



A History of Modern Tunisia

By Kenneth Perkins

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A History of Modern Tunisia By Kenneth Perkins

Kenneth Perkins's second edition of *A History of Modern Tunisia*, updated with a new chapter, carries the history of this country from 2004 to the present, with particular emphasis on the Tunisian revolution of 2011 - the first critical event of that year's Arab Spring and the inspiration for similar populist movements across the Arab world. After providing an overview of the country in the years preceding the inauguration of a French protectorate in 1881, the book examines the impact of colonialism on the country, with particular attention to the evolution of a nationalist movement that secured the termination of the protectorate in 1956. Its analysis of the first three decades of independence, during which the leaders of the anticolonial struggle consolidated political power, formulated a series of economic strategies, and promoted a social and cultural agenda calculated to modernize both state and society, assesses the challenges that they faced and the degree of success they achieved. The final chapter brings the book up to the present, examining the 2011 revolution and Tunisia's part in the Arab Spring. No other English-language study of Tunisia offers as sweeping a time frame or as comprehensive a history of this nation.

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A History of Modern Tunisia By Kenneth Perkins Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #424797 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2014-01-24
- Released on: 2014-04-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.98" h x .71" w x 5.98" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 330 pages

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Review

"This new edition of [Perkins'] history brings the story up to post-2011 revolution times and examines how Tunisia's intelligentsia and leaders have dealt with currents, frequently in the ascendant, drawing the country towards Europe and the opposing currents moving her towards the Arab world, the Middle East, and traditional (usually Islamic) values."

Kenneth W. Meyer, African Studies Quarterly

About the Author

Kenneth Perkins is an Emeritus Professor of History at the University of South Carolina. A frequent traveler to the Middle East and North Africa, Dr Perkins has conducted scholarly research in Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, France, the United Kingdom and Sudan. He is the author of *Qaids, Captains, and Colonists: French Military Administration in the Colonial Maghrib, 1844-1934*; *Port Sudan: The Evolution of a Colonial City*; *Tunisia: Crossroads of the Islamic and European Worlds; A History of Modern Tunisia* (2004); and two editions of the *Historical Dictionary of Tunisia*; as well as numerous articles, book chapters, book reviews and encyclopedia entries.

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