Colonial Effects

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The Making of National Identity in Jordan

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Contents

Acknowledgments xi

Introduction 1

Law, Military, and Discipline 2 Tradition and Modernity 5 Historical Moments 8 Jordan's Historical Moments 10

1. Codifying the Nation: Law and the Articulation of National Identity in Jordan 18

The Prehistory of Juridical Postcoloniality 22 National Time 25 National Space 33 National Territory and Paternity 35 Nationalizing Non-nationals 38 Losing Nationality: The Law Giveth and the Law Taketh Away 43 Women and Children 45

2. Different Spaces as Different Times: Law and Geography in Jordanian Nationalism 50

Different Species of Citizens: Women and Bedouins 51 Bedouins and National Citizenship 56

Contents

Nationalist Tribalism or Tribalist Nationalism: The Debate 66 Jordanian Culture in an International Frame 73 Women Between the Public and Private Spheres 79 Women in Public 88 Women and Politics 92

3. Cultural Syncretism or Colonial Mimic Men: Jordan's Bedouins and the Military Basis of National Identity 100

The Bedouin Choice 105 Cultural Imperialism and Discipline 111 Cultural Cross-dressing as Epistemology 117 Imperialism as Educator 131 Masculinity, Culture, and Women 137 Transforming the Bedouins 143 Education, Surveillance, and the Production of Bedouin Culture 148

 Nationalizing the Military: Colonial Legacy as National Heritage 163

Anticolonial Nationalism and the Army 165 King Husayn and the Nationalist Officers 171 Clash of the Titans: Glubb Pasha and the Uneasy King 178 "Arabizing" the Jordanian Army 185 The Palace Coup: The End of an Era 189 Palace Repression and the Forgiving King 198 Palestinians and the Military 204 Threatening the Nation's Masculinity and Religious "Tradition" 207 The Military and the New Jordan 213 Colonial or National Legacy? 217

5. The Nation as an Elastic Entity: The Expansion and Contraction of Jordan 222

Expanding the Nation: The Road to Annexation 226 The Jericho Conference 227 The New Jordan 233 Palestinians and the West Bank 235 Contents

Competing Representatives: The PLO and Jordan 236 Toward Civil War 240 A New Nationalist Era 246 Clothes, Accents, and Football: Asserting Post–Civil War Jordanianness 250 Contracting the Nation: The Road to "The Severing of Ties" 258 Who Is Jordanian? 263

Concluding Remarks 276

Notes 279

Works Cited 353

Index 371

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This book began as a dissertation. I have enjoyed thinking about, researching, and writing it in ways I did not anticipate. When I embarked on this intellectual journey, I thought that I already knew many of the answers to the questions I was posing. In the process, I realized that I knew only few of them, and even then not adequately. I have learned much from this project, not only about nationalism and Jordan but also about myself as a subject of both. It is through working on this project that I came to understand how I became a *Palestinian Jordanian*. My hope is that this book will serve to explain the process through which the Jordanian people came to see "ourselves" the way "we" do.

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From Edward Said, I learned much of what I know about culture, representation, and empire. I began reading Edward Said when I was a freshman in college. I only met him eight years later. His work has had the

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My mother always dreamed of obtaining a university education, a dream that remains unfulfilled. To make it up to herself, she moved heaven and earth to ensure that her children would go. My father's pride in his children's academic accomplishments is always manifest. Like my mother, he did not have a chance to obtain a university education.

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