

## **RE-IMAGINING DEMOCRACY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN** **Ottoman, Middle Eastern and North African perspectives c1780-1880**

**Trinity Term: 11.00 Thursdays, New Powell Room, Somerville College**

*Tea and coffee served from 11.00, programme to begin at 11.05.*

This informal group aims to promote cross-disciplinary conversation and mutual education about government, political culture and society in the Mediterranean region. It is not necessary to attend all sessions, but all interested are encouraged if possible to attend the opening session, where the group's aims and modes of proceeding will be discussed. No prior knowledge of the topic is required.

*Sponsored by:*

TORCH (The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities)

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### **1 Reading group: Observing Europe and Europeans**

Rifa'a Al-Tahtawi, *An Imam in Paris*, 2004 (Joanna Innes to introduce)

### **2 Seminar presentation:** Daniel Newman (Durham), Arab travellers' perceptions of European politics and government

### **3 Reading group: A changing cultural sphere**

Albert Hourani, *Arab Thought in the Liberal Age*, 1962 (Idriss Jebari to introduce)

### **4 Seminar presentation:** Peter Hill (Oriental Studies, Oxford) on translations and receptions of Fénelon's *Télémaque*

### **5 Seminar presentation:** Adam Mestyan (Oriental Studies, Oxford) on Arabic periodicals

Suggested reading Ami Ayalon, *The Press in the Arab Middle East - A History* (New York-Oxford, 1995).

### **6 Reading group: Rethinking government** Christine Philliou, *Biography of an empire: governing Ottomans in an age of revolution* (John-Paul Ghobrial to introduce)

### **7 Reading group:** Amira Bennison, *Jihad and its interpretations in pre-colonial Morocco* (James McDougall to introduce)

### **8 Reading group: The impact of colonisation on North Africa and Europe**

Alexis de Tocqueville, *Writings on empire and slavery* (ed.) Jennifer Pitts (Michael Drolet to introduce)

**Final session and party (date tbc, possibly same time and place, 9<sup>th</sup> week)**

### **Models and prospects: multiple modernities and converging revolutions**

Eisenstadt, S. N. 'Multiple Modernities'. *Daedalus* 129, no. 1 (1 January 2000): 1–29.  
Chris Bayly, *The Birth of the Modern World, 1780-1914* (2004), ch. 3, 'Converging revolutions'

And for a regional application, Dror Ze'evi, 'Back to Napoleon? Thoughts on the Beginning of the Modern Era in the Middle East'. *Mediterranean Historical Review* (2004)