book proposal

**From Instability to Stability:**

**Studies in History, Society and Culture on the Hashemite Kingdom**

**of Jordan**

Editor: Ronen Yitzhak

Dear ……,

Edinburgh University Press

I have the honor to submit a proposal for an edited book on Jordan.

**Prof. Ronen Yitzhak** is Head of the Middle Eastern Studies at Western Galilee College in Acre, Israel. His academic interests include: the modern history of Jordan, military intelligence, and terror and the 1948 War. He served as co-editor of *The New East* (Hamizrah Hehadash) – the Hebrew journal of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel (MEISAI) between the years of 2012-2015.

He has published over twenty articles in refereed journals and three peer-reviewed books. His book *Abdullah al-Tall - Arab Legion Officer: Arab Nationalism and Opposition to the Hashemite Regime* (Brighton: Sussex Academic Press, 2012) was published in an Arabic version in Amman in 2016.

**Headline**

The proposed edited book will include a number of new studies dealing with various aspects of the history, society, politics and culture of modern Jordan. The studies will provide a new perspective on various issues, some of which are even controversial.

**Pitch**

The main purpose of the book is to examine the various reasons for the survival of the Hashemite rule in Jordan. This year marks the centenary of the Hashemite regime in Jordan, which is one of the oldest and most stable regimes in the Middle East. More than any other Arab regime, the Hashemites have faced challenges, threats and subversions. For example, in recent years the regime has survived the Arab Spring and the threats from the Islamic State (ISIS).

The book will address the Hashemites’ survival from different perspectives: historical, social, cultural and political, connecting these approaches. Hence, the question of the survival of the Hashemite regime will be examined not only from historical aspects, but from various aspects.

The book will try to answer the following questions: Did forming a Jordanian-British alliance helped to maintain political stability? To what extent did King Abdullah II's liberal policy impact on the stability of the regime? Did the Palestinians in Jordan succeed in integrating into the Jordanian state and cease to endanger political stability? Is the Hashemite regime's connection to Jerusalem still important? How are minorities in Jordan involved in government? How is it possible that despite its economic problems Jordan is considered one of the most stable countries in the Arab world? Can the stability of the government be strengthened by promoting and preserving the environment?

**Key Features and benefits**

The volume under consideration will be interdisciplinary in outlook. The studies in the book will be based on primary and secondary sources, including archives, newspapers, literary works, and memoirs. The chapters will deal with issues, some of which are known and important but require re-discussion and some of which are new and have not yet been subjected to in-depth academic research. Examples of the latter include the development of Jordanian literature, or the Christian and Druze minorities in Jordan, which are under researched in English.

**Keywords**

Jordan

Amman

The Hashemite regime

King Abdullah I

King Abdullah II

King Hussein

Palestine

Bedouin

Minorities in Jordan

Economic

Culture

Holy places

Jerusalem

**Short synopsis of the aims, scope, argument and approach of the book**

The book will examine the survival of the Hashemite regime over the years through new research on the historical, social and political background of modern Jordan. Each chapter will present a different aspect and point of view and will be from different discipline: Middle Eastern studies, history, politics, social sciences, literature and cultural studies. All the chapters together will provide the answer to the question of the survival of Hashemite regime in Jordan.

The book will be divided into two parts. The first part will deal with the history and politics of Jordan (this part will be edited by Ronen Yitzhak). The five chapters of this part will discuss the establishment of Transjordan and the beginning of the Hashemite regime, choosing Amman as the Capital, the Jordanian government and the liberal policies, Jordanian-Palestinian national identity and, finally, the question of the legitimacy of Hashemite regime.

The second part will deal with society, economy and culture (will be edited by Dorit Gottesfeld). This part will include also four chapters that will deal with minorities in Jordan (the Bedouin, the Circassians, the Christians and the Druze) and their role in the country, the economy in Jordan, environmental cooperation between Jordan and Israel and finally contemporary Jordanian literature.

The book will include a wide range of topics-history, politics, society, economics and culture-and hence will be suitable for researchers from different disciplines. The short length of the articles (up to 8,000 words) may also suit the wider public, as in this way the book provides readers with a "taste" of any issue, while at the same time it creates for them a reading and learning experience.

**Chapter-by-chapter description of content and form**

**Introduction**

will present the purpose of the book and a brief description of the form of the book and the chapters

**Part I - History and Politics**

**Chapter 1 – From a Town to a Capital City: The Transformation of Amman into a Capital City of Jordan (Marwan D. Hanania, University of California, Berkeley, USA)**

The chapter will analyze the political and strategic considerations for the choice of the Circassian town of Amman as the capital of the new state. In general, Abdullah was based on the Circassian military force that was the defender of Hashemite regime. Therefore, over the years Amman has played an important role in political stability in Jordan. The conspirators did not come from it but from other areas.

**Chapter 2 - Establishment of Jordan and the Alliance with the West (Ronen Yitzhak, Western Galilee College, Acre, Israel)**

The chapter will describe the establishment of the Transjordan and the ties which it created with Britain. It will argue that relations with Britain in particular and with the West in general were influential in protecting the Hashemite regime in the first decades of Jordan's establishment.

**Chapter 3 - Liberalism in Jordan (Laszlo Csicsmann, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary)**

The chapter will discuss the connection between King Abdullah II's policy of liberalization and the survival of the Hashemite regime. It will show how the high degree of liberalization in Jordan, relative to other Arab countries, seems to be one of the reasons for the survival of Hashemite regime

**Chapter 4 - Jordanian or Palestinian? The Question of National Identity in Jordan (Nur Koprulu, Near East University, Nicosia)**

The chapter will discuss the question of Jordanian identity. Since the Palestinians, the largest population in Jordan, have in the past posed a threat to Jordan and sought to oppose it, the author will examine whether the Palestinians have adopted a Jordanian identity and ask whether they are still a threat to the stability of Hashemite regime.

**Chapter 5 - Jordan and Jerusalem: The Legitimation to the Hashemite Regime** **(Bartosz Wroblewski, Krakow University, Poland)**

The chapter will examine whether the influence of the Hashemite family in Jerusalem is indeed the basis for the legitimacy of the Hashemite government and the source of stability of the kingdom.

**Part II – Society, Economics and Culture**

**Chapter 6 - Minorities in Jordan (Muhammad Sawaed, Western Galilee**

**College, Acre, Israel)**

The chapter will review the integration of the ethnic and religious minorities in Jordan (Circassians and Druze and Christians) in Jordanian politics, society and economy. These minorities throughout history have been well integrated into Jordanian society and hold key positions in the country. For example, Christians, who make up only about 2 percent of Jordan's population, own about half of the country's economy. The chapter will illustrate how the integration of minorities plays an important role in the stability of the kingdom.

**Chapter 7 – Economic (Onn Winckler, University of Haifa, Israel)**

Maintaining the economy is the biggest challenge for the Jordanian government these days. Apparently, there is a paradox because the country is stable even while it is in a severe economic crisis. The chapter will try to explain the reasons for this.

**Chapter 8 – Environmental Cooperation between Jordan and Israel and the Geopolitical Meanings (Yael Teff-Seker, University of California, Davis, USA)**

Environmental Cooperation(non-governmental) between Jordanians and Israelis for the preservation of the environment, the restoration of nature, especially in the Red Sea region, can contribute to improving political relations in the Middle East. Economic projects, efforts to clean up the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aqaba, water desalination, and gas transportation are just some of the examples that can help improve relations between Jordan and Israel and strengthen Hashemite regime.

**Chapter 9- Contemporary Jordanian Literature (Dorit Gottesfeld, Bar-**

**Ilan University, Israel)**

The chapter will examine contemporary literary works in Jordan and the style of writing that characterizes them. The discussion will focus on questions such as whether writing in Jordan is free and liberal, whether the issues are just social issues or also political issues and how this is related to maintaining stability in Jordan.

**Conclusion**

**List of authors**

**Bibliography research on Jordan**

**Index**

**What level reader is your book suitable for?**

The proposed book is intended for a wide audience, including academics and scholars. Since it is an interdisciplinary book, which includes various fields such as, history, international relations, social sciences, literature and more, a wide audience may be interested in reading it. Moreover, in addition to scholars and students, the book can be used by diplomats, statesmen, military personnel and journalists seeking relevant and reliable information for general interest articles and journalistic investigations.

**Competing and comparable books:**

In recent years, a number of books have been published on various issues in Jordan, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, the status of women, Jordanian-US relations, and more. One edited book, that includes a wide range of topics was published in 2019 (P. R. Kumaraswamy, *The Palgrave Handbook of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan*, 2019). This book seems to be intended for the general public, since it is simple and easy to read. However, since the book was not published in an academic publication it has a number of drawbacks: the articles are short (averaging 5,000 words each), links between the articles are not made, and no overall thesis is advanced. Finally, this edited book does not cover themes that we intend to include in our book, such as Jordanian literature and Environmental Cooperation.

**Comparable Edinburgh University Press titles:**

1. Lorraine Charles, Ilan Pappe and Monica Ronchi (eds.), *Researching the Middle East: Cultural, Conceptual, Theoretical and Practical Issues* (2020).
2. Anthony Gorman and Didier Monciaud (eds.), *The Press in the Middle and North Africa, 1850-1950: Politics, Social History and Culture* (2019).

**Word count:**

The proposed book consists of eight chapters. If each study averages 7,000-8,000 words, in addition to the introduction and summary, the book will include about 75,000 words.

**The schedule:**

July 2022 - Submission of chapters for peer-review

August - Review

October - Re-submission of chapter (after reviewers' comments if there are any comments)

March-April 2023 – Publication

**Research funding:**

The academic institutions to which we belong will be able to help with the funding. As researchers, we also have budgets for this purpose. We will also seek other funding sources.

**CV:**

**קורות חיים להוסיף כאן**

**Edited collection – special requirements:**

As mentioned, the edited book will include eight chapters. **All the scholars have agreed to write new studies specifically for this edited book**. It is a great collaboration among Jews, Christians and Muslims, offering equality between men and women who present five different countries as seen below:

Chapter 1 – From a Town to a Capital City: The Transformation of Amman into a Capital City of Jordan (Marwan D. Hanania, University of California, Berkeley, USA)

Chapter 2 - Establishment of Jordan and the Alliance with the West (Prof. Ronen Yitzhak, Western Galilee College, Acre)

Chapter 3 - Liberalism in Jordan (Prof. Laszlo Csicsmann, Corvinus University of Budapest)

Chapter 4 - Jordanian or Palestinian? The Question of National Identity in Jordan (Prof. Nur Koprulu, Near East University, Nicosia)

Chapter 5 - Jordan and Jerusalem: The Legitimation to the Hashemite Regime (Bartosz Wroblewski, Krakow University)

Chapter 6 - Minorities in Jordan (Prof. Muhammad Sawaed, Western Galilee College, Acre)

Chapter 7 – Economy (Prof. Onn Winckler, University of Haifa)

Chapter 8 – Environmental Cooperation between Jordan and Israel and its Geopolitical Meanings (Yael Teff-Seker, University of California, Davis)

Chapter 9 - Contemporary Jordanian Literature (Dorit Gottesfeld, Bar-Ilan University)

Regarding the synopsis see p. 3. The chapters in the book will average around 7,000-8,000 words per chapter. Including the introduction, the book will not exceed about 75,000 words.

To ensure the quality of the articles we will review them internally prior to submission and in case of hesitation we will ask additional colleagues to review them. As ex-editor of a journal and after publishing a special issue in the *Middle Eastern Studies* journal (Vol. 57, Issue. 3, 2021), I have extensive experience in reviewing and filtering articles and in making informed decisions about acceptance or rejection.