

## CONTENTS

|                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| <b>Preface</b> | <b>11</b> |
|----------------|-----------|

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| <b>Introduction</b> | <b>13</b> |
|---------------------|-----------|

The Jews in Interwar Poland 14; *Mizrahi* in Eastern Europe – First Steps 19

### **Part A** **The *Mizrahi* – A View Inward**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 1: The <i>Mizrahi</i> – Organizational Structure and Activities</b> | <b>31</b> |
|--|-----------|

Institutions and Chapters 31; The Women of *Mizrahi* 44; *Mizrahi* in Poland and the *Mizrahi* World Organization 49; Elections to the Zionist Congresses 52; *Aliya* and Settlement 55

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 2: The Educational Activity of <i>Mizrahi</i></b> | <b>64</b> |
|--|-----------|

Educational Trend and Curriculum 65; Elementary Schools for Boys 68; Girls' Education 69; The *Yeshivot* 70; *Mizrahi* Versus other Educational Systems 71; Schools' Functioning 73

|                                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 3: Youth Organizations</b> | <b>75</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|

*Zeirei Mizrahi* 75; The *Torah Va Avodah* Movement 80; Women in the Youth Organizations 83; Relationships Between *Mizrahi*, *Zeirei Mizrahi* and the *Torah Va Avodah* Movement 86

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Chapter 4: Youth Movements</b> | <b>91</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|

Between Youth Movement, Party, and *Heder* 92; Institutions and Scope of Activity 97; Students and Workers in the Youth Movements 99; The Orthodox Society and the *Mizrahi* Youth Movements 100; Jewish Studies 102; The Religious Atmosphere 104; Girls in the Youth Movements 105

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| <b>Chapter 5: <i>He Halutz Ha Mizrahi</i></b> | <b>109</b> |
|---|------------|

First Days 110; The Formation of *He Halutz Ha Mizrahi* 113; Scope of Activity and *Aliya* 115; The Struggle Over the *Aliya* Certificates

121; *He Halutz Ha Mizrahi* Institutions 124; The Distribution of the Pioneers between *He Halutz Ha Mizrahi* Centers 129; Between ‘Galicianer’ and ‘Polish’ Pioneers 130

**Chapter 6: The Religious Pioneer – Characterization** 133

Tradition, Modernity and Observance of the Jewish Law 133; Patterns of Employment before Joining the *Hakhshara* 136; Education of the Religious Pioneer 138; Townsmen and Countrymen 140; Marital Status of the Pioneers 142; Between Pioneers and ‘Certificates Pioneers’ 142; The Pioneer and His Family – Between Support and Rebellion 144

**Chapter 7: The *Hakhsharaot*** 148

Professional Training and Patterns of Organization 149; ‘Spiritual Training’ – The Formation of the Curriculum 152; Living Conditions in *Hakhshara* 154; Inner Management of *Hakhshara* 155; Social Atmosphere in *Hakhshara* 156; Religious Atmosphere in *Hakhshara* 157; Waiting for *Aliya* 158; The Woman in *Hakhshara* 159

**Chapter 8: Relations with Fraternal and Opponent Movements** 166

*Zeirei Mizrahi* 166; Youth Movements – *Bnei Akiva* and *Ha Shomer Ha Dati* 167; Movements in Palestine – *Ha Poel Ha Mizrahi* and *Ha Brit Ha Olamit* 170; The Secular Equivalent – *He Halutz* Movement 172

**Part B**  
**The *Mizrahi* – A Look Outward**

**Chapter 9: The *Mizrahi* within the Jewish Communities** 179

The Community – Between Religion and Nationality 179; Community Elections 180; Communal Activities 185

**Chapter 10: The *Mizrahi* in the *Sejm*** 191

‘Local Focus’ or Zionist Activity? 191; Activity in the *Sejm* 193; Participation in Municipal Elections 203

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| <b>Chapter 11: The <i>Mizrahi</i> and the Polish Rabbis</b>  | <b>205</b> |
| Seeking Rabbinical Support 205; Harassment of <i>Mizrahi</i> Rabbis 207;<br>The Struggle for the Rabbinate 209; The Political Involvement of the<br><i>Mizrahi</i> Rabbis 216; ' <i>Knesset Ha Rabbanim Ha Mizrahi'im</i> ' 218  |            |
| <b>Chapter 12: The <i>Mizrahi</i> versus <i>Agudat Yisrael</i></b>   | <b>220</b> |
| <i>Torah</i> and Politics – ' <i>Da'at Torah</i> ' and the Representation of the<br>Orthodoxy 220; The Balance of Power 226; The <i>Mizrahi's</i> Criticism<br>of <i>Agudat Yisrael</i> – Society, Education and Zionism 227; Cooperation<br>between the <i>Mizrahi</i> and <i>Agudat Yisrael</i> 230; The Struggle over the<br><i>Aliya</i> Certificates 233; Relations between the Parties' Supporters 234 |            |
| <b>Chapter 13: The <i>Mizrahi</i> and Zionism</b>  | <b>240</b> |
| Between Cooperation and Opposition 240; The Zionist Policy of the<br><i>Mizrahi</i> 252; The <i>Mizrahi</i> and the Zionist Parties in Poland 255  |            |
| <b>Epilogue</b>  | <b>259</b> |
| <b>Endnotes</b>  | <b>261</b> |
| <b>Bibliography</b>  | <b>341</b> |
| <b>Indices</b>   | <b>364</b> |