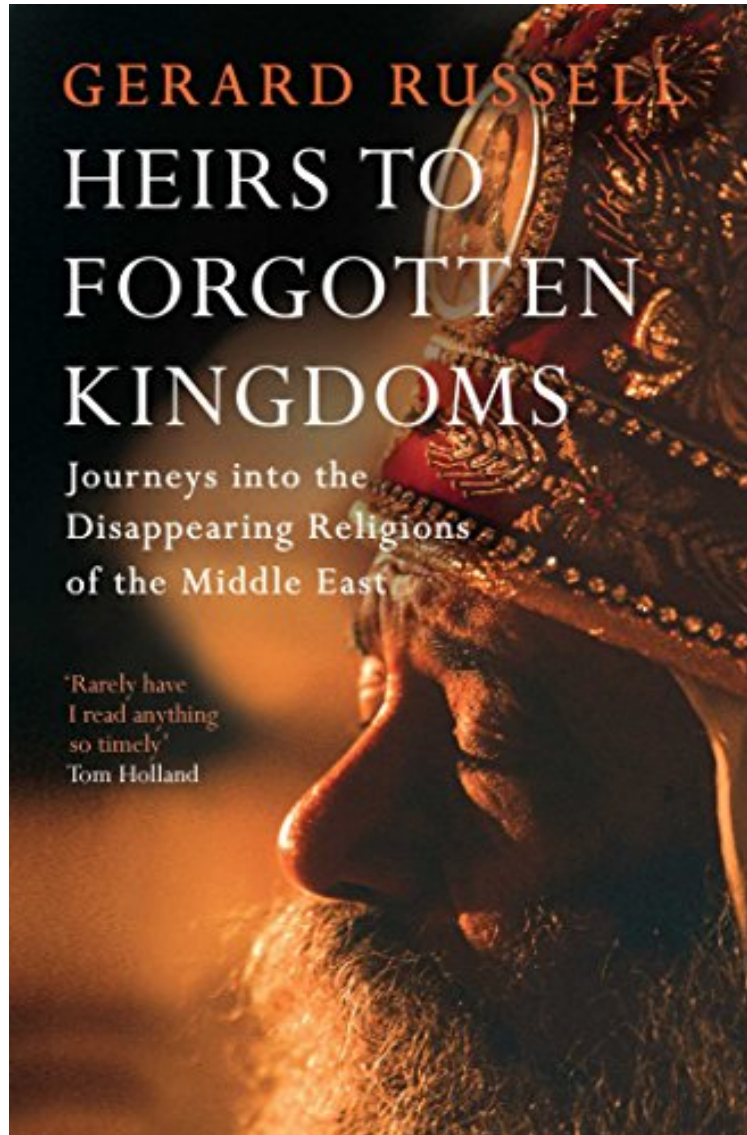


(Ebook free) Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms (English Edition)

## Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms (English Edition)

Von Gerard Russell

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**Von Gerard Russell : Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.  
WONDERFUL ACCOUNT OF SURVIVING LATE ANTIQUITY!!!!Von Thomas GotterbarmThis book is highly recommended for anyone interested in the variety of religious and philosophical thoughts in present-day Middle East, the amazingly colourful ethnography of the region and the survival of Hellenistic and Persian late antiquity up to the

present day in a predominantly Muslim context. Even though for me the topic is not new (I've been into it for decades), I tremendously enjoyed reading this travel account. (and I would have loved accompanying the author on his journey, which nowadays would not be possible any more ...). 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Heirs to forgotten Kingdoms Von Amir Travis An excellent book which not only describes the beliefs and practices of various surviving religions in the Middle East - Zoroastrianism, Mandeism, the Druze, Copts, Yazidis etc., but also the author shows how all the different religious beliefs - and their attendant Dogmas - are entwined and interconnected.. No one Religion from the area has not been affected by the beliefs of the other religions that existed at the time of its inception. No one religion remained untouched by its contemporaries. The author is a fluent Arabic and Farsi speaker and spent many years as a diplomat in the region so he has a first-hand knowledge of his subject. Essential reading for anyone interested in comparative religion or the history of the Middle East. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A world that was Von Cora B. Hermann I wept! Finishing this outstanding book - I wept. Such a rich culture, a heritage of mankind, destroyed, nearly annihilated. A priceless loss for us all. This book should be read by many people, especially by politicians.

Kurzbeschreibung Despite its reputation for religious intolerance, the Middle East has long sheltered many distinctive and strange faiths: one regards the Greek prophets as incarnations of God, another reveres Lucifer in the form of a peacock, and yet another believes that their followers are reincarnated beings who have existed in various forms for thousands of years. These religions represent the last vestiges of the magnificent civilizations in ancient history: Persia, Babylon, Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs. Their followers have learned how to survive foreign attacks and the perils of assimilation. But today, with the Middle East in turmoil, they face greater challenges than ever before. In Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms, former diplomat Gerard Russell ventures to the distant, nearly impassable regions where these mysterious religions still cling to survival. He lives alongside the Mandaeans and Ezidis of Iraq, the Zoroastrians of Iran, the Copts of Egypt, and others. He learns their histories, participates in their rituals, and comes to understand the threats to their communities. Historically a tolerant faith, Islam has, since the early 20th century, witnessed the rise of militant, extremist sects. This development, along with the rippling effects of Western invasion, now pose existential threats to these minority faiths. And as more and more of their youth flee to the West in search of greater freedoms and job prospects, these religions face the dire possibility of extinction. Drawing on his extensive travels and archival research, Russell provides an essential record of the past, present, and perilous future of these remarkable religions. Pressestimmen Carne Ross, former diplomat and founder of Independent Diplomat Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms has the beauty, wisdom, and tragedy of the best elegies. Gerard Russell's book is both timely and necessary, a scholarly and personal observation of religions that are the heritage of all mankind, yet are rapidly disappearing. It is part travelogue and part history of some of the original wellsprings of human culture, both ancient and modern, but also a meditation upon rites and beliefs that are mysterious and fascinating but grievously threatened. Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms is essential reading for everyone who cares about the Middle East, religion, and indeed our common history. Peter Bergen, author of Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for Bin Laden from 9/11 to Abbottabad As the al-Qaeda splinter group, ISIS, storms across Syria and Iraq and attempts to destroy the Yazidi religious sect, now comes Gerard Russell, an erudite, polylingual former British diplomat, who documents the fates of the ancient religions of the Middle East, many of which are on the brink of extinction. Russell writes beautifully and reports deeply, and his account of these disappearing religions' will be an enduring anthropology of largely-hidden worlds that may disappear within our own lifetimes. Emma Sky, Senior Fellow at the Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University Gerard Russell's beautifully written book provides wonderful insights into the Middle East and the beauty of the different cultures that have flourished there for centuries. It is a welcome respite from the usual portrayal of violence in the region, and at the same time a wake-up call of what will be lost if a perverse form of violent extremism is allowed to prevail. At a time when religion is so often seen as a cause of war, this book shows how lives can be enriched by maintaining rituals and beliefs through generations. James Traub, columnist for foreignpolicy.com Gerard Russell has written a wonderfully beguiling Baedaker to the vastness of the Middle East, where ancient religions have survived like the remnants of an all-but-extinct species. At a time when the region is boiling with sectarian violence, Russell reminds us that the Arab world, and Islam itself, has given shelter to ancient faiths when Christian Europe would not. Heirs To Forgotten Kingdoms is a loving tribute to the ancient and the strange, to spliced genealogies, and to the heroic defense of heterodoxy in an increasingly intolerant world. Bookforum A nation-hopping guidebook to the theology and customs of believers who can't fully inhabit the imaginations of many Western readers without a proper introduction.... Engaging and informative.... Russell introduces a cast of characters who, even when offering cagey responses to his earnest questions, humanize groups that news reports tend to treat as extras on the world stage. The National Gerard Russell, a former British diplomat who has served throughout the region, is a worthy successor to the great British Arabists of the past, passionately interested in the area and its people.... Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms is informative, thought-provoking and timely. It provides fascinating insights into the mosaic of religious beliefs that can

be found throughout the Middle East, and also into how that diversity emerged and survived. Eschewing discussion of modern politics, it presents a challenge, nevertheless, to those who bear the responsibility for how this diversity can be preserved in the years to come. All humanity will be the loser should it disappear.

**Shelf Awareness for Readers**An important and engaging book for anyone interested in the Middle East.

**Kirkus**Russell penetrates the secret workings of these religions tolerated throughout the ages by Christian or Islamic rulers, even pursuing his research to immigrant churches in Dearborn, Michigan. A pertinent work of history and journalism. As armies again march in the Middle East, these communities are at new risk.

**Ambassador Peter W. Galbraith**, author of *The End of Iraq*This beautifully written account of the Middle East's unknown and vanishing religions could not be more timely. Just as the world turns its attention to the extremist attacks on Iraq's Yazidis, Gerard Russell tells us who they are. Russell's book based on his travels among the Yazidis, Mandaeans (followers of John the Baptist), Zoroastrians, Samaritans, Copts, and Druze is the story of people and faiths that have links back to the dawn of civilization. It is travel writing in the tradition of Rebecca West and Robert Kaplan, but possibly better.

**Publishers Weekly**, starred review[A] fascinating account of minority religions in Middle East.... By tying modern practice to historical context, Russell provides a valuable briefing on the ancient and medieval history of the region. He also muses on the immediate future of each community, particularly with respect to political instability and immigration, and his cheerfully personal tone makes all this information lively. This important and enjoyable glimpse into little-considered religious dynamics of the Middle East deserves to be widely read and distributed.

**Booklist**Russell, a former British and UN diplomat who lived in the Middle East for 15 years, proves an excellent tour guide as he introduces the remnants of these near-extinct groups a fascinating read, especially when it becomes clear that, with a few twists of history, some of these religions would have been at the top, not the bottom.

**Library Journal**A fascinating and gracefully written study of minority religions, recommended for its appreciation of cultural richness and variety.

**Wall Street Journal**It is difficult to imagine a more timely book than Gerard Russell's *Heirs to Forgotten Kingdoms: Journeys Into the Disappearing Religions of the Middle East*. Equal parts travelogue and history, Mr. Russell's meticulously researched book takes readers into some of the region's least-known minority communities: the Mandaeans of Iraq, the Copts of Egypt, the Zoroastrians, the Samaritans, and, yes, the Yazidis.

**New York of Books**[A] remarkable book.... The great virtue of Russell's book is its courageous spirit of sympathy for an immense range of human experience.... An urgently needed corrective in our age of deepening religious divisions.

**Financial Times**A fascinating survey of threatened and vanishing minority religions across the broader Middle East, written in an even tone sprinkled with wonder.

**New York Times Book By the Book**[A] highly topical study of Middle Eastern anomalies which is teaching me a lot, and should be read by all Western policy makers those who do read.

**Literary (UK)**Part vivid odyssey, part lucid history.... Gerard Russell's timely and humane depiction of [these cultures] is a compelling read.