

The Middle East in the Middle Ages: The Early Mamluk Sultanate 1250-1382

Robert Irwin

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Robert Irwin : The Middle East in the Middle Ages: The Early Mamluk Sultanate 1250-1382 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Middle East in the Middle Ages: The Early Mamluk Sultanate 1250-1382:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Mamluks! By Dennis M. Heath I very much enjoyed this book about the Mamluks, Egypt and the Middle East. While it is scholarly it is not the type that bogs down into too much esoteric facts. Egypt has gone thru many iterations in its long history and if you have any interest in understanding how slaves became rulers of this country, defeated the Mongols and imported more slaves from what is now the Ukraine who ultimately became the rulers then this is book you will very much enjoy. How did the Mamluks defeat the Mongols? What is a Circassian? Why did the Crusaders support the Mongols? Read this book and find out this and of course much more. 0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Neither accurate nor easy to follow. By Danny Cannon Not an easy read. This makes interesting history sound boring. This is a compilation of secondary sources. The "early" Mamluk Sultanate started prior to the 13th century. I do not recommend this book. Look for anything by David Ayalon. He is widely recognized as a reliable primary source and his writings are fascinating. James Waterson's book "The Knights of Islam" is a better and much more accurate read. It can be obtained through also. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Concise and oriented toward Western readers By Tiffany Concise and clearly oriented to the Western reader, "The Middle East in the Middle Ages" seeks to catch readers up on recent (pre-1986) Mamluk

scholarship. The author relies heavily on written material; lists of Arabic and non-Arabic primary sources appear at the end of the book. While Irwin does briefly mention the existence of archaeological and numismatic evidence, he unfortunately does not draw heavily on these sources. The writing is clear and the footnotes do not detract from the readability of the text.

For over two hundred and fifty years the Mamluks ruled one of the great territorial Empires of the Middle Ages, centered on Egypt and Syria and controlling, at times, most of the Middle East. Irwin now provides the first scholarly history of this period in any Western language. He makes clear the unique political system of the Mamluks, in which the governing class consisted of a white slave elite. At the zenith of their power, the Mamluks were the only regime to inflict a series of defeats on the Mongols and were able to eliminate the last vestiges of the Crusader states from the Middle East. The Mamluk sultanate, during which both Islamic Architecture and technology flourished, was an important epoch in the development of Islam. It was also a period of great growth in trade between Europe and Asia and the flow of scholarship from the Arab world to Renaissance Europe.

About the Author Robert Irwin is a part-time Lecturer at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the University of London.