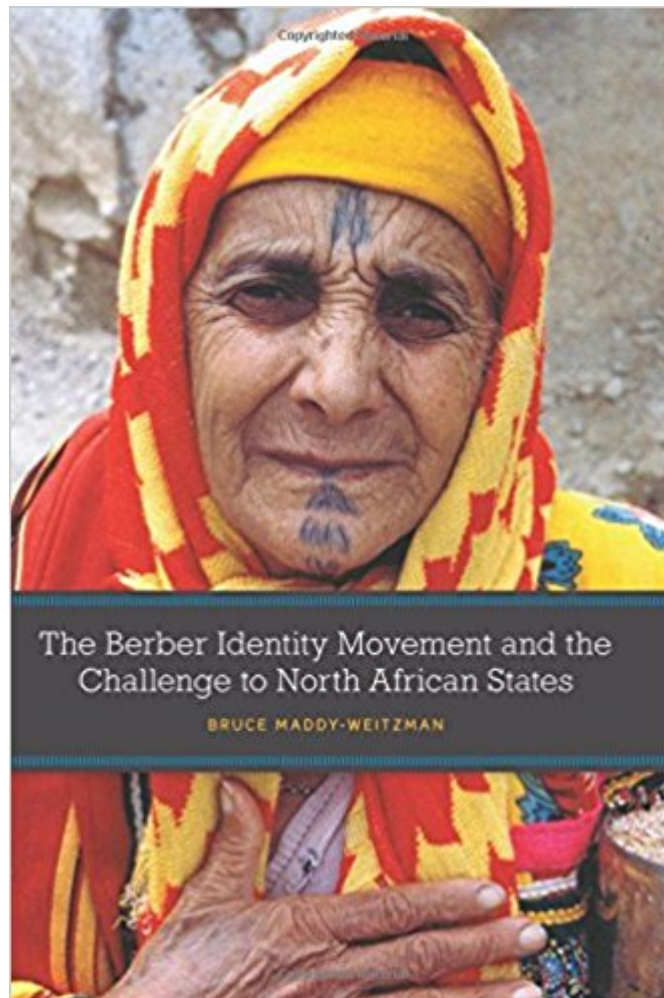




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# The Berber Identity Movement And The Challenge To North African States



## Synopsis

Like many indigenous groups that have endured centuries of subordination, the Berber/Amazigh peoples of North Africa are demanding linguistic and cultural recognition and the redressing of injustices. Indeed, the movement seeks nothing less than a refashioning of the identity of North African states, a rewriting of their history, and a fundamental change in the basis of collective life. In so doing, it poses a challenge to the existing political and sociocultural orders in Morocco and Algeria, while serving as an important counterpoint to the oppositionist Islamist current. This is the first book-length study to analyze the rise of the modern ethnocultural Berber/Amazigh movement in North Africa and the Berber diaspora. Bruce Maddy-Weitzman begins by tracing North African history from the perspective of its indigenous Berber inhabitants and their interactions with more powerful societies, from Hellenic and Roman times, through a millennium of Islam, to the era of Western colonialism. He then concentrates on the marginalization and eventual reemergence of the Berber question in independent Algeria and Morocco, against a background of the growing crisis of regime legitimacy in each country. His investigation illuminates many issues, including the fashioning of official national narratives and policies aimed at subordinating Berbers in an Arab nationalist and Islamic-centered universe; the emergence of a counter-movement promoting an expansive Berber "imagining" that emphasizes the rights of minority groups and indigenous peoples; and the international aspects of modern Berberism.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

BRUCE MADDY-WEITZMAN is Senior Research Fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. He is the author of *The Crystallization of the Arab State System, 1945–1954* and the coeditor of *The Maghrib in the New Century: Identity, Religion, and Politics*; *The Camp David Summit—What Went Wrong?*; and *Religious Radicalism in the Greater Middle East*. He also edited the last seven volumes of the *Middle East Contemporary Survey*.

If you want a book on general Berber history this isn't really for you but, if your interests are much deeper or of the academic study nature then this is a serious script on the amazing ethnic grouping. Extremely well researched with details from early history to the present day you will get an in depth understanding of these people by reading this document. A classic study. In saying that, I am not a scholar of the middle east so this is not an academic comment on the accurate detail of the book.

This is one of the excellent books on the subject that are out there. I recommend reading it.

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