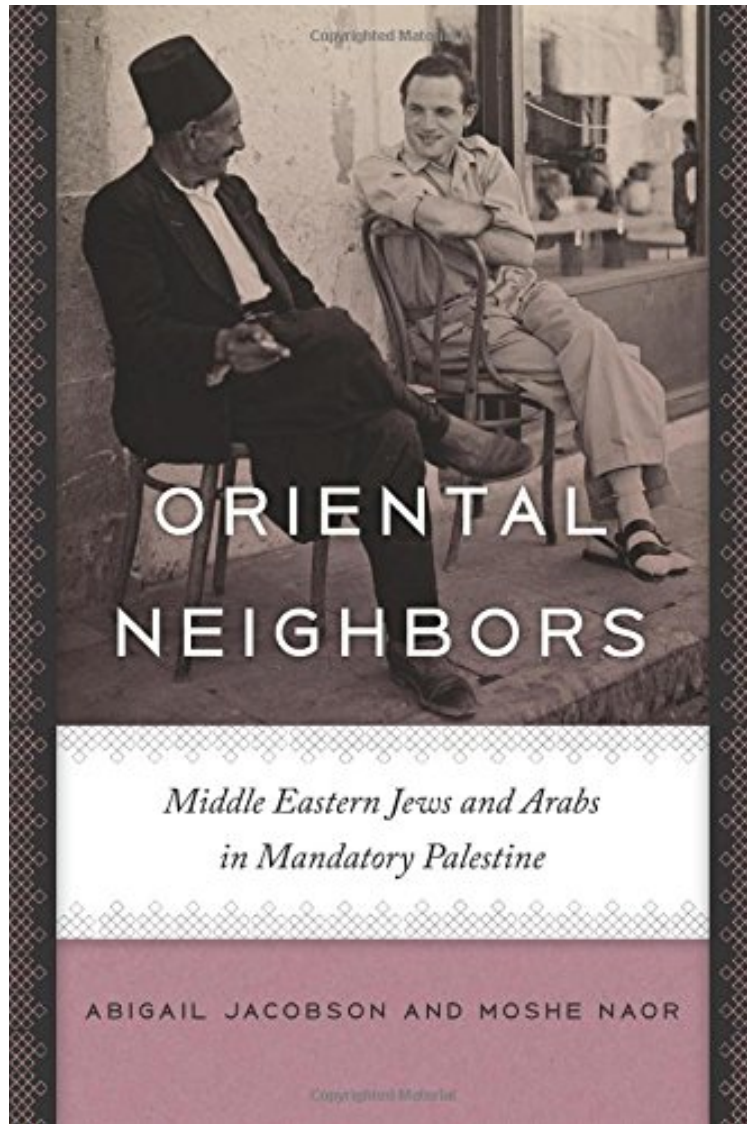


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Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine (The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies)

Abigail Jacobson, Moshe Naor

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Abigail Jacobson, Moshe Naor : Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine (The Schusterman Series in Israel Studies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Oriental Neighbors: Middle Eastern Jews and Arabs in Mandatory Palestine (The

Schusterman Series in Israel Studies):

Winner of the Shapiro Prize for best book of 2016 Focusing on Oriental Jews and their relations with their Arab neighbors in Mandatory Palestine, this book analyzes the meaning of the hybrid Arab-Jewish identity that existed among Oriental Jews, and discusses their unique role as political, social, and cultural mediators between Jews and Arabs. Integrating Mandatory Palestine and its inhabitants into the contemporary Semitic-Levantine surroundings, *Oriental Neighbors* illuminates broad areas of cooperation and coexistence, which coincided with conflict and friction, between Oriental and Sephardi Jews and their Arab neighbors. The book brings the Oriental Jewish community to the fore, examines its role in the Zionist nation-building process, and studies its diverse and complex links with the Arab community in Palestine.

Jacobson and Naor assert that what united the Mizrahi Jews during this period was their deep confidence that they could serve as mediators between Jews and Arabs. One of the factors was their fluency in Arabic. . . . The shared language enabled Mizrahi Jews to maintain meaningful relationships with Muslim and Christian Arabs; and, achieving quite different purposes, it also afforded them opportunities to collect intelligence and play a strategic role as the drive for Jewish statehood intensified. *The Jewish News of Northern California*