

Annotated Bibliography

Kattan, Naim. *Farewell, Babylon: Coming of Age in Jewish Babylon*. Trans. Sheila Fischman. Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, 1976.

This is a memoir of identity, of growing up as a Jewish boy in Baghdad in the 1940s. Kattan tells of a tumultuous polyglot society, of change both personal and societal, of finding one's place in life. Here is a fascinating portrait of a people, a city, a state, and a culture that are as troubled today as Kattan found them sixty years ago.

Rejwan, Nissim. *The Last Jews in Baghdad: Remembering a Lost Homeland*. Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2004

In this memoir, Nissim Rejwan recalls the lost Jewish community of Baghdad, in which he was a child and young man from the 1920s through 1951. He tells of his middle-class upbringing, his struggles in school, and the discovery of self-education and sexual awakening. Rejwan intertwines his personal story with the story of the cultural renaissance that was flowering in Baghdad during the years of his young manhood. He concludes his story by remembering how the political and cultural upheavals that accompanied the founding of Israel left him with a deep ambivalence as he bid a last farewell to a homeland that had become hostile to its native Jews.

Rodrigue, Aron. *Jews and Muslim Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Modern Times*. Seattle, Washington: University of Washington Press, 2003.

Following the rise of Islam, many Jewish communities lived in predominantly Muslim lands. Muslim-Jewish co-existence was not seriously challenged until the modern period when European colonialism and the emergence of Zionism and Arab nationalism led to growing friction and conflict, resulting in the mass departures of Jews from these lands in the middle of the twentieth century. This book interweaves analysis with translations of primary documents drawn from the archives of the Alliance Israelite Universelle on local events and trends over the decades. It illuminates the political, socio-economic, and cultural changes that eroded the place of Jews in Middle Eastern societies.

Shabi, Rachel. *We Look Like the Enemy: The Hidden Story of Israel's Jews from Arab Lands*. New York, NY: Walker & Company, 2008

This book investigates the tense relations that exist between Ashkenazi and Mizrahi Jews living in Israel. Shabi traces the history of this gap, starting with the centuries-old story of the Jewish Diaspora, then discussing how the Mizrahi figured in the founding and building of Israel, protests by the Mizrahi Black Panther Party in 1971, and a successful campaign in the 1990s to get the Israeli Ministry of Education to remove negative stereotyping of Yemenites in a textbook. Shabi combines historical research with intimate oral interviews to shed light on ethnic injustice within Israel, past and present.

Somekh, Sasson. *Baghdad, Yesterday: The Making of an Arab Jew*. Jerusalem, Israel: Ibis Editions, 2007

This memoir offers an intimate view of Jewish life in Baghdad in the 1930s and 40s. It describes vividly the young writer's intellectual and emotional growth and maps the now-vanished world of Baghdad's book stalls and literary cafes, its Arabic-speaking Jewish bank clerks, tuxedoed Iraqi-Jewish weddings, outdoor movies at the Cinema Diana, and bonfires by the Tigris.

Stillman, Norman. *The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times*. Philadelphia, PA: Jewish Publication Society, 2003

This book focuses on the forces, events, and personalities that over the past 150 years have shaped the Jewish communities of the Arab world, changing the relations between Jews and Arabs more radically than anything since the rise of Islam nearly 1400 years ago.