

Wrapped in the Flag of Israel: Mizrahi Single Mothers and Bureaucratic Torture



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(Morgan Bashirian)

WRAPPED IN THE FLAG OF ISRAEL: MIZRAHI SINGLE MOTHERS AND BUREAUCRATIC TORTURE




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Berghahn Books, 2014. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: "Nuanced, powerful, and narratively innovative, *Wrapped in the Flag of Israel* is a brave analysis of the torture endured by Mizrahi Jewish single mothers at the hands of Israeli state bureaucracy. Lavie argues that the racialized and gendered logic of the State of Israel's bureaucratic system is at the heart of the repeated failures of Mizrahi protests to elicit lasting positive change. Lavie's work marks the first English-language ethnography in the field of Anthropology to focus on single motherhood outside North America. As well, it is the first ethnography to explore the complex interplay between gender, race, and bureaucracy in the Middle East. *Wrapped in the Flag of Israel* boldly exposes the jagged edges of bureaucracy that single mothers painfully grate against, and is a must read for scholars of the state, race, gender, class, religion, the Middle East, and Israeli studies." Suad Joseph, University of California, Davis. "Smadar Lavie's *Wrapped in the Flag of Israel* should stimulate the kinds of long-overdue conversations--and debates--about the workings of the state, its bureaucracy, and state-committed violence against women of color. The book posits that the Israeli state deploys a cosmology of divinity to obscure its inner-workings. Her compelling account defies conventional labels for ethnography by combining elements of autoethnography, memoir, testimonio, cultural critique, extended case study, Bakhtinian contrapunct, and the reflexive essay style of critical race feminists. Lavie's analysis of the 2003 Mizrahi single mothers march on Jerusalem, and its echoes in the 2011 Tel Aviv Occupy movement, expose the failure of such movements to achieve their constituencies' best interests. Rooted in her life as an Israeli welfare mother, Mizrahi feminist activist, and World Anthropologist, Lavie's counter-storytelling praxis is a courageous intervention of substantive,...

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