

**From Orient to Occident - the Jewish identity & community in Tunisia,  
1881-1967  
The end of one of the oldest Jewish Minority in Tunisia**

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This work describes the Jewish minority experience in its search for dignity, equality and national identity, and the kind of Jewish identity that has arisen out of the modern conditions of Tunisian Jewry. It explores how a community with more than 100,000 members disappeared after a Jewish presence exceeding 2000 years, within 10 years following Tunisia's independence in 1956.

As a minority, the Tunisian Jew lived under a threat, intermittently hit by catastrophes, and was essentially oppressed. He was always an outsider, being recasted in different terms during different historical periods. The Tunisian Jewish condition and the shaping of Jewish identity were affected by the following factors:

- \* Islam
- \* Antisemitism
- \* Colonialism , French/Occidental acculturation and emancipation
- \* Zionism
- \* Arab nationalism and Arab antisemitism

This case study presents an analysis of the political, cultural, and socioeconomic transformations that ~~Co~~thered<sup>1</sup> Tunisian Jews in different ways, and that by the 1960s, led to the Jewish exodus to Israel or France.