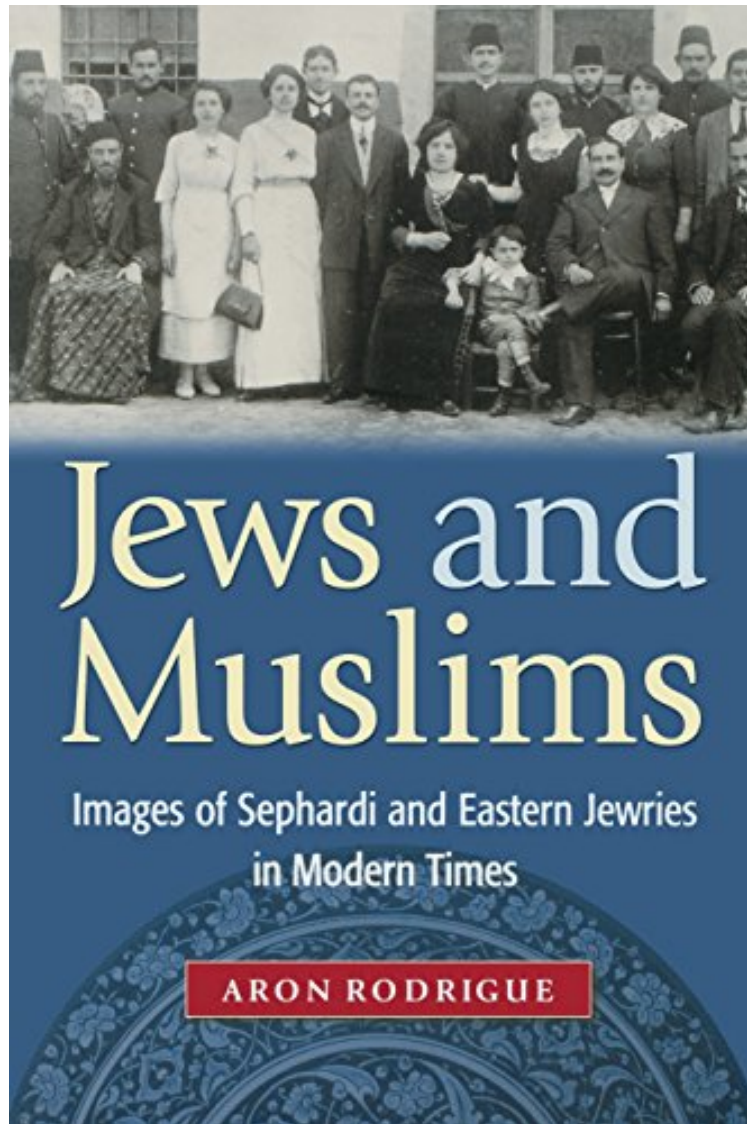


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## Jews and Muslims: Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Modern Times

*Aron Rodrigue*

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**Aron Rodrigue : Jews and Muslims: Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Modern Times** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jews and Muslims: Images of Sephardi and Eastern Jewries in Modern Times:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating perspectiveBy Geoffrey C HazzanThe Paris-based Alliance Israelite Universelle provided excellent French education to underprivileged Jewish boys and girls in over a

hundred schools from Tangier to Teheran. The children would benefit immensely as this would give them the opportunity to better themselves and advance in their careers. Comprehensive and searching reports were sent back to France by specially trained inspectors of both local living conditions and teaching standards so that the bar could be set as high as possible. Rodrigue has judiciously selected a cross section of these insightful letters so that we can sense and feel what it must have been like growing up in, for example, Morocco or Turkey before World War I when France, Britain and a fading Ottoman Empire still held sway.

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. *Jews and Muslims* throws light on the history of these communities and on the developments that led to the snapping of ties between Jews and Muslims by focusing on the century before the end of Jewish life in these areas. It interweaves analysis with translations of primary documents drawn from the archives of a French-Jewish organization, the Alliance Israelite Universelle, that had an extensive Jewish school network around the Mediterranean basin and whose teachers reported extensively 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 and offers a unique perspective, from within, on the historical background of some of the most vexing problems of the modern Middle East. National Jewish Book Awards Honor Book

"A rich and varied collection of texts with enlightening commentary." *International Journal of Middle East Studies* "A delightful book, full of erudition and charm. . . . It captures the spirit of the time. . . . A marvelous work of tapestry." *Francois Furet, Le Nouvel Observateur* "Rodrigues book gives us a picture of the complex worlds of Sephardic Jewry. . . . [It] is unsurpassed in breadth, vividness, candor, and historical insight." *Michael Berkowitz, History of European Ideas* "The unique contribution of Aron Rodrigues book is that it provides contemporary images of Jewish life in the Middle Eastern and North African countries during 1860-1939. These descriptions were made by Jews who stayed with these communities for long periods of time or at least were well acquainted with them. Throughout the book Rodrigue places the changing conditions of these communities within the global framework that was instrumental in shaping this transition." *Contemporary Jewry* "Rodrigue provides insight into the life of Jewish communities in Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, Syria, Palestine, Algeria, Turkey, Egypt, and Greece. The letters touch upon the internal structure of these Jewish communities, their relations with their Muslim neighbors as well as the local government, their attitude towards European colonial influence, the impact of Zionism on them, and the increasing clash between Zionist and Alliance discourses. . . . Should be read by anyone with a keen interest in the history of the Middle East, Jews in the Middle East, and Orientalism." *MESA Bulletin* About the Author Aron Rodrigue is Eva Lokey Chernov Professor in Jewish Studies and professor of history at Stanford University. His latest book is *Sephardi Jewry: A History of the Judeo-Spanish Community, 14th-20th Centuries* (with Esther Benbassa). National Jewish Book Awards Honor Book