

The Kurdish Question in US Foreign Policy: A Documentary Sourcebook. Documentary Reference Collections, Westport, Connecticut and London, Praeger, 699 p.

Christine Allison



Édition électronique

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/6082>

ISSN : 1961-960X

Éditeur :

CNRS (UMR 7528 Mondes iraniens et indiens), Éditions de l'IFRI

Édition imprimée

Date de publication : 15 mai 2006

ISSN : 0240-8910

Référence électronique

Christine Allison, « *The Kurdish Question in US Foreign Policy: A Documentary Sourcebook. Documentary Reference Collections, Westport, Connecticut and London, Praeger, 699 p.* », *Abstracta Iranica* [En ligne], Volume 27 | 2006, document 227, mis en ligne le 02 janvier 2007, consulté le 01 mai 2019.

URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/abstractairanica/6082>

Ce document a été généré automatiquement le 1 mai 2019.

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- 1 The author, a professor of Information Sciences, has followed two other useful bibliographical works connected with the Kurds with this fascinating compilation of documents. The preface explains its *raison d'être* – it is not the availability of US documents which presents difficulties for researchers, rather the opposite – an enormous mass of material is available online, from a vast number of sources and this book aims to make the identification of sources and the sifting process somewhat easier.
- 2 Research tools and major sources are clearly outlined in the preface. The major part of the book itself begins with two introductory essays, one, a reprint, on US foreign policy by Michael M. Gunter, and the second (which unfortunately suffers from poor copy-editing) by the author, with Michel G. Nehme, which focuses on two major episodes, 1972-75 and 1991, when US incitements to the Kurds to rebel were not followed through by any support.
- 3 The documents themselves are the meat of the book. Those in Part II are given in full, the great bulk of them from the *Congressional Record*, *Foreign Relations of the US* (correspondence between diplomats not to be published for 30 years, thus almost always a good read), *American Foreign Policy* (more public messages, statements and briefings), *Miscellaneous* (public statements, addresses and interviews) and *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*. Part III contains non-full-text items, abstracts of articles, monographs and series (including work from government sources university researchers and journalists), and declassified National Security, CIA, and Department of State documents on microfilm. Author, title and subject indexes follow.

- 4 A first port of call which will satisfy the needs of many, this book will give those specialists who need to consult the archives further a good outline of general tendencies of the material in US sources.
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Thèmes : 4.5. Histoire des kurdes

AUTEURS

CHRISTINE ALLISON

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