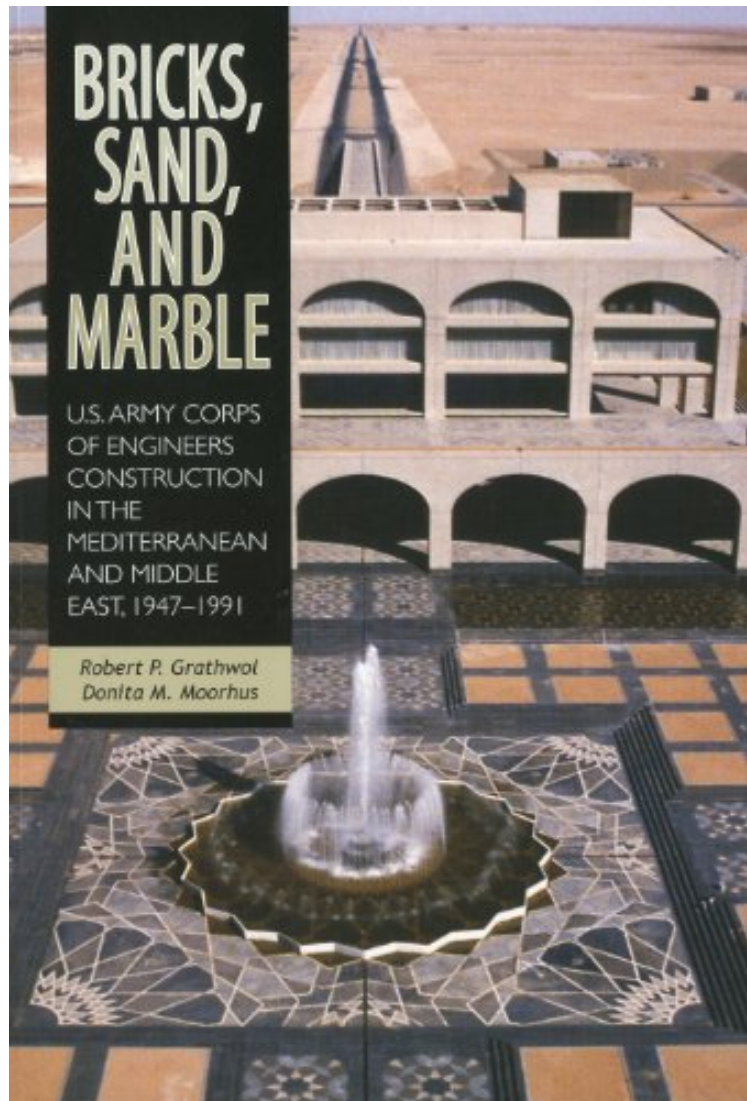


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## **Bricks, Sand And Marble: U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers Construction In The Mediterranean And Middle East, 1947-1991 (Center of Military History Publication)**

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Publication):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Bricks, Sand, and Marble: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction in the Mediterranean and Middle East, 1947-1991 By Dr. M This government publication is available on-line for free (just Google the title) My original review was based on the relatively few "peek preview" pages available on .com. Now that I have acquired a complete copy, and had a chance for a more comprehensive review, I have substantially revised my comments. This historical tome covers US Army Corps of Engineer projects and organizations involved in the Middle East and Africa - from Morocco to Pakistan, and Europe to Somalia, and everything in between., from 1941 to 1991 - a period of half a century. That was a fascinating era, with many major political shifts, both at home and abroad, and a fascinating read from both a historical and an engineering perspective. I worked in this arena, under its various names and re-organizations, from the mid 1970's until the mid 1990's, some twenty-plus years, all told. so I knew quite well many of the people mentioned in the later phase (Part III.) Whatever names the effort and organizations went by, it was (and I presume still is) one of the most dynamic and capable organizations within the US Army Corps of Engineers. I am proud to have been associated with it. The tome is an accurate, though necessarily condensed, rendering of the history of military construction in the Middle East and Africa. It is mostly a technical rendering of the projects and major personalities involved throughout the historical period covered. But there are also revelations of some of the political infighting, and international considerations that effect such projects. This tome would make a very good technical background for a movie. What is missing are the interactions of the personalities involved -- affairs, betrayals, poor command decisions, personal conflicts between influential individuals, conflicts between the design engineers and the construction management staff, and so forth. For example, few people recognize, even inside the Corps of Engineers, that the major reason the organization did not continue to get more projects from the Saudis, is that the command structure (Gen. Wells, and General Albro, in particular) made unilateral decisions that infuriated the Saudis. And if that weren't enough, the organization retained at least a million dollars of Saudi money that they had no intention of ever returning (and used for years as a carry fund to temporarily fund new project prospects.) I would bet that that million dollars is still there in the organization's pocket. The bottom line is that this is a great book for historians, history buffs, and those interested in that theater -- which is an accurate account of what in my professional career was a most exciting time.

NOTE: NO FURTHER DISCOUNT FOR THIS PRODUCT. Significantly reduced price- Overstock List Price. The work of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in military construction in the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East created the infrastructure that made the U.S. policies of deterrence and containment possible. This work included not only construction in support of the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force in these areas but also work executed on behalf of Middle East allies paid for with funds they provided. This book traces the activities of American military engineers from the reconstruction that began in Greece after World War II through the construction of air bases in North Africa, the massive building program in Saudi Arabia, and support for the liberation of Kuwait in 1991. The history provides a background of the present role and position of the United States in that vital region. NOTE: NO FURTHER DISCOUNT FOR THIS PRODUCT. Significantly reduced price- Overstock List Price. Related products: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: A History can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/products/sku/008-022-00340-1?ctid=919> World War II resources collection can be found here: <https://bookstore.gpo.gov/catalog/us-military-history/battles-wars/world-war-ii>