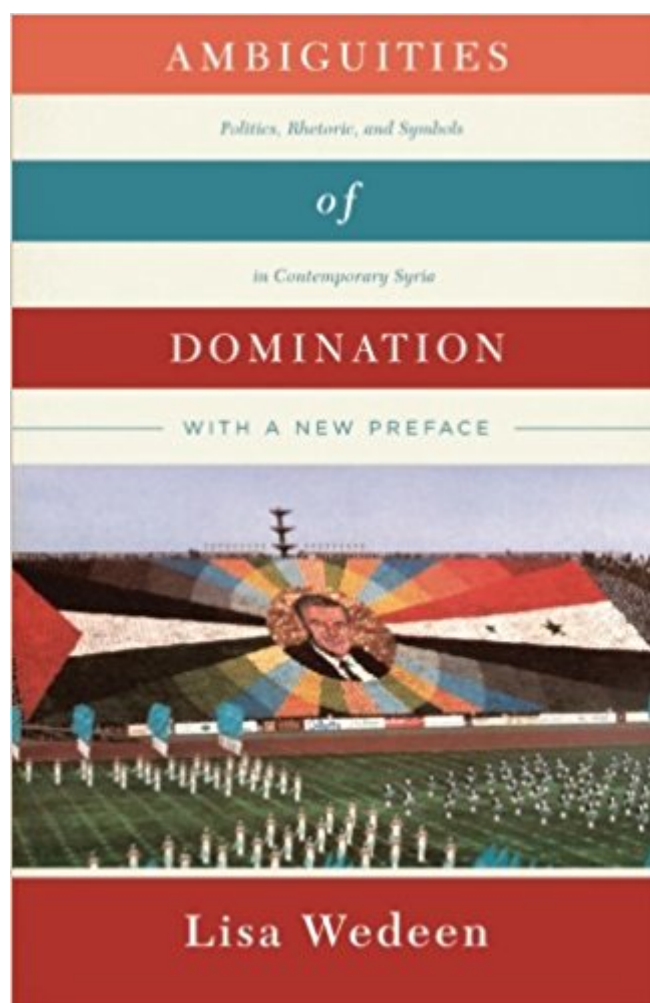


The book was found

Ambiguities Of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, And Symbols In Contemporary Syria



Synopsis

Treating rhetoric and symbols as central rather than peripheral to politics, Lisa Wedeen's groundbreaking book offers a compelling counterargument to those who insist that politics is primarily about material interests and the groups advocating for them. During the thirty-year rule of President Hafiz al-Asad's regime, his image was everywhere. In newspapers, on television, and during orchestrated spectacles. Asad was praised as the "father" the "gallant knight," even the country's "premier pharmacist." Yet most Syrians, including those who create the official rhetoric, did not believe its claims. Why would a regime spend scarce resources on a personality cult whose content is patently spurious? Wedeen shows how such flagrantly fictitious claims were able to produce a politics of public dissimulation in which citizens acted as if they revered the leader. By inundating daily life with tired symbolism, the regime exercised a subtle, yet effective form of power. The cult worked to enforce obedience, induce complicity, isolate Syrians from one another, and set guidelines for public speech and behavior. Wedeen's ethnographic research demonstrates how Syrians recognized the disciplinary aspects of the cult and sought to undermine them. In a new preface, Wedeen discusses the uprising against the Syrian regime that began in 2011 and questions the usefulness of the concept of legitimacy in trying to analyze and understand authoritarian regimes.

Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press; Reissue edition (September 9, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 022633337X

ISBN-13: 978-0226333373

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #587,555 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #73 in Books > History > Middle East > Syria #556 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Middle East #1156 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > Middle Eastern

Customer Reviews

"Wedeen conveys with great force and intimacy the strategies, dilemmas, and

paradoxes of authoritarianism in a very particular, very distinctive, cultural context. – (Anne Norton, University of Pennsylvania)

Lisa Wedeen is the Mary R. Morton Professor of Political Science and the College and codirector of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory at the University of Chicago.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Ambiguities of Domination: Politics, Rhetoric, and Symbols in Contemporary Syria Preaching
Politics: The Religious Rhetoric of George Whitefield and the Founding of a New Nation (Studies in
Rhetoric and Religion) The Mark of Criminality: Rhetoric, Race, and Gangsta Rap in the
War-on-Crime Era (Albma Rhetoric Cult & Soc Crit) Pierre: Or, the Ambiguities Trademarks &
Symbols of the World: Pictogram & Sign Design (Trademarks & Symbols of the World) V3 The
Pretty Big Book of Symbols: A Handy Quick Reference Guide with Keyword Meanings for Over
1400 Psychic Symbols, Animals, Plants, Gemstones, Everyday Objects & More! Lonely Planet Syria
& Lebanon (Lonely Planet Syria and Lebanon) (Multi Country Travel Guide) The Syria Report: The
West's Destruction of Syria to Gain Control Over Iran (SOFREP) Syria (Bradt Travel Guide Syria)
Reading and Writing for Civic Literacy: The Critical Citizen's Guide to Argumentative Rhetoric
(Cultural Politics and the Promise of Democracy) Logic and Contemporary Rhetoric: The Use of
Reason in Everyday Life Queer Migration Politics: Activist Rhetoric and Coalitional Possibilities
(Feminist Media Studies) A Flag Worth Dying For: The Power and Politics of National Symbols
Mamluk History Through Architecture: Monuments, Culture and Politics in Medieval Egypt and Syria
(Library of Middle East History) The Struggle for Power in Syria: Politics and Society under Asad
and the Ba'th Party Syria and Iran: Diplomatic Alliance and Power Politics in the Middle East
(Library of Modern Middle East Studies) The Alawis of Syria: War, Faith and Politics in the Levant
(Urban Conflicts, Divided Societies) Syria: Descent Into The Abyss: An unforgettable anthology of
contemporary reportag Syria (Hot Spots in Global Politics) The Emergence of Minorities in the
Middle East: The Politics of Community in French Mandate Syria

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)