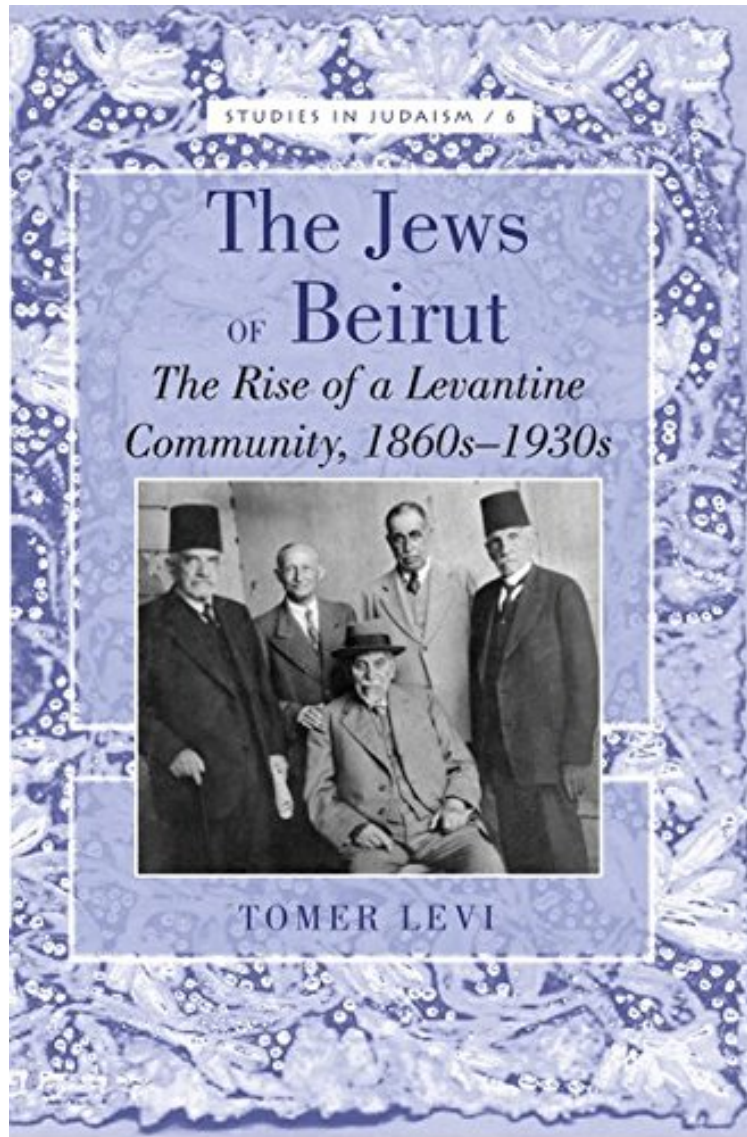


The Jews of Beirut: The Rise of a Levantine Community, 1860s-1930s (Studies in Judaism)

Tomer Levi

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Tomer Levi : The Jews of Beirut: The Rise of a Levantine Community, 1860s-1930s (Studies in Judaism) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *The Jews of Beirut: The Rise of a Levantine Community, 1860s-1930s (Studies in Judaism)*:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent and required study of the subject! By B. Applebaum
The "Jews of Beirut" is a fascinating look at an utterly lost world. I knew absolutely nothing about 99% of the contents of

this book. Particularly interesting for those interested in further study and research are the notes and footnotes, which themselves are alone almost worth the price of the book. I hope that the author will write a second volume, covering the period after World War 2, perhaps titled "The Last Jews of Lebanon." Kol HaKavod.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The Jews of Beirut: The Rise of a Levantine Community, 1860s-1930s by Tomer LeviBy Thinking ApeAmong the Jewish communities of the modern Middle East that of Beirut was unique in several important ways. A diverse community, it had well-organized institutions and was able to prosper even while others were facing decline. Based on exhaustive research in primary sources, this book presents the most comprehensive account of the modern history of the Jews of Beirut. Against the backdrop of Lebanon's socio-political history, it discusses the structure of the Jewish community, its culture and institutions, its relations with the authorities and the local society, and its ability to navigate between Lebanon and the nearby Jewish Yishuv in Palestine. It is an important contribution to both Lebanese and Jewish history and, indeed, to the history of the greater Middle East.-A.L.

The Jews of Beirut: The Rise of a Levantine Community, 1860s-1930s is the first study to investigate the emergence of an organized and vibrant Jewish community in Beirut in the late Ottoman and French period. Viewed in the context of port city revival, the author explores how and why the Jewish community changed during this time in its social cohesion, organizational structure, and ideological affiliations. Tomer Levi defines the Jewish community as a Levantine creation of late-nineteenth-century port city revival, characterized by cultural and social diversity, centralized administration, efficient organization, and a merchant class engaged in commerce and philanthropy. In addition, the author shows how the position of the Jewish community in the unique multi-community structure of Lebanese society affected internal developments within the Jewish community.

About the AuthorTomer Levi received his MA and PhD in Near Eastern and Judaic studies from Brandeis University. He taught several courses at Tufts University and Ben-Gurion University, where he was also a post-doctoral fellow. From 2010 to 2011 he was a research fellow at the Ben-Zvi Institute conducting research on Levantine Jewish society during the time of colonial expansion.