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Eugene L. Rogan

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## Frontiers of the State in the Late Ottoman Empire Transjordan, 1850–1921

Until the mid-nineteenth century, Transjordan was a frontier region of the Ottoman province of Syria. In a time of European challenges to Ottoman integrity, the region's strategic location, linking Syria to Palestine and Arabia, motivated the Ottoman state to extend direct rule over this region. Using new archival material from Ottoman Arabic and European sources, Eugene Rogan documents the case of Transjordan to provide a theoretically informed account of how the Ottoman state restructured and redefined itself during the last decades of its Empire. In so doing, he explores the idea of frontier as a geographical and cultural boundary, and sheds light on the processes of state formation which ultimately led to the creation of the Middle East as it is defined today. The book concludes with an examination of the Ottoman legacy in the modern state of Jordan.

EUGENE L. ROGAN is university lecturer in the modern history of the Middle East, University of Oxford, and Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford. His publications include (with Tariq Tell) *Village, Steppe and State: The Social Origins of Modern Jordan* (1994) and (with Alan Bowman) *Agriculture in Egypt from Pharaonic to Modern Times* (1999).

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# Frontiers of the State in the Late Ottoman Empire

*Transjordan, 1850–1921*

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Eugene L. Rogan

*University of Oxford*



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## Conventions

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### Place names

Ottoman provincial boundaries little corresponded to those of the twentieth-century successor states. Where appropriate, Ottoman administrative names are used in the text. For convenience, I have used the terms and approximate boundaries of the League of Nations mandates to refer to broader territories: *Transjordan* to refer to the lands east of the Jordan Rift Valley and south of the Yarmouk river; *Palestine* to refer to the lands to the west of the Jordan Rift Valley; *Syria* and *Lebanon* to the respective territories put under French mandate in the interwar years. I have used the term *Greater Syria* to refer to that territory known in Arabic as *Bilad al-Sham*, which includes the territories of Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Transjordan combined. In using these place names I do not mean to imply any notion of national identity adhered to them, but believe they are more readily recognizable to readers more familiar with the twentieth- than the nineteenth-century geography of the area.

### Transliteration

Ottoman Turkish has been rendered in modern Turkish following the *New Redhouse Turkish-English Dictionary, 8th edition* (1986). Turkish spellings have been used for all Turkish proper nouns (personal and place names), all administrative terms, and all passages cited in Turkish. Arabic has been transliterated in keeping with a modified form of the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* system: no under-dots and no special diacriticals for long vowels. ‘*Ain* is marked by ‘, *hamza* by ’. The definite article *al-* is given in the first appearance of all proper nouns in a given chapter and in the index, but is left off in all other points of the text. Arabic transliteration has been used for all Arabic proper nouns and all passages cited in Arabic.

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**The Ottoman administrative apparatus**

The following English terms are used consistently throughout the text to refer to specific administrative units and administrators of *Tanzimat* provincial government:

<i>Vilayet</i>	Province
<i>Vali</i>	Provincial governor
<i>Sancak</i> or <i>Mutasarrıfyıya</i>	Region
<i>Mutasarrıf</i>	Regional governor
<i>Kaza</i> or <i>Kaymakamlık</i>	District
<i>Kaymakam</i>	District governor
<i>Nahiye</i> or <i>Müdürlük</i>	Commune
<i>Müdür</i>	Communal head

**Abbreviations**

AAE	Archives des Affaires Etrangères, Paris
AB	<i>The Arab Bulletin</i>
ADN	Archives Diplomatiques de Nantes
ADN, CCE	Constantinople: Correspondence avec les Echelles
BBA	Başbakanlık [Prime Ministry] Archives, Istanbul
CMS	Archives of the Church Missionary Society
DLR	Department of Land Registration, Jordan
HDC	Historic Documents Centre, Damascus
ICR	Islamic Court Register
<i>IJMES</i>	<i>International Journal of Middle East Studies</i>
IWM	Imperial War Museum, London
MW	Mirza Wasfi Papers, Department of Documentation and National Archives, Amman
NA	National Archives, Washington, D.C.
<i>PEFQS</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Fund Quarterly Statement</i>
PRO	Public Records Office, Kew
Qusus	<i>Mudhakkirat</i> [Memoirs] of ‘Awda al-Qusus
SAC	The Private Papers Collection, the Middle East Centre, St. Antony’s College, Oxford
Tall	<i>Mudhakkirat</i> [Memoirs] of Salih al-Tall

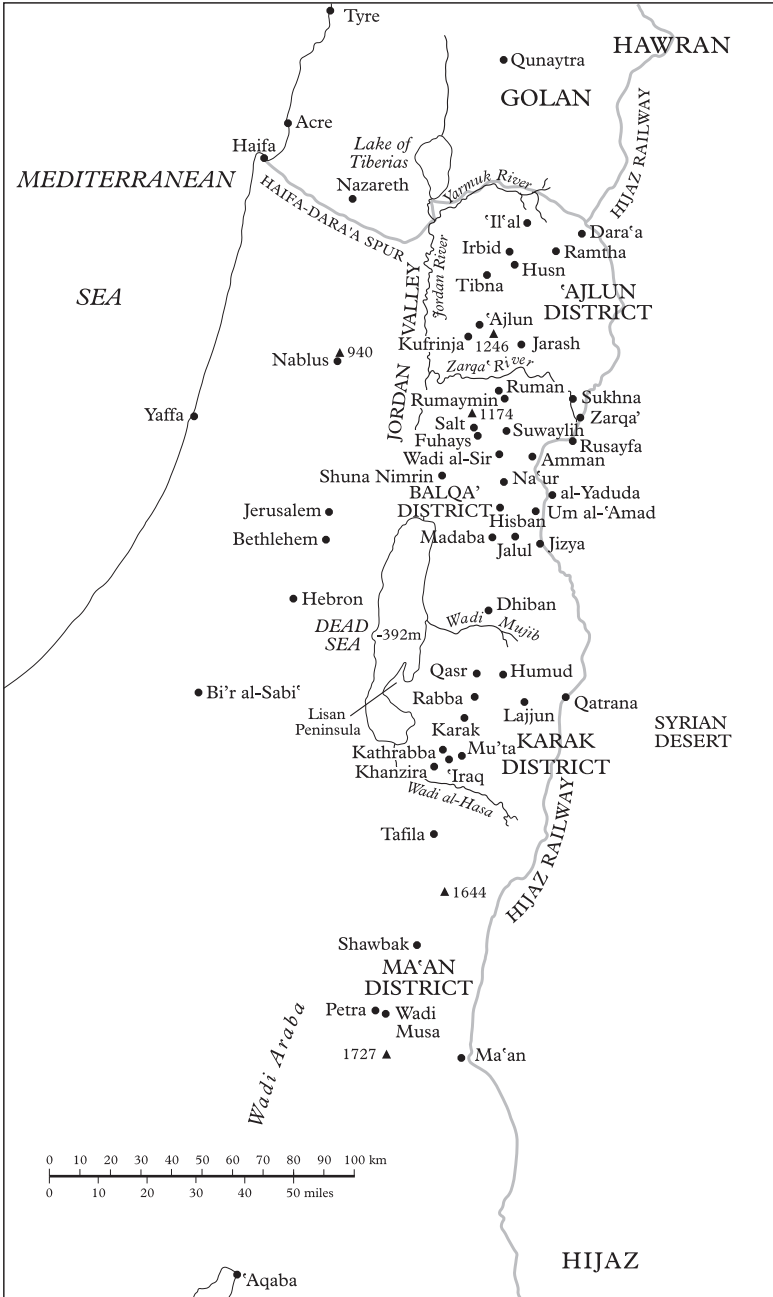
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Map 1 Administrative divisions of Ottoman Transjordan.