

“Lucid and elegantly written, Ussama Makdisi’s *Artillery of Heaven* accomplishes two big things. First, while examining nineteenth-century American missionary encounters in the Arab Ottoman territories, it presents a model for a new kind of transnational history that sheds light on American engagement with the world. Second, and at a time when much of the Arab past has been ‘effectively demarcated . . . as a forbidden no-man’s-land’ because of fear of what ‘divisive narratives’ of the past may dredge up, it scrutinizes the raw history of the ‘multireligious world’ in the Ottoman region that is now Lebanon.”

—MIDDLE EAST JOURNAL