

www.mdpi.com/journal/socsci

New Book Received *

Culture and Dignity: Dialogues Between the Middle East and the West. By Laura Nader, Wiley-Blackwell, 2012; 264 Pages. Price £55.00 / €6.00, ISBN 978-1-1183-1900-0

Shu-Kun Lin

MDPI AG, Kandererstrasse 25, CH-4057 Basel, Switzerland; E-Mail: lin@mdpi.com

Received: 21 February 2013 / Accepted: 25 February 2013 / Published: 26 February 2013

The following paragraphs are reproduced from the website of the publisher [1].

In *Culture and Dignity: Dialogues between the Middle East and the West*, renowned cultural anthropologist, Laura Nader, examines the historical and ethnographic roots of the complex relationship between the East and the West, revealing how cultural differences can lead to violence or a more peaceful co-existence.

- Outlines an anthropology for the 21st century that focuses on the myriad connections between peoples—especially the critical intercultural dialogues between the cultures of the East and the West.
- Takes an historical and ethnographic approach to studying the intermingling of Arab peoples and the West.
- Demonstrates how cultural exchange between the East and West is a two-way process.
- Presents an anthropological perspective on issues such as religious fundamentalism, the lives of women and children, notions of violence and order.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments x Preface xii

1. Introduction 1

Indignities 5
Naturalizing Difference and the Great Transformation 14
Comparison, Ethnography, and History 17

Soc. Sci. 2013, 2

2. From Rifa' ah al-Tahtawi to Edward Said: Lessons in Culture and Dignity 24

Introduction 24

Rifa' ah al-Tahtawi and France 26

A Hundred Years Later: Edward Said 34

Concluding Comments 45

3. Ethnography as Theory: On the Roots of Controversy in Anthropology 51

Introduction 51

Unstated Consensus 54

Defining Ethnographic Worth: 1896–2000 55

Ethnographic Audiences 64

An Outsider Looking In on Anthropology's Ethnography 69

Concluding Comments 74

4. Orientalism, Occidentalism, and the Control of Women 80

Cultural Hierarchy and Processes of Control 83

The Specificity of Eastern and Western Grids 85

Positional Superiority, Thought Systems, and Other Cultures 87

Ways of Seeing and Comparing – East and West 88

The Controlling Role of Ideas 96

The Use of Revolution in Gender Control 98

Multiple Systems of Female Subordination 102

Colonialism, Development, Religion, and Gender Control 107

Conclusion: The Need to Separate Identities 110

5. Corporate Fundamentalism: Constructing Childhood in the United States and Elsewhere 120

Introduction 120

Manufacturing Culture Bit by Bit 122

Fundamentalisms: Corporate and Religious 126 Marketing and Children: The United States 131

Drugs, Commercialism, and the Biomedical Paradigm: An American Example 137 When Corporate Profits and Education Meet: The Educational Testing Industry 140

Fundamentalisms: Economic, Religious, Political 141

Back to Corporate Fundamentalism: Future Directions 144

6. Culture and the Seeds of Nonviolence in the Middle East 151

Introduction 151

Disharmonic Westernization and Pilgrimage 154

Between the Stereotype and Reality 157

Soc. Sci. 2013, 2

Little Worlds in the International Grip 161

Culture and Nonviolence: Who Stands to Gain From Peace? 165

Dignity Becomes Reality 168

7. Normative Blindness and Unresolved Human Rights Issues: The Hypocrisy of Our Age 175

Introduction 175

Early Constraints 176

Unresolved Issues 178

A Nonstate Human Rights Effort 183

Health and Human Rights 186

Human Rights and Commercialism 191

Concluding Remarks 193

8. Breaking the Silence: Politics and Professional Autonomy 197

Introduction 197

Silence and Dominant Hegemonies 198

Desensitization 204

Mistakes Repeated in the Iraq Invasion 206

9. Lessons 212

Lessons Learned 212 Strategies of Subordination – In Reverse 216 Macro-histories 221 Appendix 226 Index 230

* *Editor's Note*: The brief summary and the contents of the books are reported as provided by the author or the publishers. Authors and publishers are encouraged to send review copies of their recent books of potential interest to readers of *Social Sciences* to the Publisher (Dr. Shu-Kun Lin, Multidisciplinary Digital Publishing Institute (MDPI), Kandererstrasse 25, CH - 4057 Basel, Switzerland. Tel. +41 61 683 77 34; Fax: +41 61 302 89 18, E-mail: lin@mdpi.com). Some books will be offered to the scholarly community for the purpose of preparing full-length reviews.

Note

- 1. The website for this book is: http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-1118319001.html.
- © 2013 by the author; licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution license (http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).