

CONCLUSION

Crabitès played many roles throughout the course of his life, including judge, professor, OSS agent, and historian. He led a remarkable life, even though he failed to accomplish all of his lofty goals. His family and marriage connections helped elevate his judicial career. Crabitès served on the Mixed Courts for twenty-five years from 1911 to 1936, where he handed down several important decisions, including the rights to the sequestration of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen's artifacts. Crabitès had an impact in international law as it related to Egypt; however, this is not a legal study but a biography. He was a special lecturer in law at Louisiana State University, and he served in the Office of Strategic Services under Colonel "Wild Bill" Donovan when he was stationed in Egypt and Iraq under the guise of an employee for the State Department. Crabitès's inheritance and vocation provided him with the money and time to write. He was a prodigious writer. His writing reflects the environment in which he grew up. These works exhibit his anti-British sentiments and pro-Catholic proclivities, as well as other controversial opinions. He published thirteen books and twenty-eight articles. He also authored eight unpublished manuscripts and forty-four unpublished articles. While the effect of his research on American foreign policy is not clear, he did compose a pro-American propaganda piece based upon *Americans in the Egyptian Army*. Crabitès was one of the most important early American voices in the Middle East.

A transitional figure, Crabitès bridged the nineteenth and twentieth century. In many ways, Crabitès had one foot squarely in the nineteenth century, as he reacted conservatively to the changes taking place around him, especially in terms of African-American civil rights and the encroachment of Anglo-Saxon-Protestant culture upon his Catholic-Creole New Orleans. Preservation of the status quo comforted him. Meanwhile, Crabitès had his other foot in the twentieth century, for he held progressive attitudes towards women, Jews, and Muslims.

As a result of his intellect and connections, Crabitès was capable of ascending the social ladder both in New Orleans and in Egypt, but his personal beliefs ultimately limited his ability to achieve his goal of securing a position as an American diplomat. His court decisions, close relationship with the palace, and anti-British proclivities were well-known to the State Department and Residency alike. In fact, he had been considered for an appointment to the Court of Appeals and later attempted to secure a diplomatic post, yet both times his political opinions and connections were questioned. His views and the relationships that he forged in New Orleans and Egypt, caused problems for him later in life when the State Department was reluctant to promote him, even attempting to reassign him out of Egypt as soon as possible.

It is apparent that Crabitès's knowledge of the royal palace and law in Egypt was not fully appreciated within the State Department, or they thought that his eccentricities overruled such knowledge. He could have accomplished much more while in Egypt, but he was prevented from doing so by the State Department and the British. The State Department hindered Crabitès while he was doing OSS work in Egypt because of British concerns with his association with the palace.

Crabitès was trapped in the dynamic that existed between the OSS and the State Department. The OSS tended to recruit left-leaning intellectuals, while the State Department was clearly right-wing. Like Crabitès, the OSS was inclined to be pro-Arab, and the State Department was pro-British. His difficulties during his OSS mission could be, at least, partly attributable to the conflict between the OSS and the State Department.

Crabitès certainly seemed to be a talking head for such organizations as the Catholic Church, Anti-Imperialist League, and the Egyptian monarchy. He generally followed the Catholic Church's line on issues like nationalism and the dispute over Palestine. He even defended the Catholic Church from accusations of anti-Semitism during the Middle Ages. In terms of foreign policy, Crabitès was a staunch isolationist and clearly anti-imperialist. Furthermore, Crabitès had a close association with the Egyptian royal family. They invited him to Abdine

Palace on occasion and even permitted him to conduct research in their private archives. He published three revisionist histories which treated the royal family in a more favorable light, including *Ibrahim of Egypt*, *Ismail: The Maligned Khedive*, and *Britain's Debt to King Farouk*.

In terms of Palestine, Crabitès stance differed from many of his contemporaries, as he adopted a decidedly pro-Arab position on the dispute over the Holy Land. Crabitès shared a pro-Arab perspective with his colleagues in the OSS. He believed that the only feasible solution to the conflict over Palestine was to leave control of the Holy Land in the hands of the Arabs, who had coexisted peacefully in a climate of mutual tolerance with the Jews for centuries.

He believed that Egyptian nationalism predated the arrival of the Arabs in the seventh century, and reached back to ancient Egypt. For Crabitès, Egyptian nationalism was more akin to Pharaonic Nationalism. His perspective on Egyptian nationalism was certainly rare for his time, especially for an American.

At first glance, it appears that Crabitès's life was one of missed opportunities. He was unable to gain promotion to the Court of Appeals, and he failed to secure a higher diplomatic post, settling for a less senior position. His diplomatic career was short and tumultuous, for he was quickly relieved of his duties while in Egypt and transferred to Iraq, where it was assumed that he would cause less trouble. He died in Baghdad not long after his arrival. In both cases, it was Crabitès's anti-British sentiments which contributed to his ill fortune. His problems were rooted in his beliefs and his unwillingness to suppress them. Crabitès was opinionated and willing to share his thoughts. He did not approve of the British protectorate in Egypt or the British Mandate for Palestine, thus contributing to his pro-Arab perspective on the Middle East. His long-standing feud with Brunyate did not help his cause. Regardless, Crabitès still had a remarkable life and interesting career. He was an important figure in the history of American involvement in the Middle East in the early twentieth Century and an author of significance.

This biography of Judge Pierre Crabitès will supplement the relative dearth of sources on the early American experience in the Middle East. By

researching primary sources from multiple archives, both foreign and domestic, I have been able to situate Crabitès as an important figure in Egypt at a time when the United States was largely uninterested in the Middle East. Crabitès's noteworthy publications and his role as a judge on the Mixed Courts of Egypt have provided posterity with a keen insight into the struggle of Americans abroad, and especially in Egypt, to cope with the comparative minor role of the United States in the Middle East during the early twentieth Century. Crabitès provides an excellent example of what Americans had to deal with in the Middle East.

This dissertation has addressed many of the inadequacies found in the earlier works on Crabitès. It extends far beyond my earlier study of Crabitès and that of Jamal T. Perkins in both depth and scope. It offers a broader view of his life and greater analysis of his writing, for it utilizes more primary sources and examines most of his salient compositions. It has placed a greater emphasis on the secondary sources to better understand Crabitès in the context of his time, thus presenting a more comprehensive perspective of his life.