

On a more fundamental level, the assumptions underlying the socialization process are questioned. Does society have a right and an obligation to force children into a mold? Or are children, rather, free agents with inherent potentialities and rights to be nurtured? The latter perspective is supported with both literary and psychological contributions.

A book so universal in its condemnation would indeed be depressing without some suggestions for reform. Fortunately, several contributors address this question with goal statements and concrete proposals for attaining these goals. One suggestion details characteristics of several successful Youth Participation programs, which stimulate self-confidence and build habits of humane and helpful interaction with others. The qualities engendered by this sort of experience are essential to children and youth in a society so ignorant of their rights and so clumsy in its attempts to nurture them.

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LEO HAMALIAN and JOHN D. YOHANNAN (Editors). *NEW WRITING FROM THE MIDDLE EAST*. New York: Mentor Book, New American Library, 1978, 506 pp., \$2.95 paper.

In this rich collection of poetry, stories, and dramas, the editors attempt to illuminate the literary tradition of five Middle Eastern cultural groups. This anthology includes Arab, Armenian, Israeli, Persian, and Turkish literature, created primarily after the second world war. The authors of writings contained in the anthology range from Nobel Prize candidates to emerging talents whose works have been translated into English for the first time.

The primary striving of this work appears to be manifest in the greater understanding of a contemporary Middle East--the interpersonal forces between individuals as well as the impact of environment on human choice and life-style. As many of us today have only a passing familiarity with Middle Eastern ideology, life-style, or tradition, here is an excellent opportunity to achieve a depth of understanding regarding the Middle East of today. The reader is provided with numerous opportunities to compare the five cultural traditions presented and to flow with and enjoy the changes of mood from one of tenderness and compassion to intense sadness or melancholy to happiness and joy.

Hamalian and Yohannan have attempted to compile a series of writings by authors who made a contribution during the period when the "contemporary" phase of modern Middle Eastern literature began

to take form. Unlike many modern anthologies, *New Writing from the Middle East* is unique in its use of a geographic frame, rather than provoking limitations which might stem from the utilization of a single nation, religion, or genre. In their attempt to provide new and fresh Middle Eastern literature worthy of consideration and reflection, the editors have succeeded.

The structure of the volume lends itself to easy reference and provides a categorical display of "bite-size" portions of literary material for the reader to consume. There is an excellent general introduction to the volume, and each of the five cultural traditions have an informative introduction, which includes background material, historical data, and additional references. Within each of the successive traditions, sections are devoted to fiction, poetry, and drama, with the exception of the Armenian literature section, which unfortunately does not display exemplary drama. The editors have very thoughtfully included biographical notes on each of the writers included in the volume. Thus, the reader attains some sense of who the author is and what his or her background is.

The range of writing style is as diversified as the writers in this volume. Some of the writers are particularly traditional, whereas others can be classified as *avant-garde*. Because of these reasons and others, this book will be of special interest to those seeking new and significant examples of Middle Eastern literature. It should also, however, be of broad interest to all experiencing a need and desire to understand more about the lands touching the eastern Mediterranean and the Caspian Seas and those who inhabit those lands.

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GEORGINA ASHWORTH (Editor). *WORLD MINORITIES*, Vol. 2. Middlesex, England: Quartermaine House, Ltd., 1978, 159 pp., \$7.50 paper.

At the present time, *World Minorities* is a very appropriate title for a book, since it coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and President Jimmy Carter's strong, favorable stand for them. The publication of the second volume of *World Minorities* by the Minority Rights Group based in London, England, is a welcome addition to the many voices recently raised to safeguard and in defense of the rights of minorities around the world.

Georgina Ashworth deserves commendation and encouragement for the timely editing of two volumes of *World Minorities* within two years. The first volume was published in 1977 and included about