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978-0-521-76584-8 - The Shiites of Lebanon under Ottoman Rule, 1516-1788

Stefan Winter

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## The Shiites of Lebanon under Ottoman Rule, 1516–1788

*The Shiites of Lebanon under Ottoman Rule, 1516–1788* provides a new perspective on the previously ignored history of the Shiites as a constituent of Lebanese society. Winter presents a history of the community before the nineteenth century, based primarily on unpublished Ottoman Turkish documents. From these, he shows how local Shiites were well integrated in the Ottoman system of rule, and that Lebanon as an autonomous entity only developed in the course of the eighteenth century through the marginalization and then violent elimination of the indigenous Shiite leaderships by an increasingly powerful Druze–Maronite emirate. As such the book recovers the Ottoman-era history of a group which has always been neglected in chronicle-based works, and, in doing so, fundamentally calls into question the historic place within ‘Lebanon’ of what has today become the country’s largest and most activist sectarian community.

**Stefan Winter** is Professeur régulier at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQÀM). His previous publications have included a number of articles for various journals including *Oriente Moderno* and the *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*.

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STEFAN WINTER

*Université du Québec à Montréal*



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Dedicated to Safuh Murtada, 'Abir Bassam,  
Bernard Heyberger and Mafalda Ade

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## Note on transliterations

This study draws on source materials in Turkish, Arabic and several western European languages. Modern Turkish spelling has been used for administrative terms and names of officials of the Ottoman Empire, whereas the modified *International Journal of Middle East Studies* system for transliterating Arabic has been used for people and most place names in Lebanon and Syria. The point of the study, however, is that many individuals and institutions were proper to both contexts, so that I have thought it best to alternate between systems, and by the same token to use modern standard Kurmanci orthography for names of identifiably Kurdish groups and individuals, depending on the context or on the sources being quoted. This entails a certain number of subjective choices and inconsistencies, for which I ask the reader's indulgence.

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## Abbreviations

AE	Affaires Étrangères
MD	Mühimme Defteri
MM	Maliyeden Müdevver
ŞD	Şikayet Defteri
TD	Tahrir Defteri