IS THERE A ‘MIDDLE EAST’?

The Strange History of a Term and its Implications

Unlike “South America,” there is no geographical underlay to what we call “The Middle East.” Since most Muslims live elsewhere, it isn’t even strongly demarcated by culture. What is the origin and history of the term? What does it tell us about power/knowledge in geopolitics today?

Friday, September 26
7:30 pm
Gridiron Room
Burge Union
University of Kansas

Juan Cole is a professor of History at the University of Michigan, commentator on the Middle East, and founder of the weblog, Informed Comment (www.juancole.com). Cole has written The New Arabs: How the Millennial Generation is Changing the Middle East (2014) and Engaging the Muslim World (2009). Both of these books will be available for sale at the lecture.

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