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This book is a holistic environmental history of the Middle East and North Africa over the last half millennium. It shows how the intimate connections between peoples and environments shaped political, economic, and social history in startling and often unforeseen ways. Nearly all political powers in the region based their rule on the management and control of natural resources, and nearly all individuals were in constant communion with the natural world.

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STATE OF NATURE 247 purchasing agent, establishing relationships between the Saudi government and American suppliers, and ensuring that the Saudi and American markets were firmly interconnected. Mining work continued into the 1950s, although it is unclear how successful any of these efforts turned out to be. Beginning in the late 1940s Twitchell spent less time in the kingdom, offering advice ...

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"Water on Sand, edited by Alan Mikhail, is a diverse and engaging collection of works that bring environmental history to the forefront of the study of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in a compelling way. The essays that compose the book cover a significant swath of time- from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries- as well as a vast geographic space, and they deliver a persuasive call to utilize environmental history as a tool to understand the history of this region better."--

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Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa Alan Mikhail Abstract. This book is a holistic environmental history of the Middle East and North Africa over the last half millennium. It shows how the intimate connections between peoples and environments shaped political,

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Water on Sand furthermore traces how the Middle East and North Africa deeply affected the global histories of climate, disease, trade, energy, environmental politics, ecological manipulation, and much more. Lying at the intersection of three continents and as many seas, the Middle East has obviously been central to world history for millennia.

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Environmental history is a fascinating field, but this volume lacks a binding thread. Despite its fractured focus, much of the material the collection presents is interesting, and its range is impressive, from considerations of the environment's effect on the longevity of empires to estimates of the size of the typical daily catch enjoyed by fishermen in medieval Istanbul.

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Water on Sand: Environmental Histories of the Middle East and North Africa. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2013) 352pp. ISBN. 978-0-19976-867-7. Author: Stuart Schoenfeld 1.

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