

tionship with the European Union, chronicling the area's struggle to establish its own cultural identity while interacting with the West in an increasingly globalized world. (ES)

PAKISTAN

The Madrassah Challenge: Militancy and Religious Education in Pakistan, by C. Christine Fair. Washington, DC: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2008. xxi + 101 pages. Appends. to p. 114. Notes to p. 132. Index to p. 141. \$14.95. Fair provides a comprehensive overview and analysis of the religious education system in Pakistan and its relationship to the various Islamist and separatist terrorist organizations that operate out of the country's lawless northwestern tribal areas. Closely examining both the role and prevalence of *madaris* (Islamic religious schools) within Pakistan and their effect on national security and worldwide terrorist activity, the book is organized into five parts. Fair begins with situating *madaris* within the overall Pakistani educational system, detailing the different types of schools available in Pakistan and the varying degree to which religion figures into the education offered at each. This section includes relevant data on enrollment, as well as on the geographical, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds of students at various types of schools, exploring changing trends in family preferences with regard to education within Pakistan and the ways in which the educational market is shifting and innovating to fulfill these desires. Fair goes on to focus specifically on formal and informal religious schooling, putting special emphasis on the former and presenting available information on current *madrasa* faculty and students. The book then proceeds to examine the alleged connection between *madaris* and Islamist militancy, arguing that claims of extensive terrorist recruitment within the *madrasa* system are largely overstated, especially with regard to militant opposition in Kashmir. (ES)

PALESTINE AND PALESTINIANS

Palestinians Between Nationalism and Islam, by Raphael Israeli. London, UK and Portland, OR: Valentine Mitchell, 2008. xvi + 303 pages. Bibl. to p. 310. Index to p. 320. \$34.95. Through a collection of his essays, Raphael Israeli explores the tension that emerged between Palestinian nationalism and Islam. He suggests that at the core of this tension might be the Palestine Liberation Organizations' nationalism, as opposed to the radical Islamic views of Hamas. Israeli discusses the ways in Hamas' political ascendancy affected national politics and the power of President Mahmud Abbas. According to Israeli, after the 1993 accords with the Israeli government, the Palestinians accused Israel of occupation and pushed for more land, while they did little to

collect illegal arms or combat terrorism. Hamas, he maintains, rejected the Oslo Accords and increased its following by providing welfare to the poor, criticizing the Palestinian Authority, and becoming a religious resource for the Palestinians. (RTB)

SYRIA

Culture and Customs of Syria, by John A. Shoup. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group, 2008. xxiii + 149 pages. Chron. Map. Gloss. to p. 157. Bibl. to p. 161. Index to p. 165. \$49.95. As part of Greenwood Press' Culture and Customs of the Middle East series, *Culture and Customs of Syria* explores eight facets of Syrian society: land, people, and history; religions and world views; literature and media; architecture, traditional crafts, and traditional dress; traditional cuisine and costume; gender, marriage, and family; social customs and lifestyle; and music and dance. The content begins with a historical overview of greater Syria and Syria's historical role as a major player in the region. The author goes on to describe Syria's many peoples, religious minorities, and worldviews as well as its significance as a center of literature, media, architecture, and arts. The family—the centerpiece of Syrian society—is characterized by its patriarchal structure and slowly changing traditional values. With supplemental materials, such as a chronology, a glossary, maps, and photos, the book provides historical context on contemporary culture and life in Syria. (CMH)

TURKEY

Turkish Cinema: Identity, Distance and Belonging, by Gonul Donmez-Colin. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press/Reaktion Books, 2008. 224 pages. Film credits to p. 240. References to p. 252. Bibl. to p. 258. Index to p. 268. \$35 paper. This volume provides an in-depth yet accessibly written analysis of the various visual and conceptual themes that run through Turkish film from the early 20th century to the present. It specifically examining the ways in which Turkish cinema both reflects and attempts to create a modern national identity for Turkey. The book is divided into six chapters, each addressing a different thematic current present in Turkish film. Donmez-Colin begins with a broad introductory history of cinema in Turkey, beginning with its arrival in Turkey in 1897 and chronicling its general development over the course of the 20th and early 21st centuries. She then goes on to examine the issue of the migration of the Turkish population from the countryside to urban environments, exploring the ways in which rural identities are renegotiated in the context of cities as well as the emergence