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## **UNIVERSITY PRESS BOOKS OFFER RESOURCES AND PERSPECTIVES ON SYRIA**

*Publicly Available “Books for Understanding” Bibliography  
Guides Librarians, Journalists, and Researchers to Valuable Scholarship*

March 28, 2005 (New York, NY)—Syria has been at the edges of major news headlines for several years. The country’s ties to Iraq, from the purely physical geographic boundary to traditional Arab nationalist and Ba’athist political history, have made Syria a natural focus of Middle East watchers throughout the U.S. war and occupation in Iraq. But it is Syria’s much closer involvement—military occupation and overt political influence—in Lebanon that has brought the nation to the forefront of today’s news.

*Books for Understanding* offers a wealth of scholarly resources on Syria to provide background to the breaking news in Beirut and Damascus.

**<http://aaupnet.org/news/bfu/syria/list.html>**

This bibliography is a free service from the Association of American University Presses, intended for librarians, journalists, students, and teachers, as well as the general public.

Titles include: *Inheriting Syria: Bashar’s Trial by Fire*, by Flynt Leverett, due in May 2005 from Brookings Institution Press; *Asad’s Legacy: Syria in Transition*, by Eyal Zisser, New York University Press, 2001; *The Great Syrian Revolt and the Rise of Arab Nationalism*, Michael Provence, University of Texas Press, 2005; and *The International Law of Occupation*, by Eyal Benvenisti, Princeton University Press, 2004.

The *Books for Understanding* program was created shortly after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to help readers find necessary information on terrorism, trauma, Afghanistan, and Islamic fundamentalisms. That original list eventually grew to include close to 1,000 books from more than 65 university presses, and is still available as an archived list on the site. Today, AAUP continues this service for many topics of immediate public interest.

“We want *Books for Understanding* to be a constantly expanding, relevant guide to the information and resources available from the world of university presses,” said Peter Givler, AAUP Executive Director. “These authors are often in the position of having already published books on subjects central to new and difficult situations.”

Recent *Books for Understanding* lists include “Social Security”; “Voting & Elections: The Mechanics (and Manipulations) of Democracy”; “Iraq”; and “Same-Sex Marriage.” These and other book lists can be found at [www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html](http://www.aaupnet.org/booksforunderstanding.html).

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