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On 9 July 1860, an outbreak of violence in the inner-city Christian quarter of Damascus created shock waves locally and internationally. This book provides a step-by-step presentation of events and issues to assess the true role of all the players and shapers of events. It critically examines the internal and external politico-socio-economic factors involved and argues that economic interests rather than religious fanaticism were the main causes for the riot of 1860. Furthermore, it argues that the riot was not a sudden eruption but rather a planned and organised affair.

Dr Rana Abu-Mounes

PhD 2016, University of Aberdeen, is a Research Fellow at The Centre For Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford. She conducts research into Christian and Muslim responses to environmental issues in Jordan.