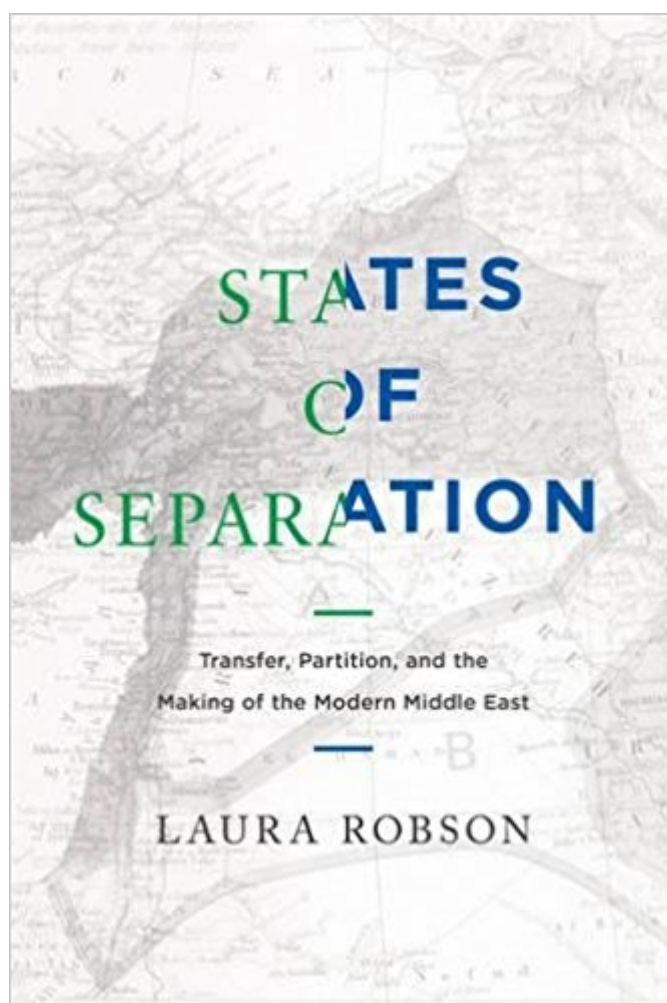


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States Of Separation: Transfer, Partition, And The Making Of The Modern Middle East



Synopsis

Across the Middle East in the post-World War I era, European strategic moves converged with late Ottoman political practice and a newly emboldened Zionist movement to create an unprecedented push to physically divide ethnic and religious minorities from Arab Muslim majorities. *States of Separation* tells how the interwar Middle East became a site for internationally sanctioned experiments in ethnic separation enacted through violent strategies of population transfer and ethnic partition. During Britain's and France's interwar occupation of Iraq, Palestine, and Syria, the British and French mandate governments and the League of Nations undertook a series of varied but linked campaigns of ethnic removal and separation targeting the Armenian, Assyrian, and Jewish communities within these countries. Such schemes served simultaneously as a practical method of controlling colonial subjects and as a rationale for imposing a neo-imperial international governance, with long-standing consequences for the region. Placing the histories of Iraq, Palestine, and Syria within a global context of emerging state systems intent on creating new forms of international authority, in *States of Separation* Laura Robson sheds new light on the emergence of ethnic separatism in the modern Middle East.

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"This book focuses on the interwar period when those in charge of the mandated states of

the Middle East dealt with the newly arrived non-Arab refugees in their midst as essentially unassimilable groups and – except for Britain’s encouragement of Jewish migration to Palestine – thought up various impractical schemes to resettle them elsewhere. Dr. Robson’s scholarship is of a high order and brings together a number of topics not generally found in each other’s company. Her work in the League of Nations archives has been especially fruitful.

Peter Sluglett, Middle East Institute, National University of Singapore

Laura Robson is Associate Professor of Modern Middle Eastern History at Portland State University. She is the author of *Colonialism and Christianity in Mandate Palestine* and editor of *Minorities and the Modern Arab World: New Perspectives*.

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