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elhariry, yasser and Edwige Tamalet Talbayev, eds. *Critically Mediterranean: Temporalities, Aesthetics, and Deployments of a Sea in Crisis*. Cham, Switzerland: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018. ISBN 9783319717630. 276 pp. Hardcover \$139.99. Softcover \$99.99. eBook \$79.99.

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Born from a series of seminars and colloquia held between 2014 and 2016, elhariry and Talbayev's edited collection grapples with the state – and the rhetoric – of crisis in Mediterranean modernity. The volume argues for the dismantling of received temporal and historical divisions, and for the deployment of the Mediterranean as a critical concept built on the contingent, temporary, and ever-changing realities of the Sea. The contributors' work builds especially on landmark texts from Franco Cassano (*Southern Thought*, 2012), Iain Chambers (*Mediterranean Crossings*, 2008), and Predrag Matvejevic (*Mediterranean—A Cultural Landscape*, 1999), who have called our attention to the Mediterranean's evolving crises and theoretical fecundity. Contributions range from literary studies, musicology, and art historical analyses to ethnographic research and philosophy; the stimulating blend is remarkable for its consistent adherence to the volume's overarching goal of disrupting Mediterranean temporalities with new critical perspectives. Unfortunately, in both its framing and many of the individual contributions *Critically Mediterranean* is weakened by an overreliance on neologisms and abstruse jargon which render the material inaccessible; the reader frequently struggles to derive meaning from terms set in italics or quotation marks to unclear purpose. Still, the essays taken as a whole add to the case for scholars' renewed grappling with the Mediterranean as a heuristic tool in the modern and contemporary periods during which, as the authors amply demonstrate, the Mediterranean has been too quickly dismissed as a hermeneutic structure. Contributions from Hakim Abderrezak, Naor Ben-Yehoyada, Claudio Fogu, and Michal Raizen stand out for the clarity of their Mediterranean visions.

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