## The Jews of North Africa during the Second World War

MICHEL ABITBOL

Translated by Catherine Tihanyi Zentelis



## Contents

Introduction 7
PART ONE While Awaiting Vichy: North Africa on the Eve of World War II
1 A Colonial Phenomenon: Algerian Anti-Semitism 19
Men and an Idea 22
The Administration and Anti-Semitic Agitation 26
Moslem Population and the Jewish Problem 29
Algerian Jewry in the Face of Anti-Semitism 31
2 Moroccan and Tunisian Jews in the Face of the French Extreme Right and German and Italian Agitation 35
The Extreme Right 35
Maghrebian Nationalism and German and Italian Propaganda 36
Jewish Response 39
3 Toward Pétain's "National Revolution" 41
PART TWO North Africa on Vichy Time
4 The Maghreb after the Armistice: Attempts at Resistance and Militant Pétainism 47
5 Vichy and the Jews of North Africa 56
Ideological Background 56
Anti-Jewish Legislation and Its Application in North Africa 59
The abrogation of the Crémieux decree 59
The "Statut des Juifs" 62

## **CONTENTS**

The Aryanization of education and of the Youth Service Corps 68
The Aryanization of property 71
North African Public Opinion and the Jewish Statute 74
The Internal Life of North African Jewish Communities under Vichy 83
Jewish Refugees and Internees in North Africa 90
Help for the emigrants 93
Relief for the refugees 94
The trans-Saharan rail and the work camps of North Africa 96
PART THREE A Difficult Liberation
6 Operation Torch and Its Consequences 105
The Allied Landing and the North African Resistance 106
Vichyst Africa under American Protection 110
7 The Germans in Tunisia (November 1942 to May 1943) 116
Jews and Germans in Tunis: First Contacts 119
The Testing of the Community's Organization 125
Camp Life 130
Tunisian Public Opinion and the Fate of the Jews 136
8 The Jews of North Africa from Darlan to Giraud 141
The Jews of Algeria and Morocco after the Allied Landing 141
The Problem of the Political Prisoners and of the Refugees 147
9 Toward the Abolition of Racial Laws 152
The Effect of Allied Public Opinion and of American Jewish Organizations 152
The Struggle for the Reestablishment of the Crémieux Decree 159
Conclusion 166
Abbreviations 171
Notes 172
Bibliography 199
Index 206