devoted to historiography from the late twelfth to the early sixteenth century, but nothing comparable is offered for earlier centuries. No chapters are assigned to themes as fundamental as historical geography and the history of agriculture. Such, no doubt, are the scars of collective authorship.

The bad news relates not to the period covered in this volume but to the one that precedes it. The *Cambridge History of Iran* is commendable because, among other things, it covers the entire history of the country from remote antiquity. The *Cambridge History of China*, in some ways a model of the genre, shortchanges readers by beginning its coverage only in the third century B.C.—a deficiency recently made good by the publication of a separate *Cambridge History of Ancient China* (1999). With the *Cambridge History of Egypt*, the loss is far more serious: The first 3,000 years of Egyptian history have gone missing.

The present volume opens with a chapter by Robert Ritner about the history of Egypt in the first centuries of our era, which pays close attention to the erosion of the Pharaonic heritage under Roman imperial rule. This is an excellent chapter. It provides a well-constructed and historically insightful overview, and, at the same time, it succeeds in putting readers in touch with a variety of primary sources. Looking back as it does to the Egypt of the Pharaohs and Ptolemies, rather than forward to that of the Caliphs and Sultans, it would have fitted perfectly at the end of a volume (or maybe two) about the ancient history of the country. Anyone with a philological turn of mind will wonder whether this chapter is not a survival of a projected volume on the history of ancient Egypt that never appeared. We are fortunate that this one did.

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*The Cambridge History of Egypt. II. Modern Egypt from 1517 to the End of the Twentieth Century.* Edited by M. W. Daly (New York, Cambridge University Press, 1999) 463 pp. $100.00

New countries seeking to demonstrate their emergence as full-fledged nations have been in the habit of creating national airlines and central banks. Now, they may insist on a Cambridge University Press or an Oxford University Press study of their national history as validation of their status. As late as 1990, these two prestigious British university presses had confined their interest in national and regional histories to the developed Western world. But that bias has ended. Recent multi-volume studies of Japan, China, and the British empire have plunged publishing houses into the history of the rest of the world. A comprehensive history of Egypt could hardly be expected to lag behind the others, given Egypt’s long, rich, and closely studied past.

The Oxford and Cambridge national and regional histories usually provide a state-of-the-art overview by farming out individual chapters
to specialist scholars. Daly, the editor of this volume, has added an interesting wrinkle. He enlisted younger scholars apparently with an intention to provide summaries of current scholarship as well as to suggest the new directions that scholarship has been taking. Nonetheless, although the volume deals with a number of topics that would have been ignored two decades ago—notably women and gender relations and various understudied economic issues—the overall organization of the volume is traditional. Chapters are organized around dynasties, and significant political events dominate the narrative. The history of Egypt, organizationally at least, unfolds from the throne outward. Ottoman rulers give way to Mamluk usurpers, only to be succeeded by Muhammad ‘Ali and his family after the Napoleonic invasion of 1798. Britain’s arrival as an occupying power was the critical event of the late nineteenth century, and the ousting of the British in the 1950s ushered in an era of military leadership under Egypt’s new pharaohs—Gawal Abd-al Nasir, Anwar al-Sadat, and Muhammad Hosni Mubarak.

It would be foolhardy and invidious to single out a few essays in a volume containing fifteen separate contributions, all of a uniformly high quality. The fact that each of the authors makes good use of the excellent secondary historical work in Arabic produced by Egyptian historians is a welcome development. For too long, the contributions of Rauf Abbas Hamid, Ali Barakat, and Asim al-Dasuqi, to mention only a few names, have gone unappreciated.

This is a volume for students who have a serious interest in the history of modern Egypt and are at the beginning of their studies. It provides authoritative information, and it opens up the world of secondary works. Perhaps because it has striven so hard to be accurate and consensual, it does not venture many new interpretations; scholars familiar with the history of the country will not find many surprises. Indeed, they would be far better served to go straight to the specialized secondary literature itself, which has often been robbed of its flavor through incorporation into the larger narrative of this volume.

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Divided Loyalties: Nationalism and Mass Politics in Syria at the Close of Empire. By James L. Gelvin (Berkeley, University of California Press, 1998) 290 pp. $50.00 cloth $19.95 paper

Divided Loyalties is a sociohistorical and political analysis of a particular episode in the early history of nationalism in the Arab world. The twenty-two-month period under study, extending from the withdrawal of the Ottoman forces northward of Aleppo at the end of World War I to the French occupation of Syria in 1920, is customarily known as the period of “Arab government.” The designation suggests that a new sovereign authority replaced Ottoman imperial jurisdiction over Syria,