



Power and Policy in Syria: Intelligence Services, Foreign Relations and Democracy in the Modern Middle East

Radwan Ziadeh

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As Bashar al-Assad rescinds emergency rule in the face of demonstrations and protests, Syria finds itself in a key position in a Middle East beset by regional tensions, the repercussions of the global "war on terror" and popular uprisings. The bloodless coup by General Hafez al-Assad, in 1970, put in place a powerful autocratic machinery at the core of the state which continues today under the control of his son Bashar. Here, Radwan Ziadeh presents a fresh and penetrating analysis of Syria's political structure - a "despotic" state monopoly, a bureaucratic climate marked by fear, and the administrative structure through which centralized control is exercised. With a focus on Syria's intelligence services which have significant influence in legal and policy decisions, and the conditions and patterns of foreign policy decision-making, particularly vis-à-vis the US, *Power and Policy in Syria* is essential reading for all those interested in Syria, the modern Middle East, International Relations, and Security Studies.

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