In the early decades of the twentieth century, citizenship existed on a spectrum for Ottoman Jews facing the irrevocable crumbling of the empire in which they were born. Among them were some 7,000 Ottoman-born Jews living in wartime France who were legally classified by the Third Republic as ‘Jewish citizens of the Levantine nation.’ The resulting papers allowed thousands of Jewish (as well as Armenian Christian and some Muslim) women, men, and children to avoid surveillance, deportation, or internment as enemy aliens; to travel within their country of residence and abroad; and to acquire the passports, residency permits, and official papers that were ever more indispensable to the modern world. Using the stories of these extraterritorial Jews to illustrate the multifarious legal ambiguities unleashed by the major conflicts of the early twentieth century, this talk will rethink the First World War as a richly complex legal terrain, and join scholars of North Africa and South Asia in carrying a conversation about legal pluralism from the colonial to the continental setting.