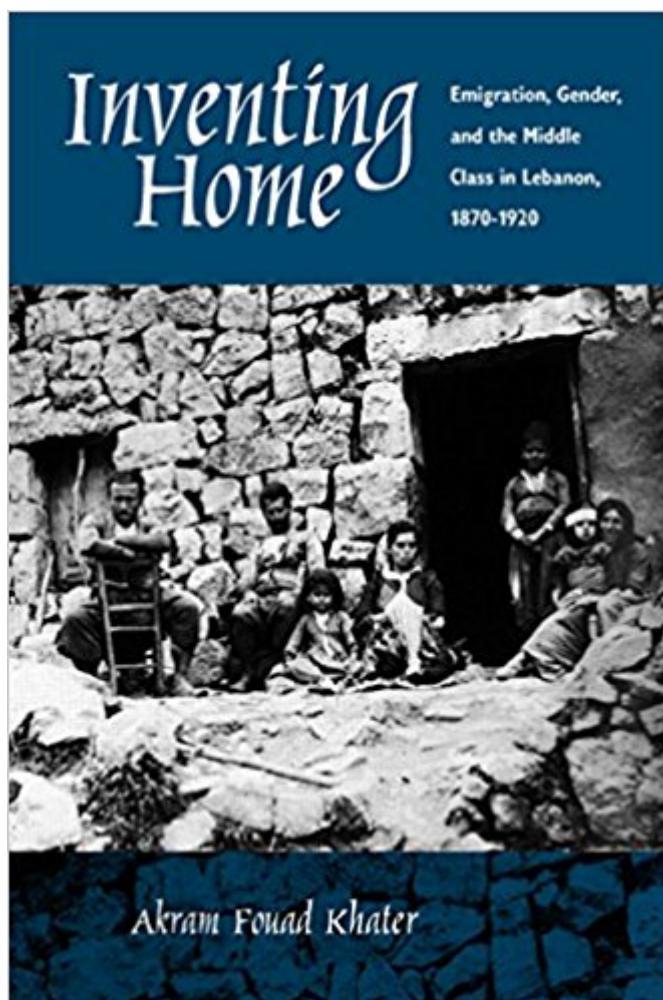


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# Inventing Home: Emigration, Gender, And The Middle Class In Lebanon, 1870–1920



## **Synopsis**

Between 1890 and 1920 over one-third of the peasants of Mount Lebanon left their villages and traveled to the Americas. This book traces the journeys of these villagers from the ranks of the peasantry into a middle class of their own making. *Inventing Home* delves into the stories of these travels, shedding much needed light on the impact of emigration and immigration in the development of modernity. It focuses on a critical period in the social history of Lebanon--the "long peace" between the uprising of 1860 and the beginning of the French mandate in 1920. The book explores in depth the phenomena of return emigration, the questioning and changing of gender roles, and the rise of the middle class. Exploring new areas in the history of Lebanon, *Inventing Home* asks how new notions of gender, family, and class were articulated and how a local "modernity" was invented in the process. Akram Khater maps the jagged and uncertain paths that the fellahin from Mount Lebanon carved through time and space in their attempt to control their future and their destinies. His study offers a significant contribution to the literature on the Middle East, as well as a new perspective on women and on gender issues in the context of developing modernity in the region.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Akram Fouad Khater is Associate Professor of Middle Eastern History at North Carolina State University.

Great book.

This text is truly working from the ground up. Despite its being one of the world's largest diasporas, the case of the lebanese "in the world" is one that has yet to be sufficiently explored. Khater's text attempts two things: to piece the history of the Lebanese migration, and to analyze how migration "works" theoretically. In all of this, Khater even ties together a compelling narrative on gender in the Lebanese migration network. The result is an ambitious book that is a great starting point in understanding Lebanese history, and its connections to all of the world. My hope is that Khater will continue to pursue the Lebanese migrants, and write a second volume.

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