



PRESS RELEASE

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**“Books for Understanding” Offers Key Background Knowledge
and Perspective on Events in Egypt**

AAUP Provides Guide to Scholarship on the Mideast Nation and Region

NEW YORK (February 24, 2011) – Protests against authoritarian leaders in the Middle East and North Africa have continued to spread, even as the Egyptian people look to remake their nation’s future. The uprising that began on January 25 in Egypt’s capital city and led to the overthrow of long-time leader Hosni Mubarak on February 11 put Tahrir Square on the lips of observers around the world—as well as many questions.

The vetted scholarship and deeply considered analysis published by the members of the Association of American University Presses is a readily available resource for policymakers, journalists, students, and interested readers. AAUP has compiled bibliography of more than 160 titles on Egypt’s politics, history, economy, and culture to shed a brighter light on today’s events.

<http://www.booksforunderstanding.org/egypt/list.html>

From 30 prestigious scholarly publishers, these titles include:

- *Egypt in the Era of Hosni Mubarak, 1981–2011*, by Galal Amin, due out soon from the American University in Cairo Press, along with many other relevant titles from a publisher that literally overlooked the center of the protests from offices on Tahrir Square;
- *Generation in Waiting: The Unfulfilled Promise of Young People in the Middle East*, a 2009 Brookings collection edited by Navtej Dhillon and Tarik Yousef;
- *Conflicted Antiquities: Egyptology, Egyptomania, Egyptian Modernity* by Elliott Colla (Duke University Press, 2007), one of several insightful studies of the effect a global fascination with the historical treasures of Egypt shaped local politics and ideas of nationalism.

Books for Understanding is a free public service of AAUP to help librarians, journalists, educators, and interested readers find the best books on current events. The program highlights one of the highest values of university presses: to publish top research and scholarship in all fields regardless of immediate commercial potential. Often the most complete and illuminating background research and knowledge for a breaking news story is only available in scholarly books from presses committed to the public interest.

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