



## On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt

By On Barak



**On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt** By On Barak

In this pioneering history of transportation and communication in the modern Middle East, On Barak argues that contrary to accepted wisdom technological modernity in Egypt did not drive a sense of time focused on standardization only. Surprisingly, the introduction of the steamer, railway, telegraph, tramway, and telephone in colonial Egypt actually triggered the development of unique timekeeping practices that resignified and subverted the typical modernist infatuation with expediency and promptness. These countertempos, predicated on uneasiness over “dehumanizing” European standards of efficiency, sprang from and contributed to non-linear modes of arranging time.

Barak shows how these countertempos formed and developed with each new technological innovation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, contributing to a particularly Egyptian sense of time that extends into the present day, exerting influence over contemporary political language in the Arab world. The universal notion of a modern mechanical standard time and the deviations supposedly characterizing non-Western settings “from time immemorial,” *On Time* provocatively argues, were in fact mutually constitutive and mutually reinforcing.

 [Download On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt ...pdf](#)

# On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt

By On Barak

## On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak

In this pioneering history of transportation and communication in the modern Middle East, On Barak argues that contrary to accepted wisdom technological modernity in Egypt did not drive a sense of time focused on standardization only. Surprisingly, the introduction of the steamer, railway, telegraph, tramway, and telephone in colonial Egypt actually triggered the development of unique timekeeping practices that resignified and subverted the typical modernist infatuation with expediency and promptness. These countertempos, predicated on uneasiness over “dehumanizing” European standards of efficiency, sprang from and contributed to non-linear modes of arranging time.

Barak shows how these countertempos formed and developed with each new technological innovation during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, contributing to a particularly Egyptian sense of time that extends into the present day, exerting influence over contemporary political language in the Arab world. The universal notion of a modern mechanical standard time and the deviations supposedly characterizing non-Western settings “from time immemorial,” *On Time* provocatively argues, were in fact mutually constitutive and mutually reinforcing.

## On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #354341 in Books
- Published on: 2013-07-26
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x 1.00" w x 6.00" l, 1.10 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 360 pages



[Download On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egyp ...pdf](#)



[Read Online On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Eg ...pdf](#)

## Download and Read Free Online On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak

---

### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A book of impeccable scholarship."

(Robert L. Tignor *American Historical Review* 2014-04-01)

"On Time provides a fascinating read, rich with vivid historical accounts that make the author's arguments all the more striking and memorable."

(Yulia Frumer *Technology and Culture* 2015-10-01)

#### From the Inside Flap

"*On Time*'s primary contribution is to offer the first study of modernity in the Egyptian context that attends to the new technological modes by which that distinction in temporality was historically produced. This approach departs from the largely nation- and human-centered narratives of Egyptian history. By focusing on non-human agents and using a trans-regional perspective, a larger cast of actors and other vectors of historical change come into view. This work will advance both historical and critical efforts to de-center secular, pietistic accounts of our shared modern past, whether those pieties belong to civilizations, empires, nation-states, or humankind."

—Wilson Jacob, author of *Working Out Egypt: Effendi Masculinity and Subject Formation in Colonial Modernity, 1870–1940*

"[*On Time*] constitutes a fascinating contribution to a growing field of inquiry – namely, the social construction of time in colonial contexts. Through a close reading of a breathtaking variety of sources, ranging from newspapers to fatwas, from advice books to train schedules, On Barak develops a compelling narrative of how Egyptians, through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, developed what he calls 'counter-tempo' – approaches to apprehending and navigating the 'homogenous, empty' time of Western modernity in profoundly subversive ways."

—Paul Sedra, author of *From Mission to Modernity: Evangelicals, Reformers and Education in Nineteenth-Century Egypt*

"*On Time* is a compelling argument about the institutionalization of modern temporality in Egypt, the subjectivities and attitudes it fostered, and the resistances it encountered. With a creative flourish, Barak renders time immanent in this book by tracking its transformation through the use of new technologies (clocks, telegraph, calendars, railways, trams, telephones) all of which in turn changed how Egyptians thought about themselves and related to each other. Through a keen playful analysis of culture, capitalism, and modernity, Barak reminds us how we are made and unmade in time."

—Saba Mahmood, author of *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*

#### About the Author

**On Barak** is Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern history at Tel Aviv University. He is the author of **Names Without Faces: From Polemics to Flirtation in Islamic Chat-room Nick-naming** (Uppsala University Press, 2006).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Carrie Wakefield:**

What do you regarding book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you require something to explain what yours problem? How about your spare time? Or are you busy individual? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They must answer that question simply because just their can do that will. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is proper. Because start from on guardería until university need that On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt to read.

#### **Terry Grissom:**

Does one one of the book lovers? If yes, do you ever feeling doubt if you are in the book store? Make an effort to pick one book that you never know the inside because don't evaluate book by its handle may doesn't work the following is difficult job because you are afraid that the inside maybe not while fantastic as in the outside seem likes. Maybe you answer can be On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt why because the wonderful cover that make you consider regarding the content will not disappoint you actually. The inside or content is definitely fantastic as the outside or cover. Your reading sixth sense will directly guide you to pick up this book.

#### **Robert Burmeister:**

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book in comparison with can satisfy your limited time to read it because this time you only find publication that need more time to be examine. On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt can be your answer given it can be read by you who have those short free time problems.

#### **Amy Joshi:**

Is it an individual who having spare time after that spend it whole day by watching television programs or just lying down on the bed? Do you need something new? This On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt can be the response, oh how comes? It's a book you know. You are consequently out of date, spending your extra time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a geek activity. So what these guides have than the others?

**Download and Read Online On Time: Technology and Temporality**

**in Modern Egypt By On Barak #46A87SGLKF5**

# **Read On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak for online ebook**

On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak books to read online.

## **Online On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak ebook PDF download**

**On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak Doc**

**On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak MobiPocket**

**On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak EPub**

**46A87SGLKF5: On Time: Technology and Temporality in Modern Egypt By On Barak**