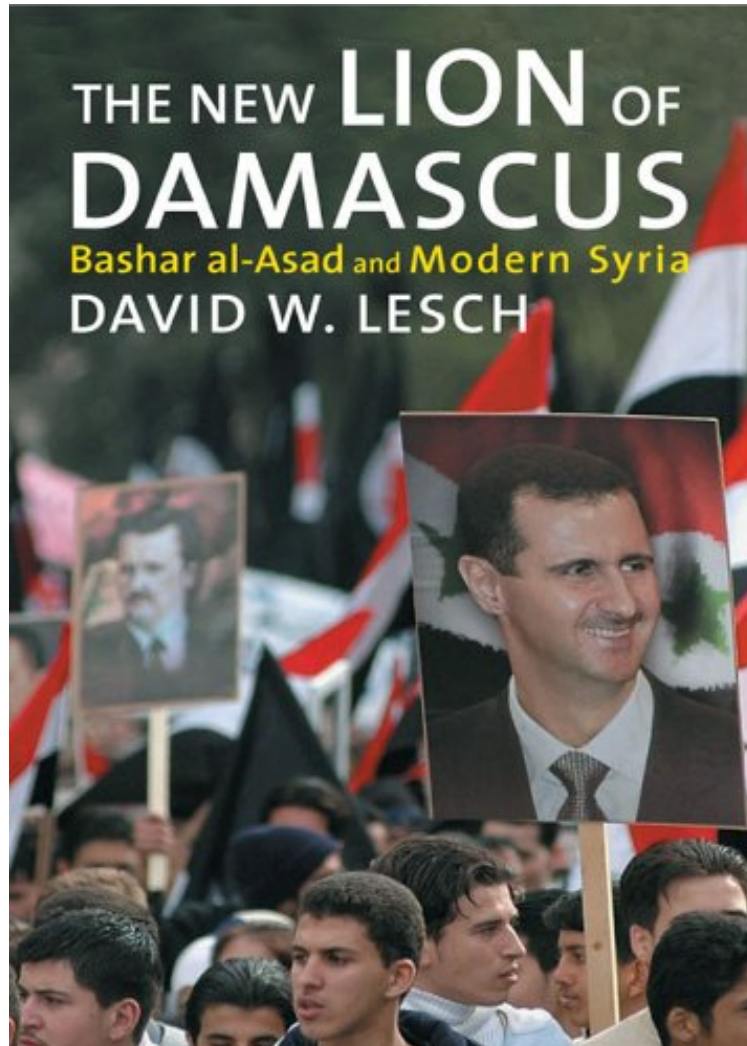


The New Lion of Damascus: A Social Transformation

David W. Lesch

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David W. Lesch : The New Lion of Damascus: A Social Transformation before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The New Lion of Damascus: A Social Transformation:

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Is Syria a rogue state? How important is it to the fates of Iraq, Iran, Israel, and Lebanon? Based on unique and extraordinary access to Syria's President Bashar al-Asad, his circle, and his family, this book tells Syria's inside story. David W. Lesch presents the essential account of this country and its enigmatic leader at a critical juncture in the history of the Middle East. Syria has been called the crossroads of civilization for millennia. Lately, however, it is a nation more in the crosshairs than the crossroads. From the U.S. perspective, Syria is on the wrong side of history with respect to Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, the global war on terrorism, and the growth of democracy in the Middle East. Bashar al-Asad assumed the presidency in 2000 after the long reign of his father, Hafiz al-Asad, and soon encountered momentous regional and international events. Bashar's efforts to integrate his country into this changing environment without being coerced have met with some success and some failure. The fate of Syria, very much tied to its young ophthalmologist-turned-president, will profoundly affect what type of Middle East emerges in the near future.

"Having gained unprecedented access to the current president of Syria, the author has produced an extraordinarily readable and timely account deserving of a wide audience. Dr. Lesch is to be commended for doing for Bashar al-Asad what Patrick Seale did so well for his father."mdash;James L. Gelvin, Professor of History, University of California, Los Angeles