



Syrian Jewry in Transition, 1840-1880

By Yaron Harel

Littman Library Of Jewish Civilization. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 318 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.1in. x 0.8in. In offering a comprehensive account of Syria's key Jewish communities at an important juncture in their history, this pioneering study - now available in paperback - also throws light on the broader effects of modernization in the Ottoman empire. The Ottoman reforms of the mid-19th century accelerated the process of opening up Syria to European travellers and traders and gave Syria's Jews access to European Jewish communities. The resulting influx of Western ideas led to a decline in the traditional economy, with serious consequences for the Jewish occupational structure. It also allowed for the introduction of Western education, through schools run by the Alliance Israelite Universelle, influenced the structure and the administration of Jewish society in Syria, and changed the balance of the relationship between Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Initially, Syria's Jewish communities flourished economically and politically in these new circumstances, but there was increasing recognition that a better future lay overseas. After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the bankruptcy of the Ottoman empire in 1875, and the suspension of the Ottoman constitution in 1878, this feeling intensified. A process...



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