

Project: Designing a textbook proposal

Title: Middle East and North Africa: A critical introduction

Project objectives: The major objectives for this project were preparing a textbook proposal and signing a contract with a publisher. The proposal includes: 1) describing a demand and need for the textbook, 2) summary of the textbook and its structure, 3) detailed synopsis and chapter headings, 4) details of illustrations, 5) special textbook features, 6) definition of market and likely competition.

Project description: The Middle East and North Africa represent an important region for contemporary scholarship on social movements, political institutions, and cultural processes. Over the years, critical geographic scholarship on the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) has grown immensely. However, there is a disconnect between the ongoing work of scholars and textbook materials available to undergraduate students. For instance, topics on Islamic feminism, liberation of Middle Eastern women, intersectional identities, Islamophobia, hijabophobia and marginality of Muslims under hegemonic colonial powers tend to remain absent from classroom discourse. Existing textbooks tend to focus on discrete case studies or political institutions at the expense of adequate analysis of the interrelated processes that undergird the human geography and political relationships in the region. The present textbook aims to bridge these gaps in the literature by bringing together critical scholarship and contemporary thematically-organized analysis of these important topics.

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