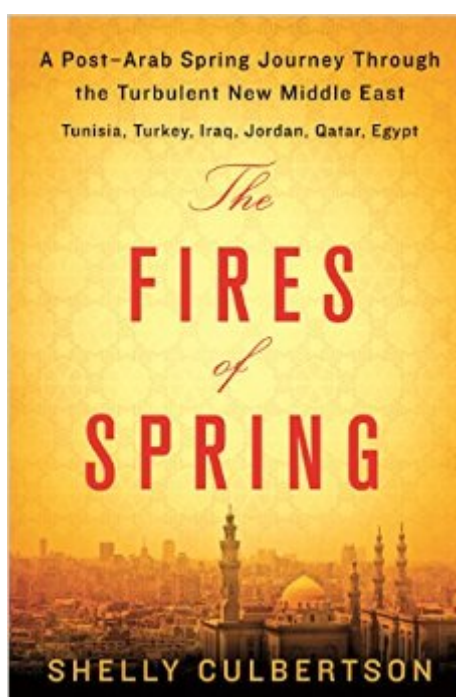


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# The Fires Of Spring: A Post-Arab Spring Journey Through The Turbulent New Middle East - Turkey, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, And Tunisia



## Synopsis

Turkey, Iraq, Qatar, Jordan, Egypt, and TunisiaThe "Arab Spring" all started when a young Tunisian fruit seller set himself on fire in protest of a government official confiscating his apples and slapping his face. The aftermath of that one personal protest grew to become the Middle East movement known as the Arab Spring—a wave of disparate events that included protests, revolutions, hopeful reform movements, and bloody civil wars. *The Fires of Spring* is the first book to bring the post-Arab Spring world to light in a holistic context. A narrative of author Shelly Culbertson's journey through six countries of the Middle East, *The Fires of Spring* tells the story by weaving together a sense of place, insight about issues of our time, interviews with leaders, history, and personal stories. Culbertson navigates the nuances of street life and peers into ministries, mosques, and women's worlds. She delves into what Arab Spring optimism was about, and at the same time sheds light on the pain and dysfunction that continues to plague parts of the region. *The Fires of Spring* blends reportage, travel memoir, and analysis in this complex and multifaceted portrait.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Islam is a mystery to most of us. Americans walk about with the muddled impression that it's a religion; or no, it's a political system; or no, it's a nation somewhere out in the middle of a desert. The depth of our ignorance has been plumbed by Donald Trump who won wide approval for promising to keep Muslims out of the country. Ours is a democratic republic, however. We owe it to ourselves to become better informed. An excellent place to start is *The Fires of Spring* by Shelly

Culbertson released in April, 2016 by St. Martin's Press. Ms. Culbertson, a policy analyst for the Rand Corporation, has focused her career on studying and writing about the Middle East. She has advised the U. S. State Department and other governments. *The Fires of Spring* is at once a travelogue and a commentary of her findings in the post-Arab Spring, a period of protest and violence that resulted in the deaths of thousands, toppled governments, vicious civil wars and one of the largest mass immigrations in modern times. Culbertson's writing style is unpretentious and straightforward – a joy to read. Her reporting is objective, all the more laudable given the complexity of the issues and the political cross-currents of the region. Her presentation builds one country at a time, beginning with Tunisia and moving through Turkey, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and Egypt in that order. Each country, all with Muslim majority, emerges with challenges in common and with problems that are unique to each. Tunisia, for example, is proud that it moved through the turbulence of the Arab Spring without bloodshed. Iraq, by contrast, was torn by wholesale slaughter of its people under Saddam Hussein. Culbertson's narrative builds on the interviews with leaders and intellectuals of the countries she visits.

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