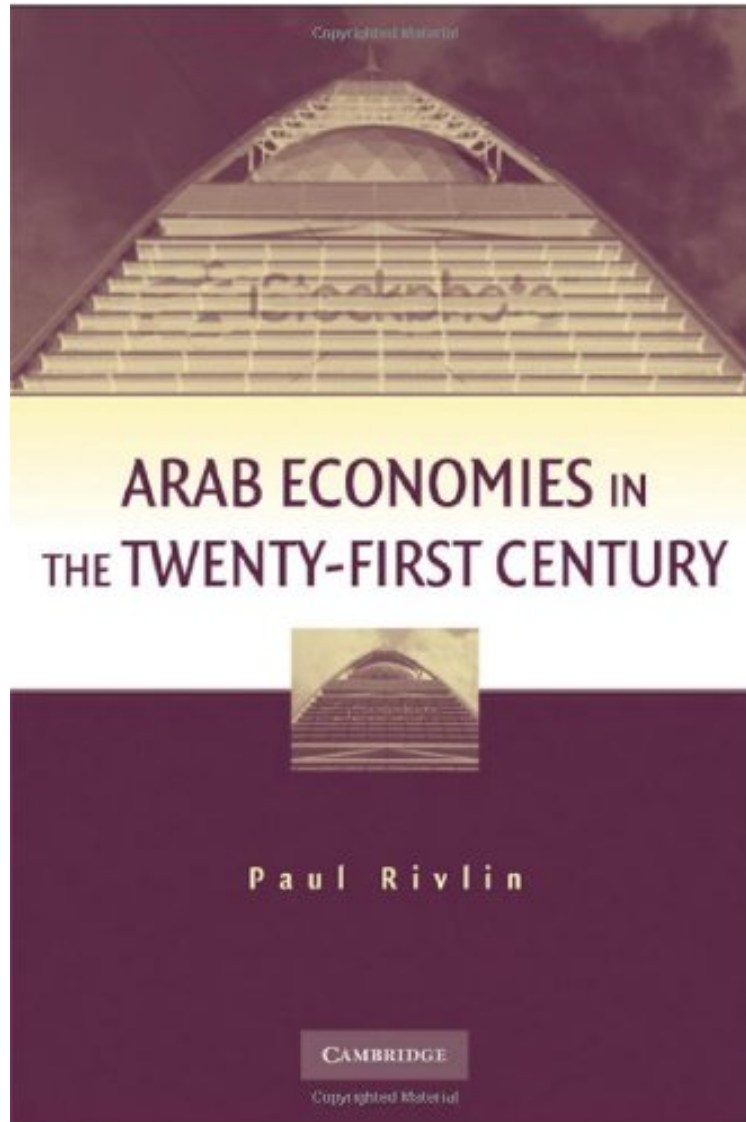


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Arab Economies in the Twenty-First Century

Paul Rivlin

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Paul Rivlin : Arab Economies in the Twenty-First Century before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Arab Economies in the Twenty-First Century:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Time for a revised editionBy Naftali 007p.1 "The main reason for this situation is that the region has missed out on the Industrial Revolution ..."Perhaps they have missed out on heavy manufacturing, but I think they have electricity, running water, phone and Internet service - they are hardly absent from the Industrial Revolution.In a revision of this book please consider the arguments of Alvin Toffler in his 'The Third Wave' as to the ways in which industrialization affects both the culture of a country and what obstacles it places in the way to a transition into an information economy.In 'The Arab World Unbound' the author talks about the

emerging light manufacturing of consumer products that can be more cheaply produced locally than imported. All as a result of country specific penetration of international consumer brands. The Wikipedia entries on Nazareth, Ramallah, and Amman, Jordan talk about high-tech firms that have taken a foothold in each of these Arab economies. All of which are items for further exploration in a revision of this book. The Wikipedia entry on the Economy of Egypt talks about heavy industries and their development with that country. Again, something to consider further. p. 39

"Governance has long been recognized as a key issue in economic development. The main issues are the processes by which governments are chosen ... "Funny, I would have thought along a different line. I would want to know about 1) the enforceability of property rights; 2) the time it takes to get water and electric service to a commercial site, and the quality of supply, reliability of supply and price; 3) phone and Internet service to a commercial site in terms of time to arrive, price, quality and reliability of service. Then I would want to know if someone steals from me will the police go and chase the thief and get my stuff back; and finally how long it takes to get enforcement in a court of law or any other enforcement process for a contract for the sale of goods or services. I wouldn't care about governance as much as I would worry about whether there was a commercial environment that works. FAILURE OF CAMBRIDGE

UNIVERSITY PRESS TO PROOF READ THE BOOK PRIOR TO PRINTING AND DISTRIBUTION. p. 61 On this page the author talks about nine poorer Arab states and then about fifteen Arab states without telling me exactly which nine Arab states and which fifteen Arab states. Please tell me as I would like to know. p. 205 At the bottom of the page the author writes "Furthermore, the share of the public sector in total investment fell from 16 percent in 1987 to 16 percent in 1987." Please get that proof reader on the line and ask what they deleted by mistake. If the author wishes to continue along his econometric path of enquiry I would like to see that expanded to include Information Technology such that it include a discussion on: 1) high-tech firms in Nazareth, Ramallah, and Amman, Jordan; 2) Internet penetration in each country reported on; 3) Books written or translated into Arabic that deal with some form of high-tech; and 4) advancements in the area of educational programs that have the objective of producing graduates to fill various information technology jobs. p. 215 "There is a widespread, if not universal, agreement on the need to create a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza." I think I would like to see in a revised edition of this book a separation of Gaza and the PA in the form of separate discussions of each place. While I think that Gaza will continue on as a separate entity, the future of the PA is very much in doubt and I see several possibilities for where that will go. Now, one of the handicaps the region faces in terms of economic science is its lack of access to the literature in economics; something that the author did not discuss. They really don't have the tools to work with. The lack of such basics as an Arabic translation of Alfred Marshall's 'Principles of Economics' would be a place to start as there is a whole library of economic classics to import into Arabic thought. Where is a translation of Adam Smith's 'Wealth of Nations'? Well, that's part of the problem. These are fundamental intellectual starting points and something that needs to happen in Arabic. Since the author teaches at Tel Aviv University he can ask himself about the lack of Hebrew translations of the same books and then he will understand the problem of economic literacy in the Arabic speaking world. No one can say that the tools to do this sort of thing cheaply are not available, because they are. What I would like to read in a 2nd edition would be some idea of where he would suggest people to start. After all, the same works that are lacking in Hebrew are the same works that are lacking in Arabic.

This book examines the relationship between demographic growth and economic development in eight Arab countries. Despite a slowdown in demographic growth, as a result of the change in the age structure of the population, the labour force is increasing rapidly. In other parts of the world, similar developments have enhanced economic growth. In the Arab world, however, many of the opportunities presented by demographic transition are being lost, resulting in serious threats to the political stability of the region. The main reason for this is that the region has missed out on industrialization. The book goes beyond conventional analysis to ask two closely related questions. The first is, why were governments so slow in tackling stability? The second is, why has the response been similar in apparently different economies? Answers are provided using new literature in economics and economic history.