

English Abstract

A Moment Before The Exile

The Conceptualization of the Forgotten Contemporary Political History
of the Sephardi World

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The attitude toward Sephardi Jewry that made Aliyah- immigrated to the State of Israel mainly during the first decade and a half of Israel's existence has yet to be discussed in depth. There is a need for further investigation incorporating broader and more international aspects which may enrich our understanding and perhaps explain how the unappreciated, to say the least, attitude toward them within the Jewish State arose.

There is the need to relate to the events of the period which preceded the massive Aliyah of Jews from the Arab and Islamic lands. These events are largely absent from the annals of the Zionist and Jewish narratives. This omission, led to a failure to define the character of this population both before and after their Aliyah, and thus to properly assess their importance within both the national and political continuum.

This article reconstructs the growth of nationalism of occupied nationalities within the Ottoman Empire, and the reaction against this development by the Pan-Arabist movement. As a result of these conflicting forces, we can better understand the attitude of the Arab nations toward their Jewish populations, and the qualities that the Jews possessed and represented in their lands despite their difficult situation. Their situation was not properly appreciated upon their arrival in the State of Israel which as a result provided between the years 1940–1970, from a socio- national perspective, a model for the "eradication" of these olim Arab countries.