MIDDLE EAST STUDIES ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Vol. 4, No. 1, February 15, 1970



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The Emergence of Modern Afghanistan

Politics of Reform and Modernization, 1880–1946

Vartan Gregorian

The development of the Afghan state is here traced through the politics of reform and modernization with emphasis on the economic and social factors that largely determined the degree of success of the various programs. The pace of these programs was retarded by the need to avoid alienating the religious establishment and the powerful Afghan tribes, by the country's lack of adequate financial resources, and by a reluctance to allow foreign investments. After World War I the Afghans began a series of large-scale modernization programs, which, though interrupted by internal disorders and World War II, set the stage for the dramatic changes that occurred after 1946. Illustrated.

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This issue's cover shows a High Atlas Berber rug of the Glawa tribe in Morocco, from the early nineteenth century, in the Museum of Muslim Art in Marrakesh.

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