## The Cold War in the Middle East: 1950-1991 - The Making of the Middle East

The Cold War was a global conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union that lasted from the end of World War II in 1945 to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The conflict was primarily ideological, with the United States representing capitalism and democracy and the Soviet Union representing communism and authoritarianism.

The Middle East was a key battleground in the Cold War, as both the United States and the Soviet Union sought to gain influence in the region. The region was home to vast oil reserves, and it was also a strategic location for military bases. The Cold War in the Middle East was marked by a series of conflicts and crises, including the Suez Crisis of 1956, the Six-Day War of 1967, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973.



The Cold War in Middle East, 1950-1991 (The Making of the Middle East) by Brent E Sasley

4.1 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 19664 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 79 pages

Screen Reader : Supported



The Cold War in the Middle East ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The United States emerged from the conflict as the sole superpower, and it has maintained a strong military presence in the region ever since.

The Cold War in the Middle East had a profound impact on the region. The conflict led to the creation of the state of Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the rise of Islamic extremism. The Cold War also left a legacy of political instability and economic underdevelopment in the region.

#### The Origins of the Cold War in the Middle East

The origins of the Cold War in the Middle East can be traced to the end of World War II. In the aftermath of the war, the United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the two dominant superpowers. Both countries sought to gain influence in the Middle East, which was a strategically important region due to its oil reserves and its location.

The United States adopted a policy of containment, which aimed to prevent the spread of communism. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, sought to expand its influence in the Middle East by supporting communist and socialist movements.

#### The Major Crises and Conflicts of the Cold War in the Middle East

The Cold War in the Middle East was marked by a series of crises and conflicts. The most significant of these included:

 The Suez Crisis of 1956: A conflict between Egypt, Israel, France, and the United Kingdom over the control of the Suez Canal.

- The Six-Day War of 1967: A conflict between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria that resulted in Israel's victory and the occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Sinai Peninsula.
- The Yom Kippur War of 1973: A conflict between Israel and Egypt and Syria that resulted in a stalemate.

#### The End of the Cold War in the Middle East

The Cold War in the Middle East ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The United States emerged from the conflict as the sole superpower, and it has maintained a strong military presence in the region ever since.

The end of the Cold War led to a number of changes in the Middle East.

The Arab-Israeli conflict continued, but it became less intense. The rise of Islamic extremism also continued, but it was no longer directly linked to the Cold War.

### The Legacy of the Cold War in the Middle East

The Cold War had a profound impact on the Middle East. The conflict led to the creation of the state of Israel, the Arab-Israeli conflict, and the rise of Islamic extremism. The Cold War also left a legacy of political instability and economic underdevelopment in the region.

The legacy of the Cold War in the Middle East is still being felt today. The region remains a volatile and unstable place, and the conflicts that began during the Cold War continue to plague the region.

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#### **Buy the Book**

To learn more about the Cold War in the Middle East, I recommend reading the book *The Cold War in the Middle East: 1950-1991 - The Making of the Middle East* by Martin Sicker. The book provides a comprehensive historical account of the conflict, and it is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand the modern Middle East.

Buy the book on Our Book Library



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