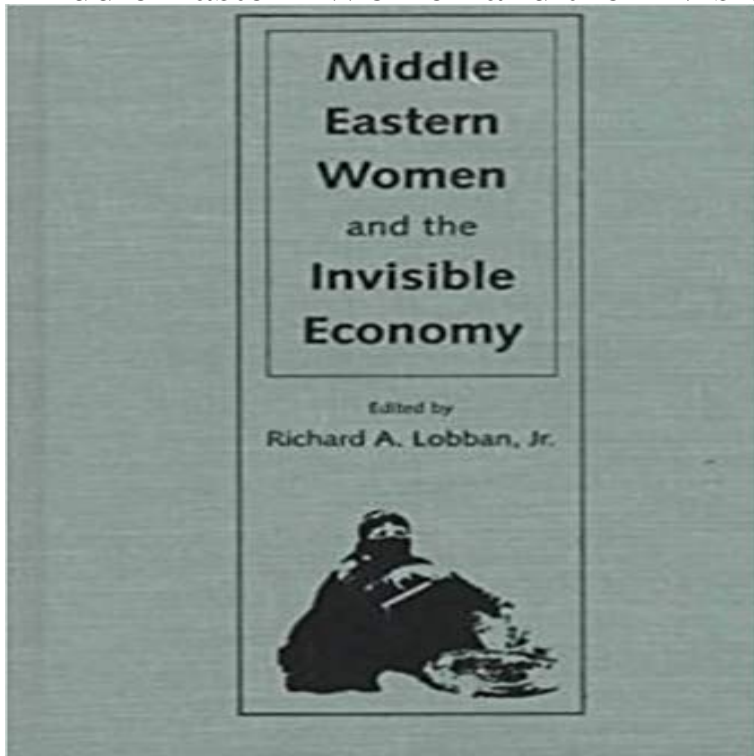


Middle Eastern Women and the Invisible Economy



Illuminates the economic behavior of a significant sector of Third World economies. For gender studies, this is a wonderful contribution not only on the resourcefulness of women, but on the ephemeral impact of Islamic culture on women.--Ghada Talhami, Lake Forest College
A fascinating collection giving all sorts of insights into womens lives in various Middle Eastern communities.--Arlene E. MacLeod, Bates College
This collection examines the invisible women of the Middle East and their vital economic activities. Focusing on daily and domestic life in communities where more than half the population lives and works, these essays highlight the struggles and hardships of women in the region and also establish the distance between this invisible world and the conflict over Islamic issues that dominate headlines in the West. Indeed, as these essays illustrate, from the perspective of this invisible population, Islam appears variegated and tempered by cultural, historical, and gender circumstances. This work also documents the general emergence of the female-centered informal economy from the shadows toward a central role in the lives of Middle Eastern women in their respective nations.
Part I. Strategies for Survival: Women at the Margins
Nubian Women and the Shadow Economy, by Anne M. Jennings
Baggara Women as Market Strategists, by Barbara J. Michael
Invisible Survivors: Women and Diversity in the Transitional Economy of Yemen, by Delores M. Walters
The Invisible Economy, Survival and Empowerment: Five Cases from Atbara, Sudan, by Nada Mustafa M. Ali
Part II. Women and Work: The Invisible Economy of Egypt
Urban Egyptian Women in the Informal Health Care Sector, by Marcia C. Inhorn
Nest Eggs of Gold and Beans: Baladi Egyptian Womens Invisible Capital, by Evelyn A. Early
Women, Work, and the

Informal Economy in Rural Egypt, by Barbara K. Larson
Women and Home-Based Microenterprises, by Marie Butler
Part III. Methods and Measures: The Invisible Economy of Tunisia
Invisible Work, Work at Home, and the Condition of Women in Tunisia, by Sophie Ferchiou
Women in the Invisible Economy in Tunis, by Richard A. Lobban, Jr.
The Invisible Economy at the Edges of the Medina of Tunis, by Isabelle Berry-Chikhaoui
Part IV. Locations and Linkages in the Invisible Economy
Marcel, Straddling Visible and Invisible Lebanese Economies, by Suad Joseph
Women in Cairo (In)visible Economy: Linking Local and National Trends, by Homa Hoodfar
Engaging Informality: Women, Work, and Politics in Cairo, by Diane Singerman
Richard Lobban is professor of anthropology and African studies at Rhode Island College. His most recent three books are on the history, culture, and politics of the Cape Verde Islands and Guinea-Bissau.

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