THE MIDDLE EAST AND
GLOBALIZATION

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THE MIDDLE EAST AND
GLOBALIZATION
ENCOUNTERS AND HORIZONS

Edited by Stephan Stetter

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THE MIDDLE EAST AND GLOBALIZATION

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This book is dedicated by the authors summoned
in this volume to the memory of
Fred Halliday, 1946–2010

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PREFACE

The chapters in this book were first presented at an authors' conference I had organized at the Georg-von-Vollmar-Akademie in Kochel am See, Upper Bavaria, in October 2009. The original idea of this conference was to bring together scholars from the Middle East, Europe, and the United States who work on the Middle East from theoretical perspectives that, in one way or another, are informed by theories of globalization and world society. This idea had ripened after I published my monograph with Palgrave Macmillan on *World Society and the Middle East: Reconstructions in Regional Politics* back in 2008. While I had drawn from a specific theory of globalization in that book—namely, the theory of world society in modern systems theory—it was obvious that there are other equally fascinating globalization and world society theories waiting to be studied in relation to the Middle East but that I had decided not to focus on in that book. I thus approached colleagues in my field who shared my theoretical and empirical passion for globalization and Middle East studies and invited them to the workshop. Their papers were presented there in draft format and then subsequently revised. Apart from comments received at the workshop, each author was able, in her or his revision, to draw from a conceptual umbrella that we had jointly developed during the conference. The notion of encounters and horizons originates from these discussions. Moreover, I discussed these chapters with students in the MA social sciences program at the Universität der Bundeswehr München and forwarded their comments to the authors. The critical engagement of students in the classroom interested in and fascinated by politics in the region was a particularly pleasant and joyful part of preparing this book.

A project like this one would not have been possible without the support of many individuals and organizations. I am, first of all, grateful to my university, the Universität der Bundeswehr München, not only for offering excellent working conditions for my research and teaching on the Middle East, but also for providing me with financial resources that allowed me to approach my colleagues and invite all them to the aforementioned conference. When organizing the conference, my student assistants Christian Gschwilm and Fabian Poetke and my secretary Mrs. Angelika Schoppel were a great support, too. Many thanks as well to the staff at the Vollmar-Akademie, a beautiful venue

for focused and inspiring academic exchanges, and not only due to its Alpine setting. I would also like to express my gratitude to Palgrave Macmillan. When I approached Palgrave I immediately found great support for this project, and Farideh Koohi-Kamali, Sara Doskow, and Sarah Nathan have been efficient and supportive throughout the publication process. Many thanks to Daniel J. King, who was a very good copyeditor for this book. I am also grateful to the anonymous referee who supported publication of this project and made important suggestions for fine-tuning parts of the book. My greatest thanks go to my student assistant Sebastian Schmitz who has supported me immensely in preparing a final manuscript that meets all formal and technical requirements. My student assistants Caroline Wegener and Sebastian Krauß have also assisted in that effort. Special thanks to Hagit Keysar for granting permission to reproduce one of her photographs of the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Silwan as the image on the book cover. The picture stems from a research project by Hagit in which Palestinian kids from Jerusalem took aerial pictures of their city by means of a simple camera attached to a balloon.

Fred Halliday, from whose impressive theoretical and empirical work on the Middle East all the authors summoned in his book have drawn so much, had been invited to our meeting. Fred had sent his paper prior to the meeting but due to his state of health had to cancel his participation a week before the workshop. He did not fully recover afterward. Only six months later, in April 2011, Fred Halliday passed away. This was and is to remain a great loss; academia in general, and Middle East studies in particular, has lost not only an intellectual icon but also a truly cosmopolitan and likeable colleague as well as, for many of the authors contributing to this book, a good friend.

Fred was not able to revise his chapter, but his Executor of Estate granted permission to print his chapter in its original version. There was no question for me nor for the other authors and the publisher that his contribution—probably one of the last pieces he has written—should be printed in this book, which we herewith dedicate to the memory of Fred Halliday.