

The Dispersion of Egyptian Jewry

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Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center
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On the eve of the first Arab-Israeli war the Jews of Egypt were a heterogeneous community of cosmopolitan hybrids, which was both an element of strength and a factor in its eventual demise. Joel Beinin examines the history of this community in Egypt, where the majority remained, between 1948 and 1956; their subsequent dispersion and reestablishment in the U.S., France, and Israel; and the contested memories of Jewish life in Egypt since Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. He argues that the experiences of Egyptian Jews cannot be adequately accounted for by either Egyptian nationalist or Zionist narratives.

Photo: Entrance to the Jewish quarter of Cairo, part of the commercial Muski district.

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