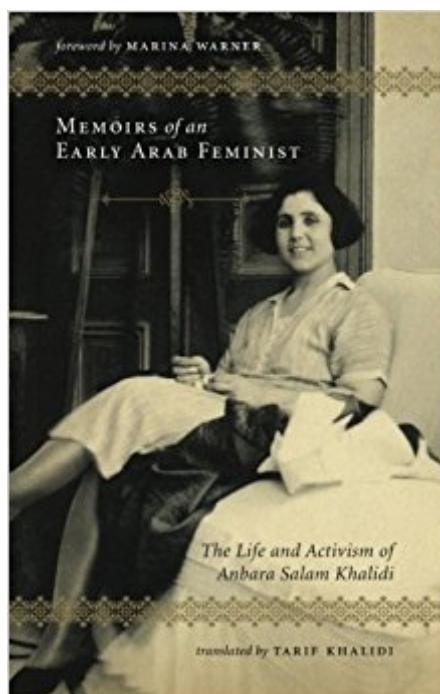


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Memoirs Of An Early Arab Feminist: The Life And Activism Of Anbara Salam Khalidi



Synopsis

Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist is the first English translation of the memoirs of Anbara Salam Khalidi, the iconic Arab feminist. At a time when women are playing a leading role in the Arab Spring, this book brings to life an earlier period of social turmoil and women's activism through one remarkable life. Anbara Salam was born in 1897 to a notable Sunni Muslim family of Beirut. She grew up in 'Greater Syria', in which unhindered travel between Beirut, Jerusalem and Damascus was possible, and wrote a series of newspaper articles calling on women to fight for their rights within the Ottoman Empire. In 1927 she caused a public scandal by removing her veil during a lecture at the American University of Beirut. Later she translated Homer and Virgil into Arabic and fled from Jerusalem to Beirut following the establishment of Israel in 1948. She died in Beirut in 1986. These memoirs have long been acclaimed by Middle East historians as an essential resource for the social history of Beirut and the larger Arab world in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"These memoirs are a fascinating record of experiences witnessed by a pioneer feminist in Beirut whose name is rightly synonymous with the feminist, social and literary renaissance of the Arab East. ... From now on [neither] the history of Beirut in the modern period nor the history of the modern feminist movement in the Arab world [can] be written without reference to these very memoirs." - Kamal Salibi, prominent Lebanese historian and former Professor of History at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Anbara Salam Khalidi (1897 - 1986) was a feminist, activist, writer and translator of classic literary works into Arabic. Marina Warner is an award-winning writer of fiction, criticism and history; her works include novels and short stories as well as studies of art, myths, symbols, and fairytales.

This book provides unique insight into the struggle of Arab women for a political voice. Anbara's writings illustrate the extent to which the emancipation of Arab women is intertwined with ending occupation and colonial rule. The memoir also shows that Muslim women's demand for their rights occurred independent of Western influence. Memoirs of an Early Arab Feminist is a must-read for students of modern Middle East history and Women Studies.

Good to read

First published in Arabic in 1978. Now, in 2013, finally available in English in a beautifully fluid translation. Centered on Beirut/Lebanon and Jerusalem/Palestine; Egypt & Syria; and the role of the colonial powers (the Ottoman empire, France & Britain). Covers the epic events of the late 1800s through 1948 to the 1970s. On this dark political canvas, the author paints a very personal picture, powerful, upbeat and optimistic, of family life, cultural change, the rise of Arab nationalism and Arab feminism. Full of revelations, even to those who know the region. A pleasure to read.

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