This book examines adolescence in 12 countries. Topics include geographic, demographic, and historical facts; daily life; food; school; social life; recreation and entertainment; and religious practices and cultural ceremonies. Each chapter is written by a different set of authors, all of whom are teachers, journalists, or academics in the U.S., U.K., or Middle East. There are a few minor errors-mostly typographical, but at least one factual-as well as some repetition from chapter to chapter, but they are not major problems. A bigger concern is the coverage in the two areas in which students will probably be most interested: Afghanistan and Iraq. In the introduction, the editor says that conditions in Afghanistan at the time of writing were not conducive to having researchers collect information, so it is not included at all. The chapter on Iraq describes the country as it was before Saddam Hussein was captured and does contain some valuable background information on the Ba'th regime, which may be helpful to students studying the current conflict. Overall, even with its flaws, this is a unique and interesting resource that helps describe the cultures of the various countries in terms that are relevant to young people.

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