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### **The Palestinian Memory of Jewish Religious Reform**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a group of central European Jewish elites—lay and rabbinic—reformed Judaism. This reform, or sets of reforms, had aesthetic, ritual, political, theological, and ideological elements. European Jewish collective memory was not of one mind concerning these reforms. Some remembered them with pride in the acts of Jewish forebears who recognized and properly responded to the intellectual and religious challenges of modernity. For others, the reforms were remembered with shame in the weakness of those Jewish forebears to withstand the pressures of modernity and their willingness to sacrifice central tenets and practices on the altar of assimilation. But Jews were not the only group who remembered Jewish religious reform or who found contemporary relevance in that memory. Among Palestinian Arabs, whose fates have been linked to those of Jews since the latter part of the same century, certain intellectuals have also been deeply preoccupied with the memory of Jewish religious reform and what that memory means for Palestine. Broadly, this paper considers how one community comes to terms with, and polemically employs, a collective memory of another, opposing national group. Palestinian Arab fascination with and reinterpretation of the Jewish collective memory of the **Reform** movement encourage us to think not merely about competing collective memories but also about the use of the Other's collective memory.

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