

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	13
Introduction	15
Subject of Research	16
Methodological Approaches	20
Archival Data and Sources	24
Current State of Research	27
Chapters	31
<i>Chapter 1</i>	
<i>Sephardic Jewry Heritage during the Iberian</i> <i>and Ottoman Eras</i>	<i>33</i>
1. Sephardic Jews in Western Europe and the Balkans	33
Arrival on the Balkans in the 15 th Century	35
Jewish Life within the Ottoman Empire	39
Involvement of Jews in Transnational and National Movements on the Balkans	42
2. Cultural Characteristics of Sephardic Jews	44
Ladino or Judeo-Spanish Language	44
Proverbs, Tales, Sayings, and Songs	46
Sephardic Customs	49
Sephardic Houses	51
Sephardic Kitchen	53
3. Ashkenazim: Another Stream of Tradition	55

Chapter 2

<i>The Wars and Their Aftermath – National and International</i>	59
1. Consequences of the Balkan Wars and World War I	59
The Balkan Wars and Their Impacts	60
The Treaty of Bucharest (1913) and Secession of Macedonia	62
Human Losses, Economic Decline, and Emigrations following the Balkan Wars	64
The Serbian Regime in the Occupied Macedonian Territory after the Bucharest Agreement	68
Establishment of Serbian Administration	73
Serbian Cultural Politics in the Occupied Territories prior to World War I	75
World War I and Its Implications	78
2. International Conferences, Peace Treaties, and Minority-Protection Conventions	82
A Short History of International Politics on Minority Protection	84
The 1919 Paris Peace Conference and the Jewish Delegation to the Conference	87
Minority Treaties with the New Countries of South- Eastern Europe, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece	91
Goals Achieved by the Jewish Delegation to the Paris Peace Conference	96
The Macedonian Question at the Paris Conference	97
Minority Treaties with Serbia, Bulgaria, and Greece in the Context of the Macedonian Question	102
3. Establishing the Kingdom: The New National Yugoslav State	105
The Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes, later named the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, and the New Challenges of the State	105

Institutions and Structures	107
Yugoslav Minority Politics according to International Conventions, Domestic Laws, and Regulations	114
Minority Diversity in the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes	115
 <i>Chapter 3</i>	
<i>Building Yugoslav Jewry</i>	121
1. Statistics and Figures	121
The Law on Jewish Religious Communities in Yugoslavia ...	125
2. Institutional Structure of the Yugoslav Jewry: An Overview	128
Other Jewish Institutions	133
3. Humanitarian, Cultural, Educational, and Social Movements and Organisations	134
Humanitarian Organisations	135
Cultural Associations and Clubs	138
Publishing	141
Education of the Yugoslav Jews	144
Economic Structure of the Jews in Yugoslavia	147
4. Philanthropic Activities of Yugoslav Jews within B'nei B'rith, the Rotary Club, and Similar Associations	152
Yugoslav Branch of B'nai B'rith and Involvement of Yugoslav Jews in Other Lodges	153
Jews in the Rotary Club in Yugoslavia	159
5. The Zionist Movement	161
The Yugoslav Zionist Movement	163
Emigration of Yugoslav Jews to Palestine	169

Chapter 4

Ashkenazim and Sephardim: The Question of Assimilation 171

1. Ashkenazim and Sephardim Joining Together? 171
 - The Ashkenazim in General and in the Yugoslav Context . . . 172
 - The Sephardim in General and in the Yugoslav Context . . . 174
 - Struggle within the Federation of Jewish Communities
and the Zionist Federation of Yugoslavia 178
2. Between Acculturation, Assimilation, and Integration 179
 - Various Attitudes towards Integration, Assimilation,
and Acculturation among the Yugoslav Jews 181

Chapter 5

The Macedonian Sephards 191

1. Problems of Inclusion of Macedonia
within the Yugoslav Kingdom 191
 - “Sephardic Jews Incorporated” within the Kingdom
of Yugoslavia 193
2. Skopje: Capital of “South Serbia“ and Macedonia 196
 - Brief Historical Overview of the Jewish Presence in Skopje 196
 - Jews of Skopje throughout the Interwar Period 202
 - Between Traditionalism and a Modern Way of Life 205
 - Community Organisation (Statutes, Politics,
Membership, and Funds) 208
 - Activities, Duties, and Issues of the Skopje Jewish
Community throughout the 30s 211
 - Participation of the Skopje Jews in the Macedonian
Economy and their Professional Structure 215
 - Education of the Skopje Jews 218
 - Cultural and Sports Organisations 222
 - Skopje Zionists 227

3. Bitola, the Centre of the Zionist Movement	234
Brief Historical Overview of the Jewish Presence in Bitola	234
Jews in Bitola during the Interwar Period	239
Communal Organizations, Statutes, Taxes, and Funds	241
Humanitarian and Philanthropic Activities	242
Professional Structure of the Bitola Jews	244
Education of the Bitola Jews	245
Cultural and Musical Clubs of the Bitola Jews	247
Zionist Organisations in Bitola and Emigration to Palestine	250
Communist Attempts in Bitola	258
4. Jewish Community of Štip	259
Brief Historical Retrospective of the City of Štip	259
Jewish Community of Štip during the Interwar Period	261
Economic Structure of the Jewish Community in Štip	263
Education of the Štip Jews	265
Cultural Activities of the Štip Jews	266
Zionism in Štip	267
Gradual Inclusion of Zionist Organisations into the Communist Movement	269
 <i>Chapter 6</i>	
<i>Road to Treblinka</i>	271
1. Growing Uncertainty during the 1930s	271
Anti-Semitic Laws and Measures in the Yugoslav Kingdom and the Dissolved State	275
The Attitudes of the Yugoslav Authorities towards German Politics	278

2. Politics under Bulgarian Occupation of Macedonia	280
Gradual and Practical Exclusion of the Jews	
from all Spheres of Society	281
Deportation and Murder in Treblinka	283
 Summary	 287
 Bibliography	 293
Archival Sources	293
Oral Sources	295
Quoted Newspapers and Journals from the Interwar Period . . .	295
Published Sources	297
Secondary Literature	298