CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Late Ottoman Gaza

In contemporary public discourse, Gaza tends to be characterized solely as a theater of the ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. However, little is known about Gaza's society, politics, economy, and culture during the late Ottoman era. Drawing on a range of previously untapped local and imperial sources, Yuval Ben-Bassat and Johann Buessow explore the city's history from the mid-nineteenth century until World War I. They show that Gaza's historical importance extends far beyond the territory of today's "Strip" since the city was an important hub for people, goods, and ideas in the Eastern Mediterranean from Antiquity until the twentieth century. Using new digital methodologies, Ben-Bassat and Buessow introduce readers to the world of Gazans from various walks of life, from the traditional Muslim elites to the commoners and minority communities of Christians and Jews. In so doing, they tell the lively story of this significant but frequently misunderstood city.

Yuval Ben-Bassat is Professor of Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Haifa. He is the author of *Petitioning the Sultan* (2013) and the editor and coeditor of several other books in Mamluk and Ottoman history, including *From the Household to the Wider World* (2022) with Johann Buessow.

Johann Buessow is Professor of Islamic Studies at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. He specializes in the social and cultural history of the modern Middle East. He is the author of *Hamidian Palestine* (2011) and the co-author, with Khaled Safi, of *Damascus Affairs* (2013).

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Late Ottoman Gaza

An Eastern Mediterranean Hub in Transformation

Yuval Ben-Bassat
University of Haifa

Johann Buessow
Ruhr-Universität Bochum

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org



Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314–321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05–06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge.

We share the University's mission to contribute to society through the pursuit of education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781316518199

DOI: 10.1017/9781108999519

© Yuval Ben-Bassat and Johann Buessow 2024

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press & Assessment.

First published 2024

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Ben-Bassat, Yuval, author. | Buessow, Johann, author.
Title: Late Ottoman Gaza : an Eastern Mediterranean hub in transformation / Yuval Ben-Bassat, Johann Buessow.
Description: New York : Cambridge University Press, 2024. | Includes bibliographical references and index.
Identifiers: LCCN 2023048449 (print) | LCCN 2023048450 (ebook) | ISBN 9781316518199 (hardback) | ISBN 9781108995580 (paperback) | ISBN 9781108999519 (epub)
Subjects: LCSH: Gaza Strip–History. | Palestine–History–1799-1917. | Palestine–Politics and government–19th century. | Palestine–Politics and government–20th century. | Turkey–History–Mehmed V, 1909-1918. | Turkey–History–1878-1909.
Classification: LCC DS110.G3 B46 2024 (print) | LCC DS110.G3 (ebook) | DDC 956.94/3–dc23/eng/20240104
LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023048449
LC ebook record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2023048450

ISBN 978-1-316-51819-9 Hardback

Cambridge University Press & Assessment has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

To Adva and Noga Ben-Bassat Offer
To Paul, Emmy, Levi, and Oskar Buessow

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Contents

List of Figures *page* viii
Acknowledgments x
Notes on Transcription and Dating xii

Introduction: Late Ottoman Gaza, a Coastal City Detached from the Sea 1

1 A Bird's-Eye View of Gaza's Economy, Population, and Geostrategic Position 34

2 Living in Late Ottoman Gaza 65

3 Relationships with the Rural Population 97

4 Gaza-Style Politics and the Emergence of Spatialized Factionalism 119

Conclusion: An Eastern Mediterranean Hub in Transformation 152

Bibliography 160
Index 177

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Figures

I.1 View of Gaza from Jabal al-Muntar, dated 1918 *page* 2
I.2 An aerial photo of Gaza taken during WWI 3
I.3 Gaza depicted in the Palestine Exploration Fund Map of 1879 4
I.4 Gaza's neighborhoods in the Ottoman census of 1905 23
I.5 Georg Gatt's Map of Gaza (1888) 26
1.1 An Ottoman map of Sinai drawn after the ʿAqaba Incident of 1906 38
2.1 Gaza's old city center 66
2.2 Gaza's main thoroughfares 68
2.3 The rural satellite *hara*s of al-ʿAwamid, Hillis, and Mashahira 71
2.4 The fifteen most frequent occupations in Daraj 74
2.5 The fifteen most frequent occupations in Shujaʿiyya 75
2.6 The Abu Khadra family's assets on Shaykh ʿAyyad Street 80
2.7 The Shaykh ʿAyyad area with the estimated location of Dar Abu Khadra and other prominent buildings 81
2.8 The Shaykh ʿUthman area in an aerial photograph 83
2.9 The Shaykh ʿUthman area in an aerial photograph, looking West 84
2.10 The Rifi Street area in Tuffah 85
2.11 Aerial view of Rifi Street area at the western end of Tuffah, looking towards Daraj 86
2.12 The Hillis sub-neighborhood 87
2.13 General marriage patterns in Late Ottoman Gaza 89
2.14 Marriages contracted between spouses from the same neighborhood 90
2.15 Marriages across neighborhoods 91
3.1 Map of selected villages in the *kaza* of Gaza 99
4.1 A collective telegraphic petition backing Muhammad Saqallah with sixty-one signatures, December 8, 1892. 130

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

4.2 A collective telegraphic petition backing *mufti* al-Husayni with 123 signatures, April 22, 1893 132
4.3 Network analysis of two petitions: pro-Saqallah and pro-Husayni 133
4.4 Aerial photos of Daraj (top) and Shuajaʿiyya (bottom) showing the assets of the Husaynis and Shawwas/Busaysus 144

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Acknowledgments

Numerous colleagues, friends, and institutions contributed to the success of this multiyear project. We are enormously grateful to all the members of our international research team, without whom this journey would have been much more difficult and less successful: Dr. Sarah Buessow, Dr. Muharrem Varol, Ahmad Fahoum, Vered Andre'ev, Mustafa R. Hamdan, Ferhat Demirel, Dr. Petra Nendwich, Tomer Shporn, Adrian Bernhard, Marwa Alkhatib, Yami Roth, Dr. Dieta-Frauke Svoboda, and Taner Ulupinar.

We are indebted to our colleagues Professor Yossi Ben-Artzi, Professor Gudrun Krämer, Professor Ulrike Freitag, Professor Ehud Toledano, Professor Fruma Zachs, Professor Gad Gilbar, Professor Amalia Levanoni, Dr. Omri Eilat, Dr. Dotan Halevy, and Dr. Shmuel Giler, who gave us extremely valuable advice on numerous features of our project and frequently brought comparative cases from their own studies to our attention.

We thank Dr. Michael Derntl from the University of Tübingen for helping us set up the project's database and internet site. Regardless of the difficulty, Michael always found a solution even when the task was very challenging. Our gratitude also goes to Dr. Matthias Lang, the former director of Tübingen's eScience Center, and to Sonja Rosenberger, the coordinator of the Digital Humanities Center at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, for hosting the database and giving their unstinting support to this project.

This project was primarily funded by the German Israeli Foundation for Research and Development (GIF), grant number 1226 ("Gaza during the Late Ottoman Period"). We truly appreciate all the help provided over the years by Tali Rosenbaum, the former head of the foundation, and by Mina Horesh, the deputy director; we are grateful to them for approving all our requests.

Generous support for publishing this book was also provided by the Israel Science Foundation (grant #39/24). In addition from 2022 onwards, publication was supported by funding from the European

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Research Council (ERC) awarded to Johann Buessow for the project "Late Ottoman Palestinians: Social and Cultural Dynamics in an Eastern Mediterranean Society during the Age of Empire, 1880-1920" (ERC, LOOP, 101044105).

We thank the University of Haifa for the financial aid provided through the Faculty of Humanities and the Research Authority. We are grateful to Professor Gur Alroey, Professor Efraim Lev, and Professor Ido Izhaki for ensuring this generous support.

We appreciate the specialized assistance of the staff of the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Library at the University of Haifa in helping us find the wide variety of sources for this project.

Our friends Professor Khalid Safi, Dr. Thomas Welsford, Dr. Gil Gordon, and Dr. Kamal Zubidat provided invaluable assistance in various stages of the project by clarifying unresolved questions and providing us with access to some rare sources.

We are thankful to Esther Singer for the professional, careful, and caring editing of the manuscript, and to Sapir Haad for preparing the maps and images for publication.

We are deeply thankful to Maria Marsh, Atifa Jiwa, Rachel Imrie and Natasha Burton from Cambridge University Press for the professional, dedicated treatment of our book. We also thank Balamuthukumaran Pasupathy for his substantial efforts in preparing the manuscript for publication.

Finally, we thank our beloved families for all their patience and understanding during the endless hours spent on this project: Shira, Adva, and Noga Ben-Bassat Offer in Israel, and Sarah, Paul, Emmy, Levi, and Oskar Buessow in Germany.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org

CAMBRIDGE
Cambridge University Press & Assessment
978-1-316-51819-9 — Late Ottoman Gaza
Yuval Ben-Bassat , Johann Buessow
Frontmatter
More Information

Notes on Transcription and Dating

When referring to sources in Ottoman Turkish, we use modern Turkish orthography as in the Redhouse Turkish/Ottoman-English Dictionary (1st edition, Istanbul 1968). Unlike Redhouse, however, we represent the letter *ʿayn* by ʿ throughout. The letter *hamza* is represented in the middle or end of a word by ʾ (e.g., *ʿulemaʾ*). When referring to terms and proper names in Arabic, we adopted a modified transcription system that follows the *International Journal of Middle East Studies* but eliminates under dots on consonants and macrons on vowels and only uses representations of *ʿayn* and *hamza*. For Hebrew, a similar simplified system is used with ʾ representing the letter *alef* and ʿ representing the letter *ʿayin*.

With regard to dates, the Ottoman documents during the period covered here used several different calendars, including the Islamic *hicri* calendar, the Ottoman administrative *mali* calendar and, in some cases, the Gregorian calendar. When converting dates from the *hicri* and *mali* calendars to the Gregorian calendar, a difference of one day can sometimes occur.

© in this web service Cambridge University Press & Assessment www.cambridge.org