

Table of Contents

A Note of Thanks.....	6
Egypt, Jews, and Memory.....	7
Table of Contents.....	9
Introduction.....	18
1. Jewish Presence in Egypt throughout the Ages	25
Chronological Overview.....	25
A First Jewish Presence in Egypt.....	26
Moses.....	27
The First Exodus from Egypt.....	28
Jewish Life in Egypt.....	29
The Merenptah Stele.....	29
The Hycsos.....	29
Nebuchadnezzar II.....	30
Jewish Settlements.....	30
The Papyri.....	31
The Elephantine Papyri.....	32
The Zenon Papyri.....	32
The Structure of Jewish Society.....	33
Monotheism/Judaism.....	33
Anti-Monotheism/Anti-Semitism.....	35
Jewish Literature and Ancient Scholars.....	36
Jewish Philosophers.....	36
Ben Sira (2nd Century BCE).....	36
Philo of Alexandria (15/20 BCE-40 CE).....	36
Josephus Flavius (37/38-100 CE).....	37
Jewish Rights and Privileges.....	38
Jews in Christian Egypt.....	39
Alexandria.....	39
The Hellenistic-Ptolemaic Period.....	40
The Ptolemaic Dynasty.....	40
Alexandria's Special Status under the Ptolemaic Dynasty.....	41
The Roman Period.....	42
Alexandria and Christianity.....	43
Babylon.....	44
2. The Islamic Period	45
Islam (starting in 642 CE).....	45

The Umayyad Rule (642-750)	46
The Abbasid Period (750-914)	47
The Fatimid Dynasty (914-1171)	47
The Foundation of Cairo (969)	48
Jews under Fatimid Rule.....	49
Jewish Life.....	50
The Cairo Geniza.....	51
The Ayyubid Rule (1171-1250).....	52
The Mamluk Dynasty (1250-1517)	53
Jews under Mamluk Rule	54
Jewish Philosophers and Scholars	55
The Geonim	55
Saadia Gaon / Rasag (882-942)	55
Judah/Jehuda ha-Levi/Rihal (1075-1141).....	56
Maimonides/Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon/Rambam (1135-1204).....	56
Abraham/Avram Maimonides (1186-1273)	57
Anatoli Ben Joseph (ca. 1200).....	57
Benjamin of Tudela (1130-1172/73)	58
The Nagid/The Negidim	58
Jews under Islamic Rule	59
3. The Ottomans (1517-1922)	61
The Beginning of the Ottoman Empire in Egypt.....	61
Jews under Ottoman Rule	63
Jewish Scholars under Ottoman Rule	64
Rabbi David ben Solomon ibn Abi Zimra/Radbaz (1479-1573).....	64
Rabbi Isaak Luria/Ha'Ari ha'kadosh (1534-1572).....	65
Sabbatei Zevi (1626-1676)	65
Sephardim: Jews from the Iberian Peninsula.....	66
Ottomans and Jews	67
Egyptian Purim	67
Jewish Lifestyle	68
Ottomans in Egypt.....	69
A Crisis in the Ottoman Empire	69
Napoleon in Egypt (1798-1802)	70
The End of an Era	71
4. Muhammad Ali and His Dynasty (1805-1882)	72
Muhammad Ali Pasha (1769-1849).....	72

Egypt under Muhammad Ali's Rule	73
Demographic Data	74
Foreigners and Jews in the Early 19th Century	75
Alexandria—The Window to Europe	76
Cairo—Paris on the Nile	77
A Heyday for Jews and Foreigners	79
Jewish Culture	80
Anti-Semitism	80
The Suez Canal	81
The Orabi Revolt (1881)	81
5. The British in Egypt (1882-1956)	84
The Occupation of Egypt	84
Egyptian Loyalty towards Great Britain	85
Alexandria under British Rule	86
Alexandria, an International City	86
Cairo under British Rule	87
Sidenote: Austria in Egypt	89
The Imperial Austrian Matrikelbuch of Cairo (1908-1914)	89
Administration and Reorganizaton	89
World War I (1914-1918)	90
The Balfour Declaration	91
The Interwar Period (1918-1939)	91
Politics	91
Political Consciousness	92
Egypt under the British and the Ottomans	93
The State Treaty	93
Economic Affairs and Education	94
Jews in the Interwar Period	94
Persecution	96
World War II (1939-1945)	97
The White Paper	97
Rommel in Egypt	97
After 1943	98
A New University (1943)	99
After World War II	99
Political Unrest	99
After the Holocaust	100

1947 in Egypt.....	101
Foreigners and Jews.....	101
The First Arab-Israeli War of 1948	102
1952-1956	103
The Free Officers' Revolution of 1952.....	103
Gamal Abdel Nasser (1918-1970)	103
Consequences of the Revolution.....	104
The Lavon Affair and Its Consequences.....	105
Nationalization of the Suez Canal; the Arab-Israeli War of 1956.....	106
Egyptian Cultural Life	107
Jews in Egypt.....	107
Jewish Culture and Art	109
The Jewish Press.....	109
Jewish Film and Theater.....	110
Jewish Music.....	110
Jews and Politics.....	110
Conclusion	111
Excerpt from Samir Raafat's Article	112
6. The Time before 1948	113
Egyptian Jewish Communities.....	113
Egypt after 1918.....	113
Demographic Data	114
Emigration to Palestine/Eretz Israel before 1948	115
A Brief Survey of Zionism	115
Zionism in Egypt	116
Jews Are Philanthropists.....	118
Nazis in the Middle East.....	118
Palestine/ Eretz Israel.....	119
The 1930s.....	119
World War II, 1939-1945	120
The Post-War Period.....	120
The Exodus	121
Sephardim and Ashkenazim	122
November 29, 1947.....	123
7. The Exodus from Egypt - 1948-1967	125
Egypt's Jewish Communities.....	125
Demographic and Statistical Data.....	126

Statistical Information on Escape and Emigration, 1948-1967	126
Who is Who in Egypt.....	128
The Foundation of Israel, May 15, 1948	128
The First Arab–Israeli War of 1948.....	130
The End of the War	131
Post–War Egypt	131
1949–1952	133
Free Officers’ Coup of 1952	134
The Lavon Affair of 1954.....	135
The Arab–Israeli War of 1956	136
The Post-War Period.....	136
The Interwar Period from 1957 to 1967	138
The Six–Day War of 1967	138
The Pre–War Period.....	138
The Six–Day War	139
The Result	139
The Third Exodus from Egypt.....	140
The Paths of Emigration	141
Emigration Destinations	143
United States	143
Requirements	143
Escape to the United States.....	143
Integration in the United States	144
Identity in the United States.....	145
Israel	146
Occidental Zionism in the Middle East	146
Identity in Israel	147
Mizrahim and Ashkenazim	148
A Culturally Charged Encounter - The Israeli Zionists’ Mistake.....	149
Mizrahim and Post-Zionists.....	152
The Refugee Problem	155
Our Nakhba.....	156
Homesick for Egypt.....	157
What Life in Egypt Was Like	158
8. The Interviews	160
My Personal Interview Style.....	160
An Interview Is Not a Photograph	161

Interviews in Israel	162
Aharon Benni, born in Cairo in 1929, Sakhanini	162
Aharon Neli, born in Alexandria in 1931, Camp Cesar.....	163
Aharoni Ada, born in Cairo in 1933, Tahrir	163
Bar-Av Bentata Avraham, born in Cairo in 1941	164
Bohana Fortune, born 1936 in Alexandria, Harat-el-Yahud	165
Brakha Eliyahu, born in Alexandria in 1926, Ibrahimiya.....	166
Brakha-Rosenthal Dina, born in Cairo, Tahrir, in 1927	167
Braunstein-Piccioto Ninett, born in Cairo in 1930, Heliopolis.....	168
Calamarov- Belbel Lucy, born in Cairo in 1944, Daher.....	169
Cohen Sami Samuel, born in Cairo in 1943, Harat-el-Yahud	170
Cohenca Nisim Edi, born in Alexandria in 1922, Heliopolis	171
Dahan David, born in Alexandria in 1935, Hadara	172
Dahan-Dan Gil, born in Israel in 1969	173
Dassa Clement, born in Alexandria in 1936, Manshiya	173
Dassa Eveline, born in Port Said in 1946	174
Dassa Givoni Orit, born in Israel.....	174
Dubek (Douek) Efrayim Frederic, born in Cairo in 1930, Tahrir.....	174
Elimelech Clement Ran, born in Tanta in 1931.....	176
Ezra Sasson Odet, born in Cairo in 1933.....	176
Gabei Ellen, born in Alexandria in 1940, Camp Cesar	177
Gormezano-Goren Itzhak Robert, born in Alexandria in 1941, Sporting	178
Har'el Wahba David, born in Tanta in 1928	180
Henson Joe Fry, born in Alexandria in 1931, Smohha.....	182
Jerushalmi Ovadia, born in Cairo in 1945, Abasiyya.....	183
Kimhi Ruth, born in Cairo in 1944, Center	184
Lagziel Kibritt Lea, born in Israel in 1956	186
Levy Itzhak, born in Cairo in 1922, Center	187
Loeventhal Jaques, born in Alexandria in 1936, Cleopatra.....	187
Oppenheim Dan, born in Alexandria in 1945, Sporting.....	190
Ozon Julia, born in Cairo in 1941.....	191
Rofe Avraham Roje, born in Cairo in 1927, Heliopolis	192
Rofe Joya Jehudit, born in Cairo in 1929, Heliopolis.....	192
Rosenthal Lazar, born in Cairo in 1942, Heliopolis	193
Salama Daniel Dorit, born in Cairo in 1949, Heliopolis	194
Salama Hirschberg Mazal, born in Cairo in 1948, Heliopolis.....	195
Shem-Tov Frieda, born in Cairo in 1946, Samalek.....	196

Shem-Tov Shimon, born in Alexandria in 1942.....	197
Silvermann Rubinstein Shmuel, born in Alexandria in 1943, Camp Cesar	198
Yadgard Rodrigues Jeane, born in Cairo in 1926, Abbasiya.....	199
Yarhi Kissus Alegra, born in Alexandria in 1925	199
Yarhi Davidovich Zipi, born in Cairo in 1949, Daher.....	200
Zadka Raphael, born in Cairo in 1938, Daher	201
Zadka Rina, born in Sudan in 1943, Chartum	203
Interviews in the USA	204
Abemayor Gracia, born in Cairo in 1940, Abasiyya	204
Aciman André, born in Alexandria in 1951	204
Behar Ricky Richard, born in the USA in 1961	206
Ben Ezra Albert, born in Cairo in 1944, Center	206
Castro Salomone, born in Alexandria in 1935, Muharam Bay.....	207
El-Wahid Joseph, born in Cairo in 1936, Heliopolis.....	208
Farhi Alain, born in Cairo in 1944, Garden City.....	209
Farhi Piccioto Sarin, born in Cairo in 1945, Garden City	211
Fiorentino Jacques, born in Cairo in 1945, Center	212
Lambez Rita, born in Alexandria in 1925.....	213
Hazan George Rose, born in Alexandria in 1950, Cleopatra.....	213
Hazan Toby, born in Alexandria in 1945, Cleopatra.....	213
Kleinman Dassa Aimee, born in Alexandria in 1951, Cleopatra.....	215
Kleinman Michele, born in the USA in 1980	215
Lagnado Eduard, born in Cairo in 1926, Abasiyya	216
Levy Renee, born in Cairo in 1921, Bab-el-Look	217
Levy Joseph, born in Cairo in 1957, Bab-el-look.....	217
Levy Marc, born in Alexandria in 1939	218
Maier Alice, born in Alexandria in 1931	218
Mayo Joyce, born in Paris in 1957	221
Mayo Philips Juliana, born in Cairo in 1953, Heliopolis.....	221
Mayo Lee, born in Cairo in 1953, Heliopolis.....	222
Mayo Dover Helen, born in Cairo in 1927, Heliopolis	222
Merdinger Mayo Sophie, born in Cairo in 1929, Heliopolis	223
Menashe Joe Joseph, born in Cairo in 1955, Center/Daher.....	224
Molkho Angele, born in Cairo in 1916, Abasiyya.....	225
Molkho Lehrer Grace, born in Alexandria in 1941, Center.....	225
Lehrer Jeremy, born in New York	226
Oppenheim Jean-Marc Ran, born in Cairo in 1947, Zamalek.....	226

Paolini Banown Vivian, born in Alexandria in 1939, Cleopatra	228
Ribakoff David, born in Bukhara in 1926	228
Ribakoff Elisa, born in Suez in 1931	229
Salama Joe Joseph, born in Alexandria in 1947, Sporting	229
Salama David, born in the United States in 1977	231
Sasson Michel, born in Alexandria in 1935, Sporting	231
Sasson Ted, born in Boston in 1965	232
Shem tov Alegra, born in Cairo in 1937, Abasiyya	233
Wiener Nina, born in Alexandria in 1933, Sporting	233
Zermati Elio, born in Cairo in 1945, Bab-el-look	235
Zonana Joyce, born in Cairo in 1949, Heliopolis	236
Zonana Nely, born in Cairo, Heliopolis	237
9. Other Voices	238
Scholars in Egypt	238
el-Abadi Mustafa, professor emeritus in Alexandria	238
Nur Shareef, professor emeritus in Alexandria	238
Awad Mohamed, architect, project-manager at the Bibliotheka Alexandria	239
Scholars in Israel	240
Gershoni Israel, Tel Aviv University, cathedral of Mizrahanut—Middle Eastern Studies	240
Kupferschmidt Uri, University of Haifa, Social History of the Middle East	241
Meital Yoram, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, chairman of the Chaim Herzog Center	241
Bejerano Margalit, Hebrew University Jerusalem, Department of Oral History	242
In the United States	242
Beinin Joel, San Francisco University, Department of Modern History of the Middle East	242
Bostanian Louise, born in Greece in 1922, lives in Alexandria	243
Dr. Said el-Wardani Neil, born in the United States	244
Tawill Isabelle, Alexandria	245
Sephardic–Mizrahi Voices	245
Na’ama Garshi	245
Gini Alhadeff	246
Lucette Lagnado	246
Jean Naggat	246
Yitzhak Gormezano-Goren	247
Jacqueline Kahanoff	247
Ortal ben-Dayyan	248
Sami Michael	248
Sami Shalom Chetrit	248

10. Interview Analysis	250
Tradition.....	251
Identity.....	251
Social Aspects.....	252
Emigration/Escape.....	253
Nationalization.....	253
Schooling and University Education.....	254
Language.....	254
A Sense of Belonging.....	255
Generations.....	255
The Younger Generation.....	256
The Middle Generation.....	256
The Older Generation.....	256
The Children of Emigrés.....	257
Professions.....	257
Discrimination in the United States.....	258
Discrimination in Israel.....	258
In Israel: Our Nakhba.....	259
Statistical Data.....	260
Final Remarks.....	261
Conclusion.....	261
Bibliography.....	264
References.....	270
Websites.....	270
Expert Interviews.....	270
Research at Various Institutions.....	271
Foot notes.....	272
Table of Egyptian-born interviewees.....	309