

MEEEA

NEWSLETTER

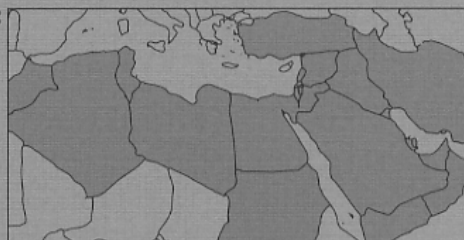
MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Vol. 9, No. 1

Fall 1998

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MEEA Research in Middle East Economics

The third volume in the MEEA's annual series, *Research in Middle East Economics*, will be shipped by our publisher, JAI Press, Inc., to members in January 1999. If you have not yet done so, please renew your membership immediately in order to receive your copy at a price almost one-third lower than the list price for academicians (\$30 versus \$43.95). All members who paid the \$45 membership fee for 1998 will automatically receive Volume 3.

The table of contents of Volume 3 is provided on p. 6.

The series editor, Karen Pfeifer, strongly urges submissions from MEEA members for future volumes.

Volume 4: Volume 4 will be devoted to the topic of "Women and Work in the Middle East," and is being guest-edited by Dr. Mine Cinar, Loyola University department of economics. The volume will be dated 1999 and will appear at the end of that year.

Volume 5: Volume 5 will be devoted to the topic of "Food, Agriculture and Economic Development in the Middle East," and is being guest-edited by Dr. Hans Lofgren of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), Washington D.C.

At its meeting in January 1999, the MEEA Board of Directors will take up the issue of whether Volume 6 should be a non-theme or a theme issue, and, if it is to be a theme issue, what that theme might be. If you have a preference or a suggestion, please communicate it to any member of the Board to be included in the discussion at the meeting. Be sure to state your reasoning.

Reviewers needed: The editors are always eager for reliable and thoughtful reviewers of manuscripts, for either non-theme volumes or as a help to guest editors of theme volumes. If you provide this valuable service to the profession, you will not only receive our undying gratitude, but your name will also appear on the frontispiece of the volume in the list of "Reviewers of Manuscripts." Please jot a note or an e-mail to the series editor (see below) indicating your willingness and be sure to include your name and address and state your fields of expertise. Work it is, but important and gratifying work. Thanks!

Karen Pfeifer
Dept. of Economics
Smith College
Northampton, MA 01063

kpfeifer@sophia.smith.edu
phone (413) 585-3623
fax (413) 585-3389

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

WESTERN ECONOMICS ASSOCIATION MEETINGS:

MEEA members interested in submitting a Middle East related paper to the 74th Annual Conference of the Western Economic Association International (WEA), to be held in San Diego, Ca. July 6-10, 1999, should please send a title, one paragraph abstract and a submission fee of \$25 to Prof. Jeffrey Nugent, Dept. of Economics, U. of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90089-0253, USA by January 25, 1999. Anyone whose dues are not up to date should add \$45 dollars. The costs of registration for the conference (\$160) must be paid directly to the WEA by April 1, 1999.

MEEA IN DEFENSE OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACADEMIC FREEDOM:

MEEA's Committee on Human Rights and Academic Freedom (CHRAF) monitors infringements of human rights and academic freedom of economists in the Middle East. For information, please contact Co-Chairs of MEEA-CHRAF, Abbas Alnasrawi or Sohrab Behdad. Prof. Alnasrawi may be reached at the Dept. of Economics, U. of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont 05405 USA, Ph. 802-656-3064, Fax 802-656-8405, e-mail alnasra@moose.uvm.edu. Professor Behdad is at the Dept. of Economics, Denison U., Granville, Ohio, 43023 USA, Ph. 740-587-6404, Fax 740-587-6348, e-mail behdad@denison.edu.

CALL FOR PAPERS:

Hans Lofgren requests submissions for Vol. 6 of RMEE by May 1, 1999. Papers should be 25-30 pages, on some aspect of food and agriculture in the Middle East. Send your submissions to Hans Lofgren, International Food Policy Research Institute, 2033 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20006, USA, Ph. 202-862-5630, Fax 202-467-4439, e-mail h.lofgren@cgnet.com. Reviewers also needed for this volume.

MEEA BUSINESS MEETING JANUARY 4, 1998, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The meeting started at 5:46 p.m.

The meeting started by welcoming two new Board members: Bulent Uyar, the new Treasurer, and Hans Lofgren. A plaque was presented in absentia to MEEA's ex-treasurer, Hamid Zangeneh. The Board formally thanked Dr. Zangeneh for his years of service. New members to the MEEA were also welcomed, including colleagues from North Cyprus universities.

The number of sessions for the upcoming meetings were announced. Along with other ASSA affiliated organizations, MEEA sessions were reduced. There are eight sessions for the 1999 New York meetings and six for the 2000 Boston meetings.

The themes for the 3rd and the 4th volumes of MEEA's annual were announced. MEEA is also looking for competing proposals for Volume 5, which will again be a theme volume. The proposals for guest-editing the fifth volume should be sent in by May 1998.

Jennifer Olmsted is the new newsletter editor and news of members should be sent to her. MEEA is also starting electronic proceedings with next year's meetings, to be compiled by Mine Cinar.

The winner of the Ibn Khaldun prize for the outstanding junior scholar in the MEEA sessions for this year is Tarik Yousef, of IMF, who won the prize based on his paper "Deglobalization, Divergence in Interwar Egypt". Congratulations to Dr. Yousef.

IBN KHALDUN PRIZE:

Reminder that submissions for the Ibn Khaldun Prize for the best paper on one or more Middle Eastern countries by a junior economist (no more than three years after receiving the Ph.D.) must be received no later than December 11, 1999 at the following address: Prof. Jeffrey B. Nugent, Dept. of Economics, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. 90089-0253, USA. The entries will be evaluated by a three person committee.

MEEA'S ELECTRONIC PROCEEDINGS:

MEEA papers presented at the ASSA meetings may now be published on-line. Please contact Mine Cinar for details on how to publish a paper presented at the meetings in this forum. Mine Cinar, Dept. of Economics, Loyola U. Chicago, 820 N Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, 60611, USA, e-mail: mcinar@luc.edu.

ICARE MEETING:

WORRIED ABOUT CUTS IN SESSIONS? There will be an ICARE Open House and Town Meeting during the ASSA meetings in NYC. The meeting was proposed to devise a plan to react to the cuts in heterodox and area-studies sessions for 1999 and 2000. In the next three years there will be open discussion about balancing ASSA access with meeting room numbers and capacities in conference cities. Anyone interested in ICARE and in continuing to develop global links among heterodox and pluralistic groups is welcome to come to the meeting on Sat., Jan. 2, from 2:30-4:00 P.M. in the Sheraton Riverside Ballroom.

MIDDLE EAST REPORT (MER):

The Spring 1999 issue of Middle East Report (MER 210) deals with economic restructuring and globalization in the Middle East, and the Summer 1999 issue (MER 211) addresses Labor Migration in the region. To order call Paulette Green at Blackwell Publishers, 1-800-835-6770 or contact MER by e-mail at: merip@igc.org.

The MEEA members were asked to mention the prize to paper presenters this year and to also nominate junior scholars for the prize.

Summer sessions of MEEA can be arranged with Western Economic Association which will take place at the end of June. Proposals of sessions and papers can be sent to Jeffrey Nugent who will be the program chair.

CHRAF report on the human rights committee was given by Sohrab Behdad. Regardless of a person's political persuasion, CHRAF will examine and help academic freedom as long as a person is an economist in the MENA region.

Audience was asked for feedback from the present sessions. Members asked that six person sessions be avoided in the future. It was also again stressed that if a person did not show up for his/her session, the person could not get on the program for at least another three years.

Dean Wassim Shahin of Lebanese American University, Byblos, Lebanon, announced the forthcoming conference on Income Inequality, Poverty and Unemployment in the MENA Region and announced the call for papers. The formal call for papers will be mailed out with the general call for papers in January.

All Bayar, of the EU Commission and University of Brussels, announced a call for papers on global economic analysis using CGE models in June 1998 in Brussels. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm. E. Mine Cinar, Executive Secretary

**Middle East Economic Association Annual Meeting
in conjunction with the Allied Social Science Association**

January 3-5, 1999, New York, NY

JANUARY 3, 1999

8:00 A.M.
INFLATION IN THE TURKISH
ECONOMY

Presiding: **Bulent Uyar**
University of Northern Iowa

"Hot Money and Financial Crisis: the Turkish Experience," **Erol Balkan**, Hamilton College and **Erinc Yeldan**, Bilkent U.

"Inflation and Inflation Uncertainty in Turkey," **Tevfik F. Nas** and **Mark Perry**, U. Michigan, Flint

"Long Run Growth Costs of Inflation: the Case of Turkey," **Mahmut Kalkan**, Central Bank of Turkey

"Monetary Policy Reaction Function in Turkey," **Almila Karasoy**, Central Bank of Turkey

"Alternative Definitions of the Budget Deficit and Inflationary Expectations: the Case of Turkey," **Cigdem Izgi Kogar**, Central Bank of Turkey

Discussants:
Hesna Genay, Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) of Chicago
Haluk Erhat, Middle East Technical University (METU)
Luan Lubuelle, Northwestern U. and the City of New York
Erinc Yeldan, Bilkent University

10:15 A.M.
LABOR ISSUES AND POLITICAL
ECONOMY IN TURKEY

Presiding: **Nejat Anbarci**
Florida International U. (FIU)

"Intra-Marital Sharing Rules With Evidence From Turkey," **Nejat Anbarci**, FIU and **E. Mine Cinar**, Loyola U. Chicago

"Trade Liberalization and Factor Demand Elasticities: Evidence From Turkey," **Sajid Chinoy**, Stanford U., **Pravin Krishna**, Brown and Stanford U. and **Devashish Mitra**, FIU

"Measuring Persistence in Turkish Macroeconomic Time Series"
Haluk Erhat, METU and **Tanju Yorulmazer**, New York U.

"Political Economy of State-Owned Enterprises," **Cem Karayalcin**, FIU

"Distributional Dynamics in the Turkish Private Manufacturing industry (1988-1997)," **Hasan Kirmanoglu**, Istanbul Bilgi U. and **Mustafa Ege Yazgan**, U. of Sussex

Discussants:
Hassan Arvin-Rad, Wayne State
Bulent Uyar, U of Northern Iowa
Mehmet Emin Karaaslan, Alfred U.
Brett Katzman, Miami U.

2:30 P.M.
GLOBAL FINANCIAL MARKETS
AND THE MIDDLE EAST

Presiding: **Tulin Sener**
SUNY-New Paltz

"Global Investing in Emerging Markets," **Tulin Sener** and **Hadi Salavitabar**, SUNY-New Paltz

"The Need for International Accounting Standards for Globalization of Financial Markets," **Besalet Basoglu**, Manhattan College

"Volatility, Global Information, and Market Structure: A Study in International Futures Markets," **Gary Patterson**, SUNY-New Paltz and **Hung Gay Fung**, U. of Baltimore

"Financial Markets and Globalization in Turkey," **Tulay Arin**, Istanbul U.

"Information Content of Analysts' Earnings Forecasts in an Emerging Market: the Case of Turkey," **Hakan Saraoglu**, Bryant College and **Gulnur Muradoglu**, Bilkent U.

Discussants:
Ahmad Goma, Manhattan College
E. Mine Cinar, Loyola U. Chicago
Nuray Guner, METU
Simm Mozeyani, SUNY-New Paltz

**MEEA BOARD MEETING
5:30 -7:30 p.m.
INVITATION ONLY
SHERATON HOTEL**

JANUARY 4, 1999

**8:00 A.M.
TOPICS IN MIDDLE EAST
ECONOMIES**

Presiding: **Wassim Shahin**
Lebanese American U.

"Direct Foreign Investment and Economic Growth in the MENA Region: Theory and Evidence," **Abdel-Hameed Bashir**, Grambling State U.

"The Role of the Financial Transformation in Turkey Between 1980 and 1997," **Cigdem Celik**, Istanbul Bilgi U.

"Terms and Direction of Trade in Select Oil Exporting Countries," **Siamack Shojai**, Manhattan College

"Is Government Size Optimal in the Gulf Countries," **Hassan Aly**, Ohio State U. and **Mark Strzicich**, U. of Central Florida

"Sustainable Tourism Development in Turkey: Rhetoric or Reality?" **Sevgin Akis**, Isik U.

Discussants:
Bulent Uyar, U. of Northern Iowa
Shah Mehrabi, Montgomery College
Manoucher Parwin, The U. of Akron
Guzin Erlat, METU
Gulay Gunluk-Senesen, Istanbul U.

**10:15 A.M.
TRADE BLOCKS AND REGIONAL
COOPERATION IN THE MIDDLE
EAST**

Presiding: **Jeffrey Nugent**
U. of Southern California (USC)

"Partnership With Europe and Structural Adjustment: A General Equilibrium Analysis of Alternative Scenarios for Morocco," **Hans Lofgren** and **Sherman Robinson**, International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

"From East to West Asia: Lessons of Globalization, Crisis and Reform," **Hassan Hakimian**, U. of London

"European Enlargement to the East and Its Implications for the MENA Region," **Ali Bayar**, European Commission

"European Monetary Union and the Turkish Economy," **Melike Altinkemer**, Central Bank of Turkey

"Regional Economic Relations in the Arab World Since Camp David," **Paul J. C. Sullivan**, American U. Cairo (AUC)

Discussants:
Ali Bayar, European Commission
Hans Lofgren, IFPRI
Luan Lubuelle, Northwestern U. and the City of New York
Shah Mehrabi, Montgomery College

**2:30 P.M.
LABOR, HOUSEHOLD INCOME
AND HUMAN RESOURCES IN
THE MIDDLE EAST**

Presiding: **Fatemeh Moghadam**
Hofstra U.

"Labor Earnings Inequality, Human Resources Policies and Poverty in Jordan," **Zafiris Tzannatos**, The World Bank

"Intertemporal Substitution and Fertility Dynamics in Iran," **Djavad Salehi-Isfahani** and **Ajay Tandon**, Virginia Polytechnic Inst. and State U.

"The Effects of Income Tax on Personal Income Distribution in Turkey Since 1960," **Raziye Selim** and **Umit Senesen**, Istanbul Technical U.

"Human Resource Development in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine," **Heba Nasser**, AUC

"Measuring the Effects of Trade Flows on Employment in Turkish Manufacturing Industry," **Guzin Erlat**, METU

Discussants:
Michael Kevane, U. of Santa Clara
Jeffrey Nugent, USC
Jennifer Olmsted, USDA-Economic Research Service

**MEEA BUSINESS MEETING
5:30 -7:30 p.m.
OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS
SHERATON HOTEL**

MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, please fill in the attached form and return it to the Executive Secretary. The membership fee is

\$45 U.S. for faculty or other professionals

\$35 U.S. for students

Name	_____
Rank & Affiliation	_____
Professional Address	_____
	Telephone: Professional _____
Home Address	_____
	Telephone: Home _____

JANUARY 5, 1999

8:00 A.M.
CAPITAL FORMATION AND
FINANCIAL MARKETS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

Presiding: **Hesna Genay**
FRB Chicago

"A Trojan Horse or the Golden Fleece? Small Business Investment Companies and Government Guarantees," **Elijah Brewer III** and **Hesna Genay**, FRB Chicago, **William R. Jackson III**, U. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and **Paula R. Worthington**, FRB Chicago

"Economic Uncertainty and Credit Crunch: Evidence From Turkish Banking System," **Seza Danisoglu-Rhoades** and **Nuray Gunar**, METU

"What is the Monetary Policy Rule in Turkey?" **Hakan Berument**, Bilkent U. and **Kamuran Malatyali**, State Planning Organization

"Managing Public Debt with Foreign Currency Linked Bonds: A Lebanese Application," **Wassim N. Shahin** and **Abdallah Dah**, Lebanese American U.

"How Efficient is the Efficient Frontier in an Emerging Market: the Case of Istanbul Stock Exchange," **Aslihan Altay-Salih**, **Gulnur Muradoglu** and **Muhammed Mercan**, Bilkent U.

Discussants:
E. Mine Cinar, Loyola U. Chicago
Hesna Genay, FRB Chicago
Victor Gastanaga, USC

10:15 A.M.
ECONOMIC HISTORY AND
ISLAMIC ECONOMICS IN THE
MIDDLE EAST

Presiding: **Sohrab Behdad**
Denison University

"Building a New Industry in Colonial Egypt: Producing Cigarettes 1884-1905," **Relli Shechter**, Harvard University

"Transport Development, State Intervention and the Evolution of the Law of One Price in Egypt, 1920-1960" **Tarik Yousef**, IMF

"The Transformation of Israel's Social Structure: Between Two Theories of Capital Formation," **Najwa Makhoul**, Harvard U. and Sarah Lawrence College

"The Socio-Economic Determinants of Islamic Movement in Urban Turkey," **Ali C. Tasiran** and **Fatma Muge Gocsek**, U. of Michigan and **Yilmaz Esmer**, Bogazici University

Discussants:
Nicholas Sanchez, College of Holy Cross
Karen Pfeifer, Smith College
Zafiriz Tzannatos, The World Bank

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 19th Annual Meeting of the Middle East Economic Assoc. (MEEA) to be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Allied Social Science Assoc. in
Boston, Massachusetts
January 7-9, 2000

Please send a one-page abstract by **April 10, 1999** to:
E. Mine Cinar
Executive Secretary
Middle East Economic Assoc.
Department of Economics
Loyola University Chicago
820 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611 U.S.A.
e-mail:mcinar@LUC.EDU

Note: Abstracts should be accompanied with a program submission fee of \$25.00 US dollars as well as an annual membership fee of \$45 for 1999.

HOUSING INSTRUCTIONS:

ITS Housing Bureau
PO Box 825
108 Wilmot Road 4th Fl.
Deerfield, IL 60015

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847-940-2386

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ITS will only accept Credit Card Reservations for more info see:
<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/AEA/hotd.htm>

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New York, NY 10019
212-586-7000

Sheraton New York
811 7th Ave.
New York, NY 10019
212-581-1000

Grand Hyatt NY
Park Ave. at Grand Central
New York, NY 10017
212-883-1234

RIHGA Royal Suite
151 West 54th Street
New York, NY 10019
212-307-5000

Crown Plaza
Manhattan
1605 Broadway
New York, NY 10019
212-977-4000

Novotel New York
226 West 52nd Street
New York, NY 10019
212-315-0100

Roosevelt Hotel
Madison Avenue at 45th
New York, NY 10017
212-861-9600

Ramada Milford Plaza
270 West 45th St
New York, NY 10036
212-869-3600

RESEARCH IN MIDDLE EAST ECONOMICS
Table of Contents
 Volume 3

**THE ECONOMICS OF MIDDLE EAST PEACE:
 A REASSESSMENT**

Sara Roy, Volume Editor

PREFACE Karen Pfeifer, Series Editor

ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS TO VOLUME 3

INTRODUCTION Sara Roy, Volume Editor

CHAPTER 1. ISRAELI CLOSURE POLICY: SABOTAGING
 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
 Samir Abdullah and Clare Woodcraft

CHAPTER 2. BEYOND OSLO: A VIABLE FUTURE FOR
 THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY
 George Abed

CHAPTER 3. THE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS OF
 DONOR ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIANS IN THE WEST
 BANK AND GAZA STRIP, 1993-1997
 Rick Hooper

CHAPTER 4. PEACE AND THE ISRAELI ECONOMY
 Eli Sagi

CHAPTER 5. SOURCING ALLIANCES AND OPEN MAR-
 KET TRANSACTIONS: TRADE IN GOODS BETWEEN
 ISRAEL, JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIAN ECONOMY
 Ezra Sadan

CHAPTER 6. AN UNFORSEEN RIVALRY: THE PEACE
 PROCESS AND THE JORDANIAN AND PALESTINIAN
 ECONOMIES
 Gil Feiler and Joshua Zaretsky

CHAPTER 7. A CAVEAT FOR PEACE: SOME NOTES ON
 THE VULNERABILITY OF PALESTINIAN LABOR
 Paul Sullivan

CHAPTER 8. THOUGHTS ON THE ARAB ECONOMIES
 AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ON THE THRESHOLD
 OF THE 21st CENTURY
 Yusuf Sayigh

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The importance of such a conference manifests itself in the following 1996 data and figures from the United Nations: The percent of people below the absolute poverty line constitutes 49 % in sub Saharan Africa, 41 % in South & South East Asia, 36 % in Latin America and 32 % in the MENA region. The average for the developing of world is 30% and the number of poor is 1438 million persons.

As far as income inequality is concerned, I present the following figures on the share of global income. In 1960, the share of global income of the poorest 20% was 2.3 and the share of the richest 20% was 70.2. In 1990, the figure worsened. The share of the poorest 20% was 1.4 and the share of the richest 20% was 82.7. According to these numbers, the ratio of income of rich to poor moved from 30-1 in 1960 to 59-1 in 1990.

The reality of these figures extends beyond the economic loss to threaten political stability and social cohesion. Although the increase in earnings inequality in the 1980's & 1990's has been well documented, its causes are still being studied and debated.

Therefore, our conference aims at enhancing our understanding of this reality and presenting solutions and recommendations for addressing these issues. The topics of this conference have gained international recognition three weeks ago reflected in choosing Amartya Sen as the Nobel Prize winner in economics for 1998. Sen achieved major research in welfare economics addressing the issue of poverty and recommending major structural solutions for this problem by arguing against relying only on the head-count approach of the poor as a poverty measure. In addition, he highlighted an income gap approach which measures the additional income needed to bring the poor up to the level of the poverty line and recommended measuring the distribution of income among the poor. We hope that this year's choice of the Swedish Academy of Sciences provides us with incentives to continue addressing the major issues of the conference on a regular and permanent basis. The Lebanese American University will be extremely happy to provide a home for future endeavors.

NEW MEMBERS 1998

Aslihan Altay-Salih Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey	Cigdem Celik Bilgi University Istanbul, Turkey	Almira Karasoy Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey	Hakan Saraoglu Bryant College Smithfield, RI
Sema Kutay Aydede Chicago, IL	Aylin Ege Middle East Technical U. Ankara, Turkey	Cigdem Kogar Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey	Raziye Selim Istanbul Technical University Turkey
Hamid Azari-Rad Montgomery, AL	Nuray Z. Guner Carboro, NC	Fadhil Mahdi Chappaqua, NY	Relli I. Shechter Harvard University Cambridge, MA
Azzedine Azzam Univ. of Nebraska - Lincoln	Nadir Gurer OPEC Vienna, Austria	Gary Patterson SUNY at New Paltz	Franklin Vivekananda San Antonio, TX
Hakan Berument Bilkent University Ankara, Turkey	Mahmut Kalkan Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey	Ferhan Salman Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey	Dunning S. Wilson Los Angeles, CA

NEW AND RECENT TITLES

- Abdelkarim, Abbas, *Change and Development in the Gulf*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Abu Shair, Osama, *Privatization and Development*, St. Martin's, 1997.
- Akiner, Shirin, Sander Tideman and Jon Hay, Editors, *Sustainable Development in Central Asia*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Amuzegar, Jahangir, *Iran's Economy Under the Islamic Republic*, Taurus, 1997.
- _____, *Managing the Oil Wealth: OPEC's Windfalls and Pitfalls*, Taurus, 1998.
- Amon, Arie, et al., *The Palestinian Economy: Between Imposed Integration and Voluntary Separation*, Brill, 1997.
- Barlow, Robin and Joseph W. Brown, Eds, *Reproductive Health and Infectious Disease in the Middle East*, Ashgate, 1998.
- Berry, Albert, Brian Levy and Jeffrey B. Nugent, *Fulfilling the Export Potential of Small and Medium Sized Firms*, Kluwer Academic Press, forthcoming.
- Brand Laurie, *Women, the State and Political Liberalization: Middle Eastern and North African Experience*, Columbia, 1998.
- Choudhury, Masudul Alam, *Money in Islam: A Study in Islamic Political Economy*, Routledge, 1997.
- El-Ghonemy, M. R., *Affluence and Poverty in the Middle East*, Routledge, 1998.
- Elmusa, Sharif, Editor, *Water Conflict: Economics, Politics, Law and the Palestinian-Israeli Water Resources*, Institute for Palestine Studies, 1997.
- Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research, Ed., *Gulf Energy and the World: Challenges and Threats*, British Academic Press, 1998.
- _____, *The Information Revolution and the Arab World: Its Impact on State and Society*, Taurus, 1998.
- _____, *Strategic Positioning in the Oil Industry: Trends and Options*, Taurus, 1998.
- Ennaji, Mohammed, *Serving the Master: Slavery and Society in 19th Century Morocco*, St. Martin's, 1999.
- Erdem, Harkan, *Slavery in the Ottoman Empire and its Demise, 1800-1909*, St. Martin's, 1997.
- Fattah Hala Mundhir, *The Politics of Regional Trade in Iraq, Arabia and the Gulf, 1745-1900*, SUNY, 1997.
- Haj, Samira, *The Making of Iraq, 1900-1963: Capital, Power, and Ideology*, SUNY, 1997.
- Handoussa, Heba, *Economic Transition in the Middle East*, Columbia U., 1998.
- Hanna, Nelly, *Making Big Money in 1600: The Life and Times of Isma'il Abu Taqiyya, Egyptian Merchant*, Syracuse/AUC, 1997.
- Hoodfar, Homa, *Between Marriage and the Market: Intimate Politics and Survival in Cairo*, UC/AUC, 1997.
- Hopkins, Nicholas and Kirsten Westergaard, Eds, *Directions of Change in Rural Egypt*, Columbia/AUC, 1998.
- Humphrey, Michael, *Islam, Multiculturalism and Transnationalism*, Taurus, 1998.
- Hvidt, Martin, *Water, Technology and Development: Upgrading Egypt's Irrigation System*, Taurus, 1998.
- Kalyuzhnova, Yelena, *The Kazakstani Economy: Independence and Transition*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Kanoo, Khalid, *The House of Kanoo: A Century of an Arabian Family Business*, Taurus, 1998.
- Kienle, Eberhard, Ed., *Contemporary Syria: Liberalization Between Cold War and Peace*, Taurus, 1997.
- Magnus, Ralph and H. E. Naby, *Afghanistan: Mullah, Marx, and Mujahid*, Westview, 1998.
- McKinnon, Michael, *Friends in Need: The Kuwaiti Fund in the Developing World*, Taurus, 1997.
- Meir, Avinoam, *As Nomadism Ends: The Israeli Bedouin of the Negev*, Westview Press, 1997.
- Moghadam, Valentine, *Women, Work and Economic Reform*, Lynne Rienner, 1997.
- Onis, Ziya, *State and Market: The Political Economy of Turkey in Comparative Perspective*, Bogazici U. Istanbul, 1998.
- Owen, E. Roger and Sevet Pamuk, *History of Middle East Economies in the 20th Century*, Harvard U., 1999.
- Perthes, Volker, *The Political Economy of Syria*, Taurus, 1997.
- Piro Timothy J, *The Political Economy of Market Reform in Jordan*, Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.
- Pripstein Posusney, Marsha, *Labor and the State in Egypt*, Columbia U., 1997.
- Rabinovich, Itamar, *The Brink of Peace: The Israeli-Syrian Negotiations*, Princeton U., 1998.
- Robinson, Glenn E., *Building a Palestinian State: The Incomplete Revolution*, Indiana U., 1997.
- Safadi, Raed, *Opening Doors to the World: A New Trade Agenda for the Middle East*, IDRC/AUC Press, 1998.
- Shafik, Nemat, Ed., *Economic Challenges Facing Middle Eastern and North African Countries*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- _____, *Prospects for Middle Eastern and North African Countries*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Shapland, Greg, *Rivers of Discord: International Water Disputes in the Middle East*, St. Martin's, 1997.
- Sick, Gary and Lawrence Potter, Eds, *The Persian Gulf at the Millennium: Essays in Politics, Economy, Security and Religion*, St. Martin's, 1998.
- Simons Geoff, *Saudi-Arabia: The Shape of a Client Feudalism*, St Martins, 1998.
- _____, *The Scourging of Iraq: Sanctions, Law and Natural Justice*, St Martins, 1998.
- Wright, J. W., *Political Economy of Middle East Peace: The Impact of Competing Arab and Israeli Trade*, Routledge, 1998.

The Middle East Economic Association, a non-profit international organization, was formed in 1978 and is affiliated with the American Economic Association and the Middle East Studies Association. The main objective of MEEA is to foster scholarship and to establish lines of communication among specialists interested in the Political Economy of the Middle East.

Board of Directors elected by member ballot in 1997

Board of Directors		Past Presidents	
Fatemeh Moghadam Hofstra University President	Bulent Uyar U. of Northern Iowa Treasurer	Ragui Assaad U. of Minnesota	Charles Issawi Princeton University 1978-1983
E. Mine Cinar Loyola University Executive Secretary	Jeffrey Nugent U. of Southern California	Hans Lofgren International Food Policy Research Institution	Stainslaw Wellisz Columbia University 1984-1985
		Karen Pfeifer Smith College	Manoucher Parvin University of Akron 1986-1989
			Abbas Alnasrawi University of Vermont 1990-1994
			Sohrab Behdad Denison University 1995-1996

**Excerpts from the International Conference on Earnings Inequality,
Unemployment and Poverty in the Middle East and North Africa
November 5-7, 1998
Lebanese American University, Beirut, Lebanon**

Opening Words by **Nabeel F. Haidar**, Vice President for Academic Affairs

It is not a secret that social uprisings are rarely the result of social factors. Economic factors and more precisely economic deprivation and inequality were the very causes of the major revolutions that changed the face of the world. Masses rarely rise because of ideologies. Although it had lofty slogans of fraternity equality and liberty, the French Revolution's major mover of the masses was want, deprivation and near starvation.

In our world today, in this global village where information is everybody's property and where television screens take live pictures of how the rich and the beautiful live to the heart of a poor family's home... In this new world of market economy, which is pivoted and focused on the consumer's ability to purchase and spend, the issue of economic equality or economic inequality is ever more important than any other time in history; for today, there is a realization amongst poor nations and poor individuals that they have the right to a decent life, the right to acquire, the right to get education, the right to live in decent dwellings, the right to receive adequate medical care and, in short, the right to have the same basic human rights that are spelled out in the Charter of the United Nations.....

The rift between the rich North and the poor South is increasing ... The rift within poorer nations between the rich minorities and the poor majorities is also increasing ... Even in our particular Middle East and North Africa region, the countries that have been blessed by oil or gas riches and which apparently have little to worry about concerning the repercussions of social inequality ... these countries are yet to come up with credible alternatives that will assure sustainable continuation of the present boom. In this MENA

region, income inequality is only of the many factors that pose credible threats to social stability; yet, we find that these many factors are organically intertwined, that they all call for urgent solution at the same time... How can we, for example, talk about social justice without talking about the status of women and children. How can we discuss social stability without invoking the ethnic and social strives that boil within the border of many nations and how can we talk about Income Equality without talking about accountability. This ... Ladies & Gentlemen ... is the keyword. Accountability ... Without proper accountability, all is vain. And accountability comes only with the true practice of democracy. Accountability and its twin sister... Transparency ... are both persecuted entities in the larger MENA region and they can only be restored when those in charge are checked by their educated and informed constituencies ...the voters.

Speech by **Dr. Wassim Shahin**, Dean of the School of Business

The School of Business at the Lebanese American University has embarked in the last few years on policies aimed at linking its faculty, students and programs to the business and public sector communities. Rather than viewing its traditional role of teaching as the only vehicle for transmitting information, the School has addressed issues of national and international economic concerns through a series of conferences, seminars and workshops. The conference on "Earnings Inequality, Poverty and Unemployment in the Middle East and North Africa" represents a continuation of this strategy especially in presenting recommendations and solutions to alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment and income inequality.

continued on p.6

Editor's Note This is now my second year as editor of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy the excerpts from the LAU conference included in this volume. I encourage all members to contact me in the future, if they have items they would like to include in the newsletter! In particular we would like to hear about upcoming conferences, new books, calls for papers, etc. Thanks to Mine Cinar and my colleague Kathy Kassel for all the help they provided in putting together the newsletter! Jennifer Olmsted

MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

E. Mine Cinar
Executive Secretary
Dept. of Economics
Loyola University Chicago
Chicago, IL, 60611

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Send us news about yourself (new position, publications, presentations, etc.), other organizations, forthcoming conferences, job openings and new publications. Please address all communications to the **editor**:

Jennifer Olmsted
Economic Research Service -
USDA
1800 M St. NW
Washington, DC 20036
E-mail: jolmsted@econ.ag.gov