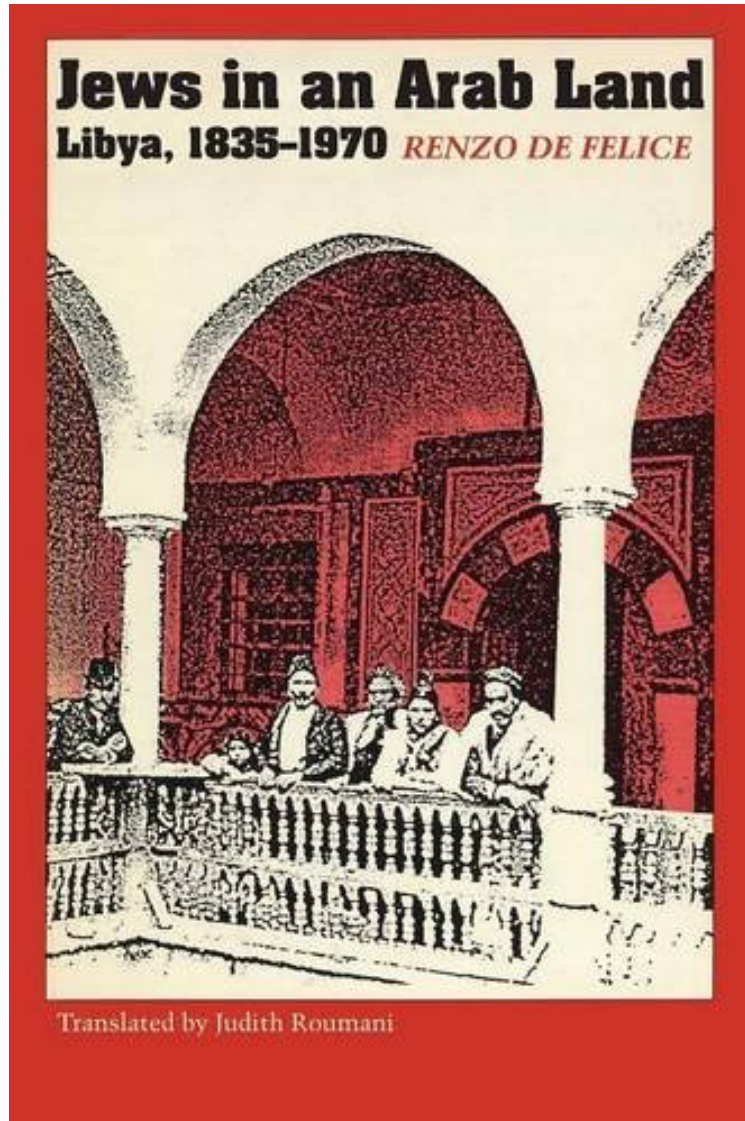


[Read ebook] Jews in an Arab Land: Libya, 18351970

Jews in an Arab Land: Libya, 18351970

Renzo De Felice

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#9612789 in Books Renzo De Felice 2014-11-26Original language:ItalianPDF # 1 9.02 x .97 x 5.98l, 1.41
#File Name: 1477304088420 pagesJews in an Arab Land Libya 1835 1970 | File size: 65.Mb

Renzo De Felice : Jews in an Arab Land: Libya, 18351970 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jews in an Arab Land: Libya, 18351970:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Jews in Libya 1835-1970By Gus GintzburgerA bit boring to read with many repetitions - but unique info about the Jews relation with the Ottoman, Italian and British admin., early years of Libyan Independence and very early Qaddafi's take over - worth reading !6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. The Jews of LibyaBy Gary SelikowThis is an extremely detailed and comprehensive account of Jewish

life in Libya from 1835 to 1970, in its social, economic and political components. Jews had lived in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania from before 300 BCE. The Jews of Libya, lived under Islamic rule, as in other Arab countries under Dhimni status. As tolerated but discriminated against and treated as inferiors under the Dhimni status- the special system of apartheid applied to Jews and Christians for centuries in Islamic countries. From time to time this status quo gave way to outright persecution and pogroms against Jews by Arabs. A member of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, a teacher at the local Alliance school who was living in Tripoli in 1900 described the situation in these communities in a field report mailed to Paris: "In those out of the way places a Jew may not ride a horse or a donkey in the Arab's presence. On seeing an Arab coming a Jew must dismount quickly and continue on foot, leading his mount until the Arab disappears round a bend in the highway. If a Jew forgets this or takes too long to dismount, the Arab brutally reminds him of 'good manners' by throwing him to the ground. The Jews of the Jebel (one of the regions) told me that over the last twenty years three Israelites had been killed in this way. The testimony of a Jew is not accepted and he would dare to accuse anyone of robbing him. Every Jewish family is under the suzerainty of an Arab, termed the Saheb... They told me that some time ago, Arabs had plundered their little synagogue and stolen the Scrolls. The next day they were dumbfounded to see an Arab riding a donkey with a saddle made of Torah parchment. They claimed it back but to no avail". While a few Jews had achieved affluence the majority of Jews in Libya lived under wretched conditions in a ghetto known as the Hara. The last decades of Ottoman rule saw an extreme turn for the worse for the Jews of Libya, with an eruption of violent anti-Semitism. Synagogues and Jewish houses were attacked and destroyed and several Jews murdered. It is no wonder that the Jews welcomed Italian rule in 1911. The growth of the Zionist movement injected new life into the Jewish population, as it did for Jews around the world. New democratic institutions were founded in the Jewish communities under Zionist influence. In 1931 there were 24 534 Jews in Libya (about 4% of the total population), with about 15 000 of them in Tripoli. The Jews suffered from racial legislation introduced in Italy in 1938, but were relatively safe from attack until after the British seized control of Libya, and bloody pogroms (under the influence of Pan Arabists and Islamists) broke out against Jews, with the British doing nothing to protect the Jews, in 1945 and 1948. A savage pogrom in Tripoli on November 5, 1945, killed more than 140 Jews and wounded hundreds more. Almost every synagogue was looted. Jews were burned alive, Jewish women and girls raped and in some cases whole families wiped out. In June 1948, rioters murdered another 12 Jews and destroyed 280 Jewish homes. The British pro-Arab policies in the Palestine Mandate extended to British colonies in the Middle East including Libya, where the British did nothing to protect Jews and even covertly encouraged the slaughter. From 1945 until 1949 the British banned and forcibly prevented any emigration out of Libya, so that Libyan Jews could not migrate to the Holy Land. Thousands of Jews fled the country after Libya was granted independence and membership in the Arab League in 1951, although King Idris tried to protect the Jews and soften the effects of anti-Jewish measures, he was forced to take these measures by the anti-Jewish Arab population and by neighbouring countries like Egypt, under Nasser. After the Six Day War of 1967, more bloody pogroms took place against Jews, engineered by Nasserist elements, and the remainder of the 7000 Jews in Libya, were forced to leave that country destitute. After these same elements seized power under Colnel Muammar Qaddafi, all Jewish property was expropriated and all Jewish debts cancelled. A cornerstone of Qaddafi's policy was hatred of Israel a reversal of King Idris' moderate pro-Western policy, and support for international terrorism. The official organ of the Qaddafi regime *Ar-Raid* thundered on 31 October 1969: "It is the unavoidable duty of the city councils of Tripoli, Benghazi, Misurata etc to remove their (the Jews) cemeteries immediately, and throw the bodies of their dead, which, even in their eternal rest, soil our country, into the depths of the sea. Where those dirty corpses are lying they should put buildings, parks, and roads. Only thus can the hatred of the Libyan Arab people towards the Jews be satiated". All synagogues under Qaddafi were destroyed, turned in to mosques, or used for profane purposes such as social clubs. Qaddafi hypocritically invited the Jews to return back to Libya attaching the following perfidious conditions. 1 "Islam was ordered for everyone and was the last of the divine messages". 2 "Judaism itself is responsible for any oppression which may be inflicted, since any action without fail is followed by reaction in other places". 3 Jews who migrated to Israel after 1948 could not be tolerated and if they were oppressed in Arab countries the Jews "must have committed in Palestine some act against the Arabs which caused an adverse reaction against them.". The book serves as another documentation of persecution of Jews in Arab lands, the pogroms of the late 1940s against Jews in Arab countries, and the perfidy of terror-mongering tyrants like Qaddafi.

Internationally renowned scholar Renzo De Felices pioneering study of the Jews of Libya is, in many ways, a microcosm of the major sources of conflict in the modern Middle East. This is the first English translation of *Ebrei in un paese arabo*, originally published by Il Mulino, Bologna, in 1978. The authors broad-ranging and meticulous research has enabled him to reconstruct the contemporary history of the Jews in Libya with an incredible richness of detail, bringing into vivid relief the social, religious, cultural, and political lives of a people caught between centuries of tradition and a series of governments bent on plunging them headfirst into the modern world. This storyfraught with the passion, drama, tragicomedy, and conflict of a society in transition will be an invaluable resource for scholars in Middle Eastern studies, Jewish studies, and contemporary European history. The wealth of documentation, much of it

previously unknown or unpublished, makes this a particularly useful book.

Language NotesText: English, Italian (translation)About the AuthorRenzo De Felice (19291996) was Professor of the History of Political Parties at the University of Rome. *The Jews in Fascist Italy* and a multi-volume biography of Mussolini are among his publications.Translator Judith Roumani is Director of the Jewish Institute of Pitigliano, Italy.