



Jurnal Sejarah Peradaban Islam

# TARIKHUNA



Historiography of Middle East History: A Journey of Truth-Seeking Amid Cultural and Political Diversity  
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Studi Pemikiran Tasawuf Syaikh Jamil Jaho di Awal Abad Ke XX Dalam *Kitab Tadzkirat Al-Qulub*  
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### DAFTAR ISI

No.	Judul, Penulis	Halaman
1.	Historiography of Middle East History: A Journey of Truth-Seeking Amid Cultural and Political Diversity <i>Mohammad Izdiyan Muttaqin</i>	1-24
2.	Studi Pemikiran Tasawuf Syaikh Jamil Jaho Awal Abad ke XX dalam <i>Kitab Tadzkirat Al-Qulub</i> <i>Achmad Reza Fahlepi</i>	25-41
3.	Kriteria Ulama Pembaharu Islam: Studi Atas <i>Kitab Al-Ulama Al Mujaddidun</i> Karya KH Maimoen Zubair <i>Achmad Dhani</i>	43-55
4.	Kebijakan Sultan Syarif Abdurrahman Alkadrie Dalam Pemajuan Ekonomi Kesultanan Pontianak (1771-1808 M) <i>Samsil Aminullah</i>	57-70
5.	Strategi Dakwah Masa Islamisasi Nusantara: Analisis Sejarah dan Perkembangannya <i>Haikal Al-Fiqri</i>	71-89
6.	Sejarah dan Perkembangan Tarekat Naqasyabandiyah di Desa Hutarimbaru Sumatera Barat (1999-2019) <i>Muhammad Nasir</i>	91-102



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## HISTORIOGRAPHY OF MIDDLE EAST HISTORY: A JOURNEY OF TRUTH-SEEKING AMID CULTURAL AND POLITICAL DIVERSITY

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### Abstrak

Penulisan sejarah merupakan bagian penting dari peradaban umat manusia. Artikel ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap proses penulisan sejarah yang terjadi di wilayah Timur Tengah, yang merupakan wilayah yang sangat kaya akan peradaban dan informasi sejarah. Penulis menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dengan mengandalkan referensi-referensi yang berkaitan dengan topik historiografi sejarah di wilayah Timur Tengah. Dari penelitian ini, penulis mendapati bahwa perkembangan historiografi di Timur Tengah dimulai dengan proses pencatatan dalam bentuk prasasti, syair-syair yang dihafal dan diajarkan turun temurun, transmisi hadis, hingga pembukuan di masa Islam di tangan para Ulama seperti Ibnu Hisyam, Ibnu Katsir, Ibnu Al-Atsir dan lain sebagainya. Selanjutnya terjadi proses digitalisasi sumber sejarah di masa modern. Secara umum pencatatan sejarah di Timur Tengah telah melalui proses yang panjang dan sistematis, meskipun masih terdapat celah-celah yang belum diungkap dari sejarah masyarakat di Timur Tengah. Selain itu, ada pula pengaruh negatif dari kolonialisasi di Timur Tengah yang menyebabkan narasi sejarah yang tidak berimbang di sebagian masa di dalam sejarah Timur Tengah. Tulisan ini menjadi tambahan referensi bagi para peneliti yang ingin menelusuri historiografi dan sejarah masyarakat di Timur Tengah.

**Kata Kunci:** *Sejarah Timur Tengah, Historiografi, Transmisi Hadis,*

### Abstract

*History writing is an important part of human civilization. This article aims to uncover the process of writing history that took place in the Middle East region, which is a region very rich in civilization and historical information. The author uses qualitative research methods by relying on references related to the topic of historical historiography in the Middle East region. From this research, the author found that the development of historiography in the Middle East began with the process of recording in the form of inscriptions, poems memorized and taught for generations, transmission of hadith, to history writing in Islamic times in the hands of scholars such as Ibn Hisham, Ibn Kathir, Ibn Al-Atsir and so on. Furthermore, there is a process of digitizing historical sources in modern times. In general, the recording of history in the Middle East has gone through a long and systematic process, although there are still unrevealed gaps in the history of civilization in the Middle East. And there are also negative influences of colonization in the Middle East that have led to unbalanced historical narratives at some era in Middle Eastern history. This paper is an additional reference for researchers who want to explore the historiography and history of civilization in the Middle East.*

**Keywords:** Middle East History, Historiography, Hadith Transmission. History Writing

### ملخص

كتابة التاريخ جزء مهم من الحضارة الإنسانية. يهدف هذا المقال إلى الكشف عن عملية كتابة التاريخ التي حدثت في منطقة الشرق الأوسط وهي منطقة غنية جداً بالمعلومات الحضارية والتاريخية. يستخدم المؤلف مناهج البحث النوعي من خلال الاعتماد على المراجع المتعلقة بموضوع التأريخ التاريخي في منطقة الشرق الأوسط. من هذا البحث وجد المؤلف أن تطور التأريخ في الشرق الأوسط بدأ بعملية التسجيل على شكل نقوش وقصائد محفوظة وتدرس لأجيال ونقل الحديث إلى التاريخ المكتوب في العصور الإسلامية على أيدي علماء مثل ابن هشام وابن كثير وابن الأثير وغيرهم. علاوة على ذلك هناك عملية رقمنة المصادر التاريخية في العصر الحديث. بشكل عام مرت تسجيل التاريخ في الشرق الأوسط بعملية طويلة ومنهجية على الرغم من أنه لا تزال هناك فجوات غير مكشوفة في تاريخ الحضارة في الشرق الأوسط. وهناك أيضاً تأثيرات سلبية للاستعمار في الشرق الأوسط أدت إلى روايات تاريخية غير متوازنة في حقبة ما من تاريخ الشرق الأوسط. هذه الورقة هي مرجع إضافي للباحثين الذين يرغبون في استكشاف تأريخ وتاريخ الحضارة في الشرق الأوسط.

**الكلمات المفتاحية:** تاريخ الشرق الأوسط التأريخ نقل الحديث. كتابة التاريخ

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Middle East is a region rich in history and culture, which has played a central role in the human civilization for thousands of years<sup>1</sup>. To understand the complex dynamics and development of this region, we need to explore the history and study of historiography, which is the branch of science that studies the way history is written, analyzed, and interpreted. In the context of the Middle East, history and historiography are not only records of past events, but also reflections of the political, social, cultural, and religious changes that have shaped the region.

History is key to understanding how societies, religions, cultures, and politics in the Middle East have evolved over time. It provides insight into the events that shaped civilizations such as Ancient Egypt, the Greek and Roman nations, the development of Islam, the Ottoman Empire, the era of colonialism, to contemporary political dynamics in the Middle East<sup>2</sup>. History helps us connect key dots over long spans of time, explain protracted conflicts, and analyze their impact on the present.

Historiography is the study of how history is written and interpreted by historical writers. This is important because history is often influenced by the author's point of view and the political or social context of the time. Understanding how history is shaped by these factors helps us sort fact from interpretation, see the author's impact on historical narratives, and explore different perspectives in understanding specific events in the Middle East. History itself is sometimes interpreted as the relationship that occurs between the past and the present.<sup>3</sup>

History also plays a key role in identity formation and conflict in the Middle East. Because the region has such a complex history, different ethnic, religious, and political groups often celebrate or interpret history in different ways. It can trigger conflict, but it also provides opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and understanding. By understanding history as a reflection of identity and a potential source of conflict, we can strive to promote peace and cooperation in the region. In a long and varied journey, the Middle East has been the stage for many events that influenced the world<sup>4</sup>. History and the study of historiography help us trace stories that have spanned thousands of years, understand the roots of conflict, and see how history can be a tool to promote understanding and peace in the future. Therefore, it is important that we explore the historical heritage and historiography of the Middle East in order to understand the region more deeply.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **1. Definition of Historiography of Middle Eastern History**

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<sup>1</sup>Mohamed A. Almarri et al., "The Genomic History of the Middle East," *Cell* 184, no. 18 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.07.013>.

<sup>2</sup>D. S. Sorenson, *An Introduction to the Modern Middle East: History, Religion, Political Economy, Politics*. (Routledge, 2018).

<sup>3</sup>Anna Clark et al., "What Is History? Historiography Roundtable," *Rethinking History* 22, no. 4 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1080/13642529.2018.1528046>.

<sup>4</sup>Christopher P Dallas-Feeney, "The New Middle East: What Everyone Needs to Know," *The Middle East Journal* 72, no. 3 (2018).

Historiography is the branch of history that studies the way history is written, compiled, analyzed, and interpreted by various authors and historians. It involves research into the methods and techniques used in historical writing, as well as an understanding of how various factors such as social, political, and cultural contexts influence the way history is recorded and conveyed<sup>5</sup>.

In a simpler sense, historiography is the study of the history of historical writing itself. It includes not only an analysis of historical narratives, but also an understanding of the backgrounds of historical writers, the purpose of writing, and the perspectives they present. Thus, historiography allows us to sort facts from interpretations in the historical record, identify biases in historical writing, and analyze how different views affect the collective understanding of the past. Historiography also guarantees continuity in human civilization<sup>6</sup>.

Historiography also includes an exploration of how approaches to history have evolved over time. This means understanding how historical concepts, research methods, and thinking about the past have changed over time. The study of historiography helps us structure an understanding of how history has been articulated, described, and recorded by different societies and cultures around the world.

The history of the Middle East has a very important role in the context of global history, as it is the place where abrahamic religions emerged<sup>7</sup>. This region, which is the birthplace of some of the earliest civilizations in human history, is also often referred to as Mesopotamia. The Mesopotamian civilization has made significant contributions to the development of human civilization over time<sup>8</sup>. It is the center of attention for many major religions, such as Islam, Christianity, and Judaism<sup>9</sup>. The Middle East has been a source of cultural, political, and religious influences that influence many aspects of human life around the world. Therefore, understanding the history of the Middle East is key to understanding the development of global history more broadly.

The Middle East is the birthplace of some of the most famous ancient civilizations, including the Mesopotamian civilization in what is now Iraq, as well as the Ancient Egyptian civilization along the banks of the Nile. This is the place where the writing system was first invented<sup>10</sup>, such as cuneiform language in Mesopotamia, and Egyptian hieroglyphs in Ancient Egypt. These discoveries had a profound impact on the history of history writing itself and

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<sup>5</sup> Carl L. Becker and George H. Sabine, "What is Historiography?," in *Detachment and the Writing of History*, 2019, <https://doi.org/10.7591/9781501720987-007>.

<sup>6</sup> Zhilin Zhang, "Between History and Reality: Understanding and Theoretical Development of the Social Function of Historiography since the 21st Century of New China," *Lifelong Education* 9, no. 7 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.18282/le.v9i7.1465>.

<sup>7</sup> Nir Tuvia Boms and Hussein Aboubakr, "Pan Arabism 2.0? The Struggle for a New Paradigm in the Middle East," *Religions* 13, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13010028>.

<sup>8</sup> Hadeel Ghaleb Abbas, "Effect of Mesopotamian Civilizations on the Religions of Arabs before Islam," *Trames* 25, no. 1 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3176/tr.2021.1.03>.

<sup>9</sup> Patrick J. Ryan, "Book Review: A History of Muslims, Christians, and Jews in the Middle East," *International Bulletin of Mission Research* 41, no. 4 (2017), <https://doi.org/10.1177/2396939317728239>.

<sup>10</sup> William H. Peck, "Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning, and the Gods," *The Classical World* 87, no. 4 (1994), <https://doi.org/10.2307/4351514>.

formed the foundation of global historiography.

The Middle East is also the birthplace of some of the world's most influential religions, such as Islam, Christianity, and Judaism<sup>11</sup>. These religions have not only played an important role in the spiritual life of people in the Middle East, but have also influenced the development of global history through the spread of religious doctrine, crusades, trade, and exploration of the world. Therefore, research into the history of these religions and their impact on historical events around the world is a key element in global historiography.

The Middle East is also known as one of the regions rich in natural resources, especially oil. In the context of global historiography, the use of this natural resource has been a major focus, especially during the 20th century when oil became one of the world's most valuable commodities<sup>12</sup>. Events such as World Wars I and II, and geopolitical tensions during the Cold War, have influenced the way Middle Eastern history is recorded and interpreted within the framework of global history.

Lastly, the cultural, ethnic, and political diversity of the Middle East has become an important aspect of global historiography. The region has a long history of conflict and cooperation between different ethnic and religious groups<sup>13</sup>. Research on political dynamics and conflict developments in the Middle East has become an important focus in efforts to understand global history, especially in the context of the 20th and 21st centuries. As a result of on going political and social changes in the region, an understanding of Middle Eastern history will continue to play an important role in global historiography for the foreseeable future.

## **2.The Development of Middle Eastern Historical Historiography**

### **a. Before Islam**

The first written historiographical records in the Middle East have a long and important history in the development of historical thought in the region. The Middle East region, known as a rich historical region, became the center of attention for ancient civilizations that contributed significantly to the development of human history. One of the first written records of Middle Eastern history are ancient inscriptions, which provide insight into past life, events, and governments.

One of the oldest ancient inscriptions in the Middle East is the sand-inscription in Mesopotamia, dating from around 3100 BC<sup>14</sup>. The inscription is one of the earliest examples of the use of written language in documenting the history and administrative activities of the region.

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<sup>11</sup> Public Sphere and Middle East, "Modernity, Minority, and the Public Sphere: Jews and Christians in the Middle East," *Modernity, Minority, and the Public Sphere: Jews and Christians in the Middle East*, 2016.

<sup>12</sup> Giacomo Luciani, "Oil and Political Economy in the International Relations of the Middle East," in *International Relations of the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2009), 103.

<sup>13</sup> Raymond Hinnebusch, "The Sectarian Revolution in the Middle EastTitle," *REG IONAL ISSUES* 4, no. 1 (2016): 120–52.

<sup>14</sup>"A History of the Ancient Near East, ca. 3000-323 BC," *Choice Reviews Online* 41, no. 04 (2003), <https://doi.org/10.5860/choice.41-2331>.



These sand-inscriptions provide an account of the reign and distribution of resources during the reign of Urukagina, a ruler of the Babylonian city of Lagash<sup>15</sup>.

In addition, the Sumerian Table, which is thought to date from around 2100 BC, is one of the earliest written records recording historical and legal events in Sumer. It is one of the earliest examples of written law in human history and provides information about social, administrative, and legal organization in Sumer<sup>16</sup>.

In a later period, the Code of Hammurabi<sup>17</sup>, written around 1754 BC in Babylon (now part of Iraq), is an important example of written historical records in the Middle East. The Code of Hammurabi is one of the most famous written laws in human history and records more than 280 laws governing various aspects of life in Babylonia, including property law, commerce, and criminal punishment.

These records demonstrate the importance of written documentation in understanding the early development of civilizations in the Middle East and serve as the foundation for historiographical studies in the region. They not only provide insight into the social and political organization of the past, but also provide an understanding of the early development of legal and historical thought in the region. These inscriptions have been a valuable resource for historians and researchers studying the ancient history of the Middle East.

The influence of Ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian cultures in the Middle East had a profound impact on the development of history and civilization in the region. These two civilizations were among the most advanced and influential ancient civilizations in the world, and they made important contributions to the culture, religion, technology, and political systems of the Middle East.

First of all, the Mesopotamian culture, located on the plain between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers (now part of the territory of modern Iraq), had a very early system of writing cuneiform languages. This writing system influenced the development of writing systems in the Middle East and beyond. For example, around the 14th century BC, a cuneiform language was used in Elam (present-day Iran) and Anatolia (present-day Turkey) to record history and administration.

In addition, the legal concepts contained in the Code of Hammurabi, which originated in Babylon (part of the Mesopotamian culture), influenced the development of law throughout the Middle East region. The Code of Hammurabi became one of the first written laws governing various aspects of people's lives, including property law, commerce, and criminal punishment. This influence is still felt in modern legal systems in various countries in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Ancient Egypt, located along the Nile, also had a significant impact on the

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<sup>15</sup> O.S. Bondarenko, "Retrospective Analysis of the Origin of Corruption as a Phenomenon and the Degree of Influence of the Historical Aspect on the Formation of the Modern Concept of 'Corruption,'" *Legal Horizons*, no. 26 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.21272/legalhorizons.2021.i26.p7>.

<sup>16</sup> Charles Bazerman, "Revisiting the Early Uses of Writing in Society Building: Cuneiform Culture and the Chinese Imperium," *Literary Linguistics*, no. 46 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.29344/0717621X.46.3156>.

<sup>17</sup> Tahsin Saygılı, "Babil Hukuku ve Hamurabi Kanunları," *Sosyal Araştırmalar ve Davranış Bilimleri Dergisi* 2, no. 2 (2015).

Middle East. One of the most famous examples is the spread of Christianity to Egypt and its development into the Coptic Church, which played a large role in the history of religion in the Middle East. In addition, Ancient Egyptian culture exerted influence in art, architecture, and symbolism, such as the use of pyramids and hieroglyphs in various cultures of the Middle East.

In addition to influences in language, law, and religion, the cultures of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt also contributed in the fields of mathematics, science, and technology, influencing the development of science and technology in the Middle East and around the world. Thus, the cultural influence of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt in the Middle East reflects the importance of these two civilizations in shaping the history and civilization of this region and providing a valuable legacy to the modern world.

Before the advent of Islam, Arab societies had a strong oral tradition of conveying and celebrating their history. This tradition is known as "jahiliyyah," which in Arabic means "age of ignorance" and refers to the period before the advent of Islam<sup>18</sup>. Although written history was rare at the time, Arabs had a unique way of preserving and celebrating their history through oral poetry, folklore, and tribal genealogy. Here are some aspects of the historiographical culture of pre-Islamic Arab societies: One distinctive feature of pre-Islamic Arab historiographical culture was the use of oral poetry to celebrate historical events and heroism<sup>19</sup>. The poems, called qasidah, became the main way to preserve and spread knowledge about history, tribal conflicts, and heroism. Oral poets, such as the famous poets Antar bin Shaddad and Imru' al-Qais, praised the heroism of the Arab tribes and immortalized important events in their poems.

In addition to poetry, folklore and other oral traditions play an important role in conveying Arabic history. The custom of telling ancestral stories and historical events to the younger generation helped preserve the historical heritage of the Arab tribes. These stories often focus on inter-tribal conflicts, travels, and the daily lives of pre-Islamic Arab societies. Sometimes this historical source is called the Arabic ayyam, or the days of the Arabs, which reveal important events in the history of Arab society<sup>20</sup>.

Pre-Islamic Arabs had a special interest in the genealogy of their tribes. Knowledge of the genealogies of tribes and descendants is an integral part of Arab identity, and genealogy is used to determine status and honor in society. Knowledge of this genealogy is also used to connect with ancestors who are considered noble or prominent in tribal history. In addition to poetry and oral stories, there is also the mundzir learning tradition, which is an oral learning method that involves teachers teaching knowledge to their students orally. It is a traditional way

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<sup>18</sup> Mochammad Achwan Baharuddin, Moh. Erfan Soebahar, and Siti Mujibatun, "Validity of Pre-Islamic Literature as a Source of Authentication of Hadis", *Jurnal Studi Ilmu-Ilmu Al-Qur'an dan Hadis* 21, No. 2 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.14421/Qh.2020.2102-11>.

<sup>19</sup> Hussein Muhtadi, "Manifestations of Persian Civilization among the Arabs before Islam from Islamic Poetry Telescope," *Alustath Journal for Human and Social Sciences*, 223, no. 1 (2017), <https://doi.org/10.36473/ujhss.v223i1.319>.

<sup>20</sup> Marzuki Mustamar, "Kodifikasi Sastra Arab Periode Klasik (Jahily)," *LiNGUA: Jurnal Ilmu Bahasa Dan Sastra* 1, no. 1 (2011), <https://doi.org/10.18860/ling.v1i1.544>.

to transfer knowledge and history from one generation to the next.

The emergence of Islam brought significant changes in the culture of Arab historiography. Islam encourages more structured and based historical writing based on written sources, including the Quran and hadith. Early Muslim historians such as Ibn Ishaq and al-Tabari played an important role in collecting and detailing the history of Islam and Arab societies. Although oral traditions and poetry continued, the writing of Islamic history changed the cultural landscape of historiography in the Arab region.

### **b. The Classical Period of Islam**

The history of the development of Islam in the Middle East is a long and full narrative of important events that have shaped the cultural and religious identity of the region. In the 7th century AD, Prophet Muhammad received his first revelation in Mecca, present-day Saudi Arabia, which initiated the spread of Islam. Islam grew rapidly in the region, and after the death of the Prophet Muhammad in 632 CE<sup>21</sup>, The first caliphs developed an Islamic caliphate that ruled much of the Middle East, turning the region into a center of Islamic civilization.

During the Caliphate, starting with Abu Bakr, Umar bin Khattab, and Uthman bin Affan, then Caliph Ali bin Abi Talib, the Caliphate expanded rapidly with the conquest of new territories. Abu Bakr and Umar managed to conquer Persia and Eastern Roman territory, creating a powerful caliphate. Caliph Ali then faced internal conflict, leading to an initial split between Sunni and Shia, the two main branches of Islam that still exist today<sup>22</sup>.

During the Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates, the Middle East became a center of science, culture, and commerce. Cities such as Damascus and Baghdad developed into centers of intellectual activity, and many Greek, Roman, and Persian classics were translated into Arabic. This is the era called the golden age of Islam<sup>23</sup>. Innovations in mathematics, astronomy, medicine, and philosophy flourished. At the same time, trade on the silk road and libraries such as the Library of Bait al-Hikmah in Baghdad gathered knowledge from various cultures.

Over the centuries, the Middle East saw various Islamic dynasties and empires in power, such as the Turkey-based Ottoman Empire that ruled much of the region for centuries. The era of European colonialism in the 19th and 20th centuries brought major changes in the Middle East, with the division of territories into colonies and mandates governed by colonial powers. After World War I, many Middle Eastern countries gained their independence, opening a new chapter in the modern history of the region<sup>24</sup>.

In the modern context, the Middle East remains the center of world attention due to its strategic role in energy resources, regional conflicts, and political and social developments.

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<sup>21</sup> D. S. Margoliouth, "Mohammed and the Rise of Islam," *Bulletin of the American Geographical Society* 37, no. 12 (1905), <https://doi.org/10.2307/198201>.

<sup>22</sup> Abdul Manan and Jovial Tally Paran, "The Sunni-Shia Conflict in the History of Islam: An Analytical Descriptive Study," *Palita: Journal of Social Religion Research* 5, no. 2 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.24256/pal.v5i2.1327>.

<sup>23</sup> I.M. Lapidus, "The Golden Age: The Political Concepts of Islam," *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 524, no. 1 (1992): 13–25, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002716292524001002>.

<sup>24</sup> Yassamine Mather, "The Fall of the Ottoman Empire and Current Conflict in the Middle East," *Critique* 42, no. 3 (2014), <https://doi.org/10.1080/03017605.2014.972151>.

Recent developments, such as Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979 and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, continue to influence the development of the region. The history of Islam in the Middle East reflects a long and varied journey, from the early spread of Islam to the political and cultural complexities that continue to this day.

Hadith is one of the main elements in the writing of Islamic history and has a very important role in describing the life and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as well as the early days of Islam. Hadith is an oral record of the words, actions, and approvals of the Prophet Muhammad transmitted through various chains of sanad (narrator order) and collected in hadith collections. The role of Hadith in the writing of Islamic history includes several important aspects<sup>25</sup>.

First, the Hadith provides deep insight into the daily life of Prophet Muhammad, such as his role as a leader, family figure, and individual interacting with the surrounding community. The hadith also records important events in the early history of Islam, such as wars, treaties, and announcements of Islamic teachings. Thus, the Hadith allows historians to respond to the question of how Islam developed and was practiced in its early practices.

Secondly, Hadith is the source of Islamic law other than the Quran<sup>26</sup>. The teachings of Islam consist not only of the Quran, but are also based on Hadith, which helps clarify and expand the understanding of Islamic law and ethics. Islamic law, known as sharia, is guided by Hadith in a variety of contexts, including worship, muamalah (economic law), and social ethics. Thus, Hadith played a key role in the formation and development of Islamic law.

Third, the Hadith also provides a theological perspective and religious teachings. The hadith records many sayings of the Prophet Muhammad about faith, worship, and the afterlife. It helps understand the teachings of Islam in a broader context and provides guidance for religious practice. For example, the Hadith explains worship procedures such as salat (salat), fasting, and Hajj, as well as providing explanations of the concepts of faith, the afterlife, and social justice.

Fourth, the Hadith also reflects plurality in the Islamic tradition. There are many different collections of hadiths, and historically, various schools (sects) of Islam have developed an emphasis on certain hadiths according to their views. This creates diversity in the interpretation of Islam, reflecting the historical complexity of the development of this religion.

Lastly, it is important to note that rigorous criticism and methodology are applied in historical research and writing using Hadith. Hadith historians conduct research of sanad (narrator chains) and matan (hadith texts) to ensure the authenticity and reliability of each hadith<sup>27</sup>. Therefore, the Hadith, when used carefully, becomes an important tool in the writing of Islamic history and a deeper understanding of the development of this religion in a historical

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<sup>25</sup> Muhamad Rozaimi Ramle and Miftachul Huda, "Between Text and Context: Understanding Ḥadīth through Asbab Al Wurud," *Religions* 13, no. 2 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13020092>.

<sup>26</sup> Wahyudin Darmalaksana, Lamlam Pahala, and Endang Soetari, "Kontroversi Hadis Sebagai Sumber Hukum Islam," *Wawasan: Jurnal Ilmiah Agama Dan Sosial Budaya* 2, no. 2 (2017), <https://doi.org/10.15575/jw.v2i2.1770>.

<sup>27</sup> Ramle and Huda, "Between Text and Context: Understanding Ḥadīth through Asbab Al Wurud."

context.

### **c. Time of Sultanate and Caliphate**

After the time of the Prophet, Hadith became an important source for the history of the development of Islam. The development of historical writing based on hadith further developed during the Abbasid Caliphate. Hadith, which was only used as a source of Islamic law, eventually developed into an important part of the process of writing history. For some time the hadith was still written with sanadnya, but along with the increasing number of events that occurred in Islamic history, the hadiths began to be collected in the form of a collection of important events. Some of the history books that appeared in the early days of Islam are still based on hadiths, among the first history books that appeared include:

### **d. "Al-Maghazi" by Al-Waqidi**

Al-Waqidi (745-822 A.D.), known as an 8th-century Islamic historian, was the author of the book "Maghazi," which is a monumental work in Islamic history documenting the events of wars and military campaigns during the time of the Prophet Muhammad and the beginning of the Islamic Caliphate. This book of "Maghazi" became one of the main sources for historians and researchers to understand the Prophet's journey and the early development of Islam, providing valuable information about the military, political, and cultural strategies of the period. This work has played an important role in preserving early Islamic history and became an important reference for Islamic historians and scholars<sup>28</sup>.

### **f. "Sirah" by Ibnu Ishaq**

Ibn Ishaq (circa 704-767 CE) was a Muslim historian and biographer best known for his very important work in Islamic history, namely "Sīrah Rasūl Allāh" or better known as "Sīrah Ibn Ishaq." This work is the earliest biography documenting the life and events surrounding the Prophet Muhammad, including the period before and after his prophethood<sup>29</sup>. Although Ibn Ishaq's original work has been lost, it was inherited through the writings of later authors, especially through abridgement by Ibn Hisham.

Sīrah Ibn Ishaq is one of the main sources in understanding the life of Prophet Muhammad, key events in early Islam, and the social, political, and cultural context of the time. This work provides valuable information about the early struggles of Islam, the spread of the religion, as well as the Prophet Muhammad's interactions with various tribes and communities in Arabia. Over time, Sīrah Ibn Ishaq has become the basis for many Islamic historians and researchers to dig deeper into Islamic history and views of the Prophet Muhammad.

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<sup>28</sup> Wan Kamal Mujani, "Peranan Dan Sumbangan Muhammad b. 'Umar Al-Wāqidi dalam Bidang Pensejarahan Islam," *Journal of Al-Tamaddun* 5, no. 1 (2010), <https://doi.org/10.22452/jat.vol5no1.1>.

<sup>29</sup> Fikri Surya Pratama Pratama, "Analisis Komparatif Historiografi Sirah Nabawiyah Karya Ibnu Ishaq Dan Ibnu Hisyam," *Tabuah* 26, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.37108/tabuah.v26i1.677>.

**g. "Tarikh al-Tabari" by Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari**

This work is one of the most important universal histories in the Islamic tradition. Al-Tabari (839-923 AD)<sup>30</sup>, A prominent historian and scholar of the 9th century, wrote this monumental work covering world history from creation to the reign of the caliphs of his time. "Tarikh al-Tabari" is an important source for understanding the early history of Islam and various historical events in the Middle East and the world.

**h. "Kitab al-Kamil" by Ibn Athir**

It was written by the 13th-century Arab historian Ibn Athir (1160-1233 CE)<sup>31</sup>. "Kitab al-Kamil" is a universal history covering a wide range of world historical events from creation to 1231 A.D. The work is notable for chronicling many historical events, including the fall of the Abbasid Caliphate.

**i. "Tarikh al-Baghdad" by al-Khatib al-Baghdadi**

Al-Khatib al-Baghdadi, whose full name is Abu Bakr Ahmad ibn Ali ibn Thabit ibn Ahmad al-Shafi'i al-Khatib al-Baghdadi, was a prominent historian and hadith expert in Islamic history. He lived in the 11th century and is thought to have been born in 392 AH (1002 AD) and died in 463 AH (1071 AD)<sup>32</sup>.

One of his best-known works is "The Date of Baghdad" (Arabic: تاريخ بغداد), also known as "The History of Baghdad." This work is a monumental historical encyclopedia covering various aspects of the history and culture of the city of Baghdad as well as biographies of various scholars, scholars, and important figures in the Islamic world. The date of Baghdad is very important in revealing the history of Islam, the history of the development of science, and the role of the city of Baghdad as a center of science and culture at that time.

Al-Khatib al-Baghdadi's works, including "Tarikh Baghdad," are of very high value in the study of Islamic history and provide deep insight into the intellectual and cultural development of Islam in the period.

**j. "Bidayah wa Nihayah" by Ibnu Katsir**

Ibn Kathir (Ismail bin Umar bin Kathir) was an Islamic scholar who lived in the 14th century (700 AH/1300 CE - 774 AH/1373 CE) and is known for his famous work, "Al-Bidāyah

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<sup>30</sup> Samee-Ullah Bhat, "The Life and Work of Muhammad Ibn Jarir Al-Tabari," *Khazanah Pendidikan Islam* 4, no. 1 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.15575/kp.v4i1.18071>.

<sup>31</sup> Azmul Fahimi Kamaruzaman, Norsaeidah Jamaludin, and Ahmad Faathin Mohd Fadzil, "Ibn Al-Athir's Philosophy of History in Al-Kamil Fi Al-Tarikh," *Asian Social Science* 11, no. 23 (2015), <https://doi.org/10.5539/ass.v11n23p28>.

<sup>32</sup> Zayde Antrim, "Nostalgia for the Future: A Comparison between the Introductions to Ibn Asakir's Ta Rikh Madinat Dimashq and Al-Khaib Al-Baghdadi's Tarikh Baghdad," *Islamic History and Civilization* 145 (2017), [https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004345201\\_004](https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004345201_004).

wa'l-Nihāyah" (Arabic: البداية والنهاية) who is also known as the author of "Tafsir Ibn Kathir" (Mirza, 2014). This monumental work is a comprehensive history of Islam covering the history of Islam from the beginning of human creation to the end of time. Ibn Kathir collected and summarized various sources of Islamic history, including hadiths, narrations, and earlier historical writings.

"Al-Bidāyah wa'l-Nihāyah" not only discusses important events in Islamic history, such as the life of Prophet Muhammad, the period of Khulafaur Rashidin, and other important events, but also outlines stories and lessons that can be drawn from such history. This work had a major impact in understanding Islamic history and became an important reference for researchers, historians, and scholars in understanding the development of Islam over time.

Ibn Kathir is also famous as a master of exegesis, and his famous work in this field is "Tafsir al-Qur'an al-Azim." Ibn Kathir's works in history and tafsir have made great contributions to the understanding of Islam and remain an important source of reference for Muslims today.

#### **k. Ibn Khaldun and The Concept of Cycle History**

Ibn Khaldun (1332-1406) was a prominent Muslim historian, philosopher, and scientist known for his contributions to the understanding of the history and development of society. One of the most important concepts proposed by Ibn Khaldun is the concept of cyclical history, which is described in his famous work, "Muqaddimah" or "Introduction." This concept presents a unique view of how human civilization develops and then degenerates in a certain cyclical pattern<sup>33</sup>.

Ibn Khaldun understood history as a repetitive journey through four stages of the cycle: the first is "Asabiyyah," which is the spirit of social solidarity and the spirit of unity within a group. It enables the group to overcome challenges and achieve prosperity. Later, the asabiyyah began to weaken and the people went into the stage of wealth, where they enjoyed economic prosperity and stability. However, with time, discontent and corruption began to run rampant, triggering the third stage of "wickedness," characterized by degenerate morality and instability. Finally, society goes into the fourth stage, which is "Destroyed," where civilization collapses and ends<sup>34</sup>.

Ibn Khaldun argues that these cycles are the result of repeated social, economic, and political dynamics. He also considered that an understanding of this cycle could help rulers and leaders to take prudent steps to prevent the collapse of their societies. Ibn Khaldun also stressed the importance of understanding factors such as climate, geography, and culture in historical analysis, which is an important concept in the development of historical science.

Ibn Khaldun's concept of cyclical history has influenced historical thought and sociology for centuries. He is considered one of the fathers of modern history and social thought. His understanding of social change and societal dynamics has provided valuable insights into the

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<sup>33</sup> Abdurrahman bin Muhammad. Ibnu Khaldun, *Muqoddimah Ibni Khaldun* (Damaskus: Daru Ya'rob, 2004).

<sup>34</sup> Z. K. Muttaqin, M. I., Azra, A., Saepudin, D., Jabali, F., Lubis, A., & Fakhri, "The Rise and Fall of Ottoman Empire and How It Fits Ibnu Khaldun's Theory," in *ICIIS 2020*, 2021.

history and development of human civilization. His concepts remain relevant today and continue to be a source of inspiration for scientists and historians in exploring humanity's journey through the ages.

### **3. Era of Colonialism and Postcolonialism**

The influence of European colonialism in the writing of history in the Middle East has had a significant impact in the understanding and interpretation of the history of the region. During the 19th and early 20th centuries, many European countries, such as Britain, France, and Spain, colonized much of the Middle East<sup>35</sup>. One important aspect of European colonialism was their control over the production of knowledge and historical narratives in the region.

One of the greatest impacts of European colonialism was the formation of a historical narrative that fit the colonial agenda and interests. European chroniclers often portrayed Middle Eastern civilizations as inferior and backward, while magnifying European achievements. This creates an imbalance in the way Middle Eastern history is represented and excludes important contributions of Middle Eastern culture, science, and civilization in world history.

In addition, many archives and historical documents of the Middle East were taken by colonial rulers and brought to Europe. This resulted in the loss of valuable historical resources and created difficulties for Middle Eastern historians to reassemble their own history. In addition, education under colonialism often promoted views that portrayed European culture as superior and Middle Eastern culture as inferior. The effects of colonialism were also felt in the formation of modern states in the Middle East after the drawing of boundaries by colonial powers without taking into account the existing ethnic and religious structures. This led to prolonged tensions and conflicts within the region.

Although history writing in the Middle East has undergone changes in recent decades, the impact of European colonialism is still felt today in the form of controversies and debates surrounding history and identity in the region. As efforts to decolonize historical writing, a more balanced and inclusive understanding of Middle Eastern history is increasingly emphasized to fully understand the region's complex heritage and journey. The deconstruction of colonial and postcolonial narratives in Middle Eastern historiography is an important attempt to reflect back and reawaken an understanding of the history and impact of colonialism in the region. This historiography has undergone significant changes along with the emergence of critical thinking that seeks to challenge historical views that have been formed during the colonial period.

First of all, the deconstruction of colonial narratives focuses on a critique of the historical representations shaped by European colonial writers. Historians seek to identify biases, stereotypes, and narratives that denigrate Middle Eastern culture and civilization. This involves

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<sup>35</sup> Malika Neifar, "Colonial Legacies on Employment: Comparisons between Some Former Anglophone and French Colonies," *Review of Economics and Political Science* 8, no. 1 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1108/REPS-06-2022-0038>.



a reassessment of historical narratives controlled by the colonizers, which often distort historical reality and promote colonial agendas. In addition, this deconstruction also calls into question concepts such as orientalism, proposed by European scholars such as Edward Said. Orientalism refers to a condescending, exotic, and often paternalistic European view of the Middle East. This encourages historians to understand how orientalism influenced historical understanding and interpretation in the region<sup>36</sup>.

In a postcolonial context, historical deconstruction also examines the impact of colonialism in the formation of modern states in the Middle East. It involves analyzing artificial borders formed by colonial powers without considering existing ethnic, religious, or cultural identities. The debate continues about how colonial legacies impact conflict, politics, and identity in the Middle East today.

Finally, deconstruction efforts in Middle Eastern historiography also involve the inclusion of voices and perspectives that were previously ignored or suppressed in historical narratives. This includes recognition of the often forgotten contributions of Middle Eastern culture, science, and civilization in colonial history writing. In this way, Middle Eastern historiography seeks to be more inclusive, critical, and accurate in recording and understanding the history of the region and the impact of colonialism that is still felt today.

#### **4. Contemporary Historiography of the Middle East**

The use of modern methods in history writing in the Middle East has brought about significant changes in the way the history of the region is studied, recorded, and understood. These modern methods include scientific approaches, digital resources, multidisciplinary analysis, as well as a deeper understanding of social and cultural contexts.

First of all, the scientific approach to writing Middle Eastern history prioritizes systematic and objective research methods. Modern historians seek to gather solid evidence and rely on rigorous methods of analysis to produce more accurate historical narratives. This includes the use of archival sources, primary documentation, and statistical methods to measure and analyze historical data. Such a text-based study was conducted on the intellectual works of Muslim historians of the 17th century in the Ottoman period<sup>37</sup>.

The utilization of digital resources has also changed the way history in the Middle East is researched. The digitization of archives and historical documents facilitates access to valuable sources and allows historians to conduct research globally without having to be in the physical location of the source. Technology also enables more sophisticated data analysis and visualization that helps in a deeper understanding of historical developments. Qatar has also developed a digital library that has become an important part of digitizing literature to facilitate

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<sup>36</sup> Öz Öktem, "Re-Orienting Gender and Islamic Alterity in Early Modern English Drama," *English Studies* 100, no. 2 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1080/0013838X.2018.1555980>.

<sup>37</sup> L.W.C. van Lit, "Islamic Intellectual History in the Seventeenth Century," *Global Intellectual History* 1, no. 2 (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1080/23801883.2016.1240424>.

the historiographic process in Middle Eastern societies<sup>38</sup>.

In addition, multidisciplinary analysis is increasingly used in Middle Eastern history writing. This means historians work closely with experts in various fields, such as anthropology, sociology, geography, and economics to understand history more comprehensively. This approach helps delve into the social, cultural, and economic aspects that influence historical events.

Understanding the social and cultural context has also become more important in modern Middle Eastern history writing. Historians are more likely to consider various factors such as religion, ethnicity, gender, and ideology in explaining historical events. This helps avoid generalizations and stereotypes that often exist in colonial history writing.

Overall, the use of modern methods in the writing of Middle Eastern history has brought about positive changes by producing more accurate, inclusive, and in-depth narratives about the region. It allows us to understand the history of the Middle East in a broader context and view it as an integral part of the development of a complex world.

Modern history writing in the Middle East has emphasized a multidimensional approach that pays attention to social, cultural, and political aspects. This allows for a more comprehensive understanding of the history of the region that includes social changes, cultural dynamics, and political evolutions that have influenced the development of the Middle East.

First, in the context of social history, modern Middle Eastern history writing has delved deeper into the role of societies and social groups in historical change. The studies include analysis of how Middle Eastern societies interact, shape identities, and address social challenges such as urbanization, demographic changes, and changes in family structure.

Later, in cultural history research, modern history writers of the Middle East have paid special attention to the rich and complex cultural development of the region. It includes analysis of art, literature, music, architecture, and popular culture. These cultural studies help explain how cultural heritage has survived and changed over time, as well as how Middle Eastern culture has impacted the globalized world.

In a political context, the writing of modern history of the Middle East includes an in-depth analysis of the development of governments, revolutions, conflicts, and political changes in the region. It includes an understanding of traditional political systems, the process of colonialism, the rise of modern states, independence struggles, and the political impact of regional conflicts. In addition, modern Middle Eastern historians also seek to understand the international relations that influenced the region. This includes an analysis of the Middle East's role in global geopolitics, diplomacy, international agreements, and regional conflicts such as Israeli-Palestinian and the Syrian Civil War.

This multidimensional approach in Middle Eastern history writing helps shape a richer and more complex understanding of the region. This allows us to see the history of the Middle

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<sup>38</sup> Maryam Ahmed Al-Mutawa, "Qatar Digital Library: A New Phase of Digital Archives," *Bibliothek Forschung Und Praxis* 43, no. 3 (2019), <https://doi.org/10.1515/bfp-2019-2072>.

East as a phenomenon that is more than just a sequence of political events, but also as a reflection of the diverse social and cultural dynamics that have shaped the identity and development of the region over the centuries.

## **5. Challenges and Controversies in Middle Eastern Historical Writing**

### **a. The Debate Revolves Around The Israeli-Palestinian Historical Narrative.**

The debate surrounding the Israeli-Palestinian historical narrative is one of the most complex and controversial issues in contemporary history. This historical narrative involves two entities, Israelis and Palestinians, who share different views on the same origins, rights, and territorial claims. The debate also reflects a variety of social, political, and cultural conflicts that have been going on for decades<sup>39</sup>.

First, there is the debate around the origins and rights of land. Israel and Palestine each have a historical narrative linking them to the region. Israel refers to the ancient history of the Jewish nation and its historical claim to the Land of Israel. Meanwhile, Palestinians hold on to their historical claims as the indigenous inhabitants of the territory who have lived there for centuries. These differences become a constant source of strife and conflict.

Second, the debate around conflict also includes questions about human rights and justice. Issues such as Israeli settlements in the West Bank, the status of Jerusalem, Palestinian refugee rights, and borders are hot topics in this debate. International organizations, such as the United Nations, have sought to mediate and resolve these conflicts, but fundamental differences in historical narratives have often hampered peace efforts.

Third, this historical narrative influences public perception and international opinion. Both try to influence global public opinion and international support. Each side uses its media, diplomacy, and historical narratives to garner international support, be it from countries or non-governmental organizations.

Fourth, efforts to create reconciliation and peace are also influenced by historical narratives. One of the main obstacles in peace talks is how to build a common historical narrative that is acceptable to both sides. For example, the issue of resolving the status of Jerusalem is one of the most difficult because it has high historical and religious value for both sides<sup>40</sup>.

Fifth, this debate highlights the importance of a deeper understanding of the history and culture of the region. A multidisciplinary approach that considers social, cultural, and historical perspectives is essential to understanding these conflicts. In addition, dialogue between different parties to the conflict and attempts to deconstruct opposing historical narratives can help defuse tensions and seek a peaceful solution that is just for all parties involved.

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<sup>39</sup> L. Carl Brown and Tom Segev, "One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate," *Foreign Affairs* 80, no. 2 (2001), <https://doi.org/10.2307/20050073>.

<sup>40</sup> Agus Yasin and Ahmad Faizin Soleh, "Etika Talmud Babylonia Terhadap Non-Yahudi," *Journal on Education* 5, no. 3 (2023), <https://doi.org/10.31004/joe.v5i3.1934>.

## **b. Issues of Identity, Religion, and Politics in Modern Historiography.**

Issues of identity, religion, and politics have a central role in modern historiography in the Middle East, a complex region with a long and multifaceted history. These three elements are often interrelated and influence each other in constructing an understanding of history and developments in the Middle East. First of all, the issue of identity is an important factor in Middle Eastern historiography. The region involves a variety of ethnic, cultural, and linguistic groups that have a strong identity. Modern historians try to understand how these identities have shaped the social and political dynamics in the history of the region. Ethnic conflicts and attempts to maintain or restore cultural identity are often the focus of research<sup>41</sup>.

Second, religion is an important element in Middle Eastern historiography. The region is the birthplace of three major world religions: Islam, Christianity, and Judaism. These religions have had a significant impact on the history, culture, and politics of the Middle East. Historians often examine how religion played a role in the formation of states, conflicts, peace, and ethnic identities in the region.

Third, political issues also dominate Middle Eastern historiography. With a long and complex history, the region has seen a variety of competing political forces and entities. The study of politics involves an analysis of governance, regional conflicts, imperialism, nationalism, and regime change that often affect Middle Eastern societies significantly. Political conflicts such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Syrian Civil War, and the Iranian Revolution are some examples that reflect the interaction between religion, identity, and politics in Middle Eastern history.

Fourth, Middle Eastern historiography often tries to bring a deeper understanding of the complexity of the relationship between identity, religion, and politics. This involves recognizing the important role played by all these three factors in the development of the region. Historians seek to avoid overly narrow or biased thinking in analyzing Middle Eastern history and seek ways to understand conflicts and developments more comprehensively and balancedly.

Fifth, an understanding of identity, religion, and politics in the Middle East is highly relevant for conflict resolution and peace efforts in the region. A better understanding of the historical and cultural background can help foster dialogue between different groups and create space for peace negotiations. As such, these issues remain an important focus in modern historiography in the Middle East in an effort to defuse tensions and seek a just solution for all parties involved.

## **6. The Role of Technology in Middle Eastern Historical Research**

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<sup>41</sup> Sebastian Ille, "Nader Hashemi and Danny Postel (Eds.) *Sectarianization: Mapping the New Politics of the Middle East* London: C. Hurst & Co., 2017, 320 Pp. £18.99 Pbk," *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism* 18, no. 2 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1111/sena.12275>.

### **a. The Role of Digital Archives and Online Resources.**

The development of information technology has played an important role in the writing of history in the Middle East with the advent of digital archives and online resources. This role has had a significant impact in facilitating historical research, accessing valuable sources, and facilitating international collaboration among historians. Here are some important aspects of the role of digital archives and online resources in history writing in the Middle East:

1. Access to Historical Sources: Digital archives and online resources provide easier and faster access to a wide range of historical sources relevant to the Middle East. This includes ancient documents, manuscripts, government archives, archaeological records, and more. Previously, historians had to travel to the physical location of these archives, but now they can access them from anywhere in the world, allowing for more extensive and efficient research. One interesting example is Dar el-Suryan in Egypt, and also the British library collection which has a large number of ancient manuscripts<sup>42</sup>.

2. Preservation and Protection of Historical Sources: Digital archives also help in the preservation and protection of historical sources. Historical documents and artifacts can be updated digitally to avoid physical damage due to factors such as weather or age. In addition, it can also reduce the risk of theft or damage by humans.

3. International Collaboration: Online resources facilitate international collaboration among historians who have an interest in Middle Eastern history. They can share data, analyze shared documents, and discuss their research with colleagues around the world. This results in a richer and deeper viewpoint on the history of the region.

4. Interdisciplinary Research: Digital resources also enable an interdisciplinary research approach. Historians can work with experts from fields such as archaeology, anthropology, political science, and sociology to understand Middle Eastern history in a more comprehensive way. It helps delve into various social, cultural, and political aspects of historical writing.

5. Promoting Inclusivity in History Writing: Online resources also enable inclusivity in history writing by incorporating voices and perspectives that may have previously been ignored or suppressed in traditional historical narratives. This includes including narratives from minority groups, women, and other social groups that have made important contributions to Middle Eastern history.

With an increasingly important role in history writing in the Middle East, digital archives and online resources continue to be valuable tools for historians who want to understand and detail the history of the region in a more accurate, inclusive, and in-depth way.

### **b. The Impact of Technology on Archiving and Research.**

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<sup>42</sup> David A. Michelson, "Mixed up by Time and Chance? Using Digital Media to 'Re-Orient' the Syriac Religious Literature of Late Antiquity," *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture* 5, no. 1 (2016), <https://doi.org/10.1163/21659214-90000073>.

Technology has had a significant impact on archiving and research in the Middle East, which covers a region with a long and varied history. The development of information technology has brought changes in the way archives are stored, accessed, and managed, as well as increased the efficiency of historical research in the region.

First, technology has changed the way archiving is done in the Middle East. The process of storing documents and historical records that were previously done manually has now switched to digital format. Digital archives allow archivists to store documents in electronic format, which is easier to organize, maintain, and maintain. This not only saves physical space but also reduces the risk of damage caused by environmental factors.

Second, technology has enabled wider and faster access to valuable archives. Thanks to online resources, historical researchers around the world can access historical documents of the Middle East without having to come to its physical location. This allows for more efficient research and allows historians to unearth more diverse sources in their work.

Third, technology has also provided support in the maintenance and preservation of historical archives in the Middle East. Documents that are vulnerable to physical damage such as ancient manuscripts and archaeological artifacts can be restored and digitally updated to maintain their integrity. It is important to preserve the rich historical heritage of the Middle East. One clear example is that done by Jordan which has started the use of digital technology for the maintenance and conservation of historical sites and historical relics<sup>43</sup>.

Fourth, technology facilitates interdisciplinary research in the Middle East. With easy access to historical data in digital format, historians can work closely with experts from fields such as archaeology, anthropology, political science, and sociology. This allows for a more holistic and in-depth approach in understanding the history of the region.

Fifth, technology has helped in stretching the history of a more inclusive Middle East. With easier access to historical resources, historical researchers can include viewpoints and narratives that may have previously been ignored or suppressed in traditional history writing. This allows for better recognition of the contributions of different groups, cultures, and identities in the history of the region.

Overall, technology has changed the landscape of archiving and historical research in the Middle East in significant ways. This has eased access to historical sources, increased research efficiency, and allowed greater inclusivity in the writing of the region's history. Technology continues to be an invaluable tool for historians who want to understand and detail the complex and diverse history of the Middle East.

## **CLOSING**

The historiographical evolution of Middle Eastern history has undergone significant

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<sup>43</sup> Claudia Trillo et al., "Towards a Systematic Approach to Digital Technologies for Heritage Conservation. Insights from Jordan," *Preservation, Digital Technology and Culture* 49, no. 4 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1515/ptdc-2020-0023>.

changes over time. Before the advent of Islam, Arabs used to rely on historiography for information contained in poems and hereditary stories passed down orally from generation to generation. After the advent of Islam, the narration of hadith became an important element in historical writing. Later in the Abbasid Caliphate emerged scholars who developed historical science more broadly, such as Ibn Kathir, Ibn Al-Atsir, and Ibn Jarir. At this time the science of history began to stand alone apart from the science of hadith and other sciences. Only then did the Middle East enter the period of western colonialism. In the era of colonialism, Middle Eastern history writing was often dominated by European colonial views that often denigrated and disparaged the civilization and culture of the region. The history written by European colonizers was more concerned with their own achievements and often overlooked the significant contributions derived from local culture. This view creates a deep colonial bias in the historical narrative of the Middle East.

However, as nationalism and independence movements developed in the Middle East in the 20th century, there were significant changes in the writing of the history of the region. Middle Eastern historians began to craft historical narratives that were more autonomous and focused on their own national identities. They also seek to delve deeper into the social, cultural, and political aspects of their history, as well as pay attention to previously neglected contributions. Moreover, along with advances in information technology and globalization, digital resources and international collaboration have played an important role in the writing of Middle Eastern history. Historians now have greater access to historical sources through digital archives and online resources, enabling more comprehensive research. Collaboration among historians from different countries has also brought richer and more diverse viewpoints in the understanding of Middle Eastern history. Overall, the evolution of Middle Eastern historical historiography reflects a shift in paradigms, perspectives, and approaches used by historians. From the dominant European colonial view at first, Middle Eastern historiography has evolved into a more autonomous, inclusive, and diverse study that allows us to understand the complex and rich history of the region better.

The emphasis on diversity of viewpoints and the ongoing debate in Middle Eastern history writing is one of the important characteristics in the development of modern historiography in the region. The history of the Middle East includes a variety of ethnic, religious, and cultural groups that have different experiences and perspectives on historical events. Modern historians have recognized the importance of documenting and understanding this diversity in order to create a more inclusive and accurate historical narrative.

On going debate is also a hallmark in Middle Eastern history writing. Political conflicts, identity issues, and different interpretations of controversial historical events, such as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are still the subject of intense debate. Historians often have different perspectives on these events, and the debates reflect the historical and political complexity of the region. The debate also creates space to question existing historical narratives and challenge views that may have been accepted for decades. By continuing to consider different viewpoints and participating in open debate, historians can continue to enrich our understanding of the

complex and diverse history of the Middle East.

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