"...argues that the confrontation that has erupted across the globe may have as many Arab as Islamic roots. Culture and Conflict in the Middle East defines the patterns intrinsic to Arab culture and shows how they shape behavior in ordinary daily interactions in the region as well as in broad-based political confrontations. This lucidly written study should be on the reading list of every introductory course on the Middle East. Salzman's book blends fascinating case studies with a deep understanding of how culture functions across time and space in the Middle East." - - Donna Ro

Conflicts in the Middle East are of strategic, economic and religious importance to the world's most powerful states. For centuries the region has been at the centre of struggles for religious and economic dominance. In this tough region, a Security Council Resolution or an intervention by the Secretary-General has less impact than it does in other less politically crowded and strategically important contexts. In Middle East peacemaking, the approach adopted by the US has long been of particular importance. We have recently witnessed important changes in the US approach: the Obama foreign policy team have indicated that they wish to work more systematically with international partners, and to adopt a multilateral approach where possible.