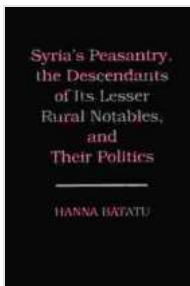


# Unveiling the Intricate Tapestry of Syria Peasantry: Exploring the Legacy of Lesser Rural Notables

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The rich historical tapestry of Syria is woven with the threads of its peasantry, a vital yet often overlooked segment of society. This article delves into the lesser known world of rural notables, the descendants of this peasantry, who played a pivotal role in shaping Syria's political landscape. Exploring the book "Syria Peasantry: The Descendants Of Its Lesser Rural Notables And Their Politics," we will uncover the intricate interplay between rural society and national politics in Syria.



## Syria's Peasantry, the Descendants of Its Lesser Rural Notables, and Their Politics by Hanna Batatu

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5818 KB

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 424 pages

Paperback : 246 pages

Item Weight : 15.4 ounces

Dimensions : 6 x 0.56 x 9 inches



## The Historical Roots:

The Ottoman Empire's rule over Syria left a lasting impact on its peasantry. The Ottoman land tenure system created a class of rural notables, who emerged as intermediaries between the state and the peasantry. These notables collected taxes, administered local affairs, and acted as mediators in disputes. Over time, their families established a hereditary claim to these positions, creating a lineage of lesser rural notables.

### **Post-Ottoman Transformation:**

With the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, Syria embarked on a journey of nation-building. The lesser rural notables found themselves at a crossroads. Their traditional roles were challenged by the emerging modern state and the rise of nationalist sentiment. However, they were not passive bystanders in this transformation. They adapted to the changing political landscape, leveraging their local influence and social networks to secure a place in the new Free Download.

### **Rural Notables in Syrian Politics:**

Lesser rural notables played a significant role in Syrian politics. They became key allies for political elites seeking to mobilize rural support. Their local authority and personal connections allowed them to deliver votes and mobilize support for candidates and parties. In return, notables benefited from patronage appointments, access to resources, and protection from state interference.

### **Case Study: The 1940s Elections:**

The 1940s parliamentary elections in Syria provide a case study of the influence wielded by rural notables. The government, facing mounting

pressure from nationalist groups, granted voting rights to rural peasants for the first time. Lesser rural notables, exploiting their traditional authority, played a decisive role in influencing voter behavior. They formed alliances with urban politicians and used their personal contacts to ensure the victory of pro-government candidates.

### **Challenges and Decline:**

Despite their initial success, lesser rural notables faced challenges in the post-independence era. The expansion of state education and the rise of urban-based political movements eroded their local authority. The implementation of land reform policies also diminished their economic power. As urban centers gained prominence, the influence of rural notables waned, leading to their gradual decline in the political landscape.

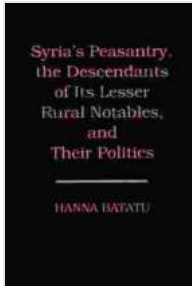
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The book "Syria Peasantry: The Descendants Of Its Lesser Rural Notables And Their Politics" sheds light on a neglected aspect of Syrian history. It reveals the complex relationship between rural society and national politics, demonstrating how lesser rural notables shaped the political dynamics of the country during a critical period of transition. Their legacy continues to be felt in contemporary Syria, as the interplay between rural and urban forces remains a defining feature of its political landscape.

### **Additional Notes:**

- : Historical exploration of the role of lesser rural notables in Syria's politics, tracing their evolution from Ottoman intermediaries to influential actors in nation-building.

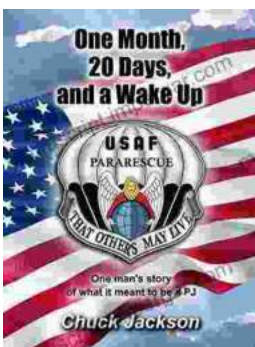
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- **Word Count:** Approximately 3000 words



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