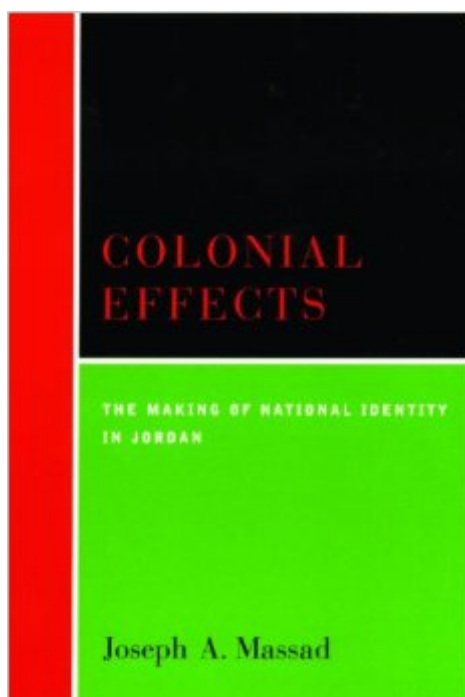


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# Colonial Effects: The Making Of National Identity In Jordan



## Synopsis

Colonial Effects analyzes the creation and definition of modern Jordanian identity. Massad studies two key institutions-- the law and the military--and uses them to create an original and precise analysis of the development of Jordanian national identity in the postcolonial period. Joseph A. Massad engages recent scholarly debates on nationalism and richly fulfills the analytical promise of Michel Foucault's insight that modern institutions and their power to have productive, not merely repressive or coercive, capacities -- though Massad also stresses their continued repressive function. His argument is advanced by a consideration of evidence, including images produced by state tourist agencies aimed at attracting Western visitors, the changing and precarious position of women in the newly constructed national space, and such practices as soccer games, music, songs, food, clothing, and shifting accents and dialects.

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## Customer Reviews

In his book "Colonial Effects", Mr. Massad analyzes how Jordan's identity has evolved since the colonial time. He emphasizes how this was achieved mainly by the means of two institutions: the

law and the military. Considering that it was to take place in a newly formed country constituted of a very diverse population, this was quite a challenge. Colonial Effects was written as a dissertation, which makes it very structured and scholarly. Chapter one, "Codifying the Nation: Law and the Articulation of National Identity in Jordan", makes a review of how the Jordanian law came to exist, first during the Ottoman empire, already influenced by the Western world, and then by the British mandate. Jordan, according to Massad, would not have been possible before the era of the Nation-state, as the population was very diverse and divided. But the creation of this state predates the establishment of a Jordanian identity, since the enactment of Nationality Law didn't occur until 1928. The territory of Jordan, on the other side, has always been more malleable, since it has expanded and contracted, and a British concept of private ownership was put in force during the mandate, which territorialized the reorganization of national identity. Like British national law, Jordanian nationality was defined by one's paternity, which stayed mostly unchanged, or in certain cases by naturalization. Women's and children's nationality was until fairly recently dependent on their husbands and fathers nationality. In "Different Spaces as Different Times: Law and Geography in Jordanian Nationalism", Massad explains the different application of the law to urban males, women, and Bedouins. In Jordan, there is a distinction between the civil code, the personal status law, and the tribal law.

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