The Russian Presence in Palestine: Political, Religious and Cultural Aspects, 1840s-1920s
Introduction: goal and three questions

The **objective** of my research is to explore the activities of the institutions – diplomatic, religious, charitable, cultural, etc. – through which Russia exercised an influence in Syria-Palestine.

In this project I am studying three major questions:

- What were Russia’s **goals** in Syria-Palestine?
- How did Russia try to exercise its **influence in region**, particularly within the local population?
- How **did the Russian Empire construct itself beyond its borders** through a combination of diplomatic.
Chronology : 1847-1917

- **1847** – Creation of the first Russian political-religious institution in the region: the Russian Ecclesiastical Mission of Jerusalem.

- **1917** – Fall of the Russian Empire and the October Revolution
Historiography

Three periods in the historiography devoted to the question:

1. **End of the 19th - beginning of the 20th century** – the time of an “official history” with the goal of legitimizing the “Russian project” in the Holy Land (examples: V. Khitrovo, A. Dmitrievskiy, A. Sokolov).

2. **The second period – 1917-1991** - the closing of numerous archives and restrictions on the study of certain questions, notably related to the religious activity of Russia in Syria-Palestine;
Archives:

- **Russia**: the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (AVP RI) ; the Archives of the Russian Academy of Sciences (PFA RAN) ;

- **France**: the Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (La Courneuve) ; the Central Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Nantes) ; Archives of the Alliance Israelite Universelle (Paris);

- **Vatican**: the Archives of the Sacra Congregazione degli Affari Ecclesiastici Straordinari, the Propaganda Fide Archives;

- **Italy**: the Jesuit and Assumptionist Archives;

- **Israel**: the Israel State Archives; the Central Zionist Archives;
Four Research Lines

- Russian institutions in Palestine-Syria: conquering the land and seeking the loyalty of the local population

- Rivalry and collaboration between the Russian Empire and European Powers in Syria-Palestine

- The Russian Orthodox Pilgrimage in the Holy Land: between National/Imperial Mobilization and International Mobility
Example:
Reconstruction of the Dome of the Holy Sepulcher by the Russian Empire, France and the Ottoman Empire after 1856