

July 2009 Vol. 46 No. 11

SOCIAL & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

History, Geography & Area Studies - Middle East & North
Africa

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The following review appeared in the July 2009 issue of CHOICE:

46-6383 DS135 2008-15081 CIP
Iraq's last Jews: stories of daily life, upheaval, and escape from modern Babylon, ed. by Tamar Morad, Dennis Shasha,
and Robert Shasha. Palgrave Macmillan, 2008. 220p bibl index ISBN 0230608108, \$79.95

The shifting political winds from the 1930s to the 1960s resulted in a massive relocation of Iraqi Jews, mostly to Israel, and the disintegration of a major contributor to emerging Iraq's economic and cultural life. This compilation of narratives succeeds in painting a much broader view of this community's transition than the more personal and thus restricted accounts of many previous authors. Despite the relative brevity of the many reports here and the consequent loss of ethnographic detail, most are superbly chosen, and many are fascinating in their examination of aspects of Jewish life not previously well known. Much of the book depicts Iraqi Jewish life in the first half of the 20th century, providing insights into commerce, music, and politics. WW II and Arab nationalism and pro-German sentiment and the Farhoud anti-Jewish riots of 1941 resulted in a counter-Jewish nationalism and "the audacious plan," the Zionist program for the evacuation of Iraqi Jews. Beautifully portrayed are their precarious existence in Iraq after the departure of most of the community, the affection for the life they remembered before the Bathists, and finally the vicissitudes of resettlement and the lowered status for most emigrants, especially in Israel. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries. -- *L. D. Loeb, University of Utah*