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### Performing Democracy in Iraq and South Africa

Gender, Media, and Resistance

Kimberly Wedeven Segall

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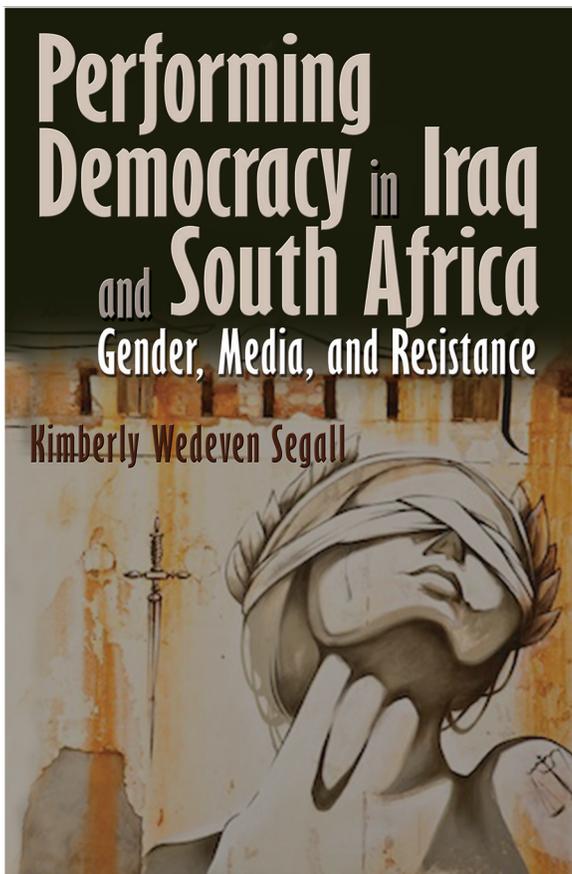
**"Segall's book draws our attention to the use of media, art and popular culture by ordinary people living through extraordinary times. She highlights the role of affect and emotion in resisting, negotiating, understanding and coping with dramatic and sometimes violent political change. In so doing, she deconstructs and reconstructs identities both within and across national boundaries, helping us to think about familiar political events in unfamiliar ways."** —Nicola Pratt, coauthor of *What Kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq*

**"A keen listener and observer, Kimberly Wedeven Segall brings together two decades of engagement with Middle Eastern and African communities that have sought to forge new political imaginaries. Drawing our attention to many forgotten springs beyond the newly named 'Arab Spring,' Segall shows how popular and artistic expressions in these communities have resulted in 'hybrid blooms of democratic voices.'" —Gaurav Desai, coeditor of *Postcolonialisms: An Anthology of Cultural Theory and Criticism***

**"Segall engages some of the most innovative artists of contemporary South African theatre, including Brett Bailey, Ya I Farber, and Nadia Davids. Performing artists' meditations on the complexities of post-apartheid democracy illuminate the gulf between South Africa's constitution, with its progressive aspirations for human rights, and the legacies of an apartheid past evident in persistent violence and socio-economic inequality today."** —Catherine M. Cole, author of *Performing South Africa's Truth Commission: Stages of Transition*

**"This is an eloquent and compelling book that writes the forgotten stories of women and artists into the history of violence and consequent change that has become known as the Arab Spring. Drawing on aesthetic creations—from poems and plays to blogs and hip-hop, Segall explores the political force of art in periods of violence and political transition."** —Deborah Kapchan, author of *Gender on the Market: Moroccan Women and the Revoicing of Tradition*

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