Revolt in Palestine in the Eighteenth Century: The Era of Shaykh Zahir Al-Umar

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Revolt in Palestine in the Eighteenth Century: The Era of Shaykh Zahir al-ã¢™Umar, by Ahmad Hasan Joudah. 163 pages, maps, appendices, bibliography, glossary, index. Kingston Press, Princeton1987. $25.00. James A. Reilly (a1). (a1). University of Toronto. https://doi.org/10.1017/S0026318400019647. Published online: 09 March 2016. The Peasants' Revolt was a rebellion against Egyptian conscription and taxation policies in Palestine. While rebel ranks consisted mostly of the local peasantry, urban notables and Bedouin tribes also formed an integral part of the revolt, which was a collective reaction to Egypt's gradual elimination of the unofficial rights and privileges previously enjoyed by the various classes of society in the Levant under Ottoman rule. Zahir al-Umar al-Zaydani (alternatively spelled Daher al-Omar or Dahir al-Umar) (Arabic: ظاهر آل عمر الزيداني‎; ẒÄhir Äl-ʿUmar az-ZaydÄnî, 1689/90 – 21 August 1775) was the virtually autonomous Arab ruler of northern Palestine in the mid-18th century, while the area was nominally part of the Ottoman Empire. He fortified Acre, and the city became a center of the cotton trade between Palestine and Europe. In the mid-1760s, he reestablished the port town of Haifa nearby. Zahir successfully withstood assaults and sieges by the Ottoman governors of the Sidon and Damascus provinces, who attempted to limit or eliminate his influence. He was often supported in these confrontations by the rural Shia Muslim clans of Jabal Amil.