of the study of the coptic language in the west and of the uses to which it was put by biblical scholars antiquarians theologians and egyptologists

this book explores the political relationship between the muslim majority and coptic minority in egypt between 1918 and 1952 many egyptians hoped to see the collaboration of the 1919 revolution spur the creation of both a new collective egyptian identity and a state without religious bias traditional ways of governing however were not so easily cast aside some egyptians held tenaciously to the traditional arrangements which had both guaranteed muslim primacy and served relatively well to protect the copts and afford them some autonomy differences within the coptic community over the wisdom of trusting the genuineness and durability of muslim support for equality were accentuated by a protracted struggle between reforming laymen and conservative clergy for control of the community the unwillingness of all parties to compromise hampered the ability of the community both to determine and to defend its interests the copts met with modest success in their attempt to become full egyptian citizens their influence in the wafd the pre eminent political party was very strong prior to and in the early years of the constitutional monarchy and their formal representation was generally adequate and in some parliaments better than adequate however this very success produced a backlash which caused many copts to believe by the 1940s that the experiment had failed political activity has become fraught with risk for them at the close of the monarchy equality and shared power seemed motions as distant as in the disheartening years before the 1919 revolution

looks at the history traditions theology and structure of the ancient and modern churches and monasteries

egypt s christians the copts are the largest christian community in the middle east while they have always been considered an integral component of the egyptian nation their precise status within egyptian politics and society has been subject to ongoing debates from the twentieth century to present day part of the legacy of the mubarak era in egypt is the unsettled state of muslim christian relations and the increasing volatility of sectarian tensions which have continued in the post mubarak period the coptic question in the mubarak era delves into the discourses that dominated public debates and the political agenda setting during the mubarak era explaining why politicians and the public in egypt have had such enormous difficulties in recognizing the real roots of sectarian strife this coptic question is a complex set of issues ranging from the petty struggles of daily egyptian life in a bi religious society to intricate legal and constitutional questions family law conversion and church building to the issue of the political participation of the coptic minority through these subjects the book explores a larger debate around egyptian national identity paying special attention to the neglected diversity of voices within the coptic community sebastian elsässer peels back the historical layers to provide a comprehensive analysis of the historic political and social

dynamics of egypt s coptic christians during hosni mubarak s rule

this book tells the story of the copts of egypt throughout the ages the descendants of the great pharaohs of egypt back cover

this book offers a comprehensive introduction to the heritage of coptic christians the contributors combine academic expertise with intimate and practical knowledge of the coptic orthodox church and coptic heritage the chapters explore historical cultural literary and material aspects including the history of christianity in egypt from the pre christian era to the modern day coptic religious culture theology monasticism spirituality liturgy and music the coptic language linguistic expressions of the coptic heritage and literary production in greek coptic and arabic material culture and artistic expression of the copts from icons mosaics and frescos to manuscript illuminations woodwork and textiles students will find the coptic christian heritage an invaluable introduction whilst scholars will find its breadth provides a helpful context for specialised research

during the first century saint mark brought christianity to egypt and in so doing formed the basis for the coptic orthodox church today copts members of the coptic church compromise the largest christian community in the middle east the coptic church is more than 19 centuries old and has produced thousands of texts and biblical and theological studies during the last half of the 20th century however economic and political discrimination has forced between 400 000 and one million copts to emigrate from egypt with the majority settling in north america and australia the a to z of the coptic church details the history of one of the oldest christian churches this is done through a chronology an introductory essay a bibliography and more than 400 cross referenced dictionary entries on important people organizations and structures the theology and practices of the church its literature and liturgy and monasteries and churches

explores the history theology and culture of the coptic orthodoxy discussing key figures in the renewal of the church and examining the role of women within church and society

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australia is one of the most ethnically diverse societies in the world today from its ancient indigenous origins to british colonisation followed by waves of european then international migration in the twentieth century the island continent is home to people from all over the globe each new wave of settlers has had a profound impact on australian society and culture the australian people documents the dramatic history of australian settlement and describes the rich ethnic and cultural inheritance of the nation through the contributions of its people it is one of the largest reference works of its kind with approximately 250 expert contributors and almost one million words illustrated in colour and black and white the book is both a comprehensive encyclopedia and a survey of the controversial debates about citizenship and multiculturalism now that australia has attained the centenary of its federation

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