

# The Jews Of Modernity

Embracing the Melody of Phrase: An Emotional Symphony within **The Jews Of Modernity**

In some sort of eaten by displays and the ceaseless chatter of instant conversation, the melodic splendor and emotional symphony developed by the written term usually diminish in to the back ground, eclipsed by the constant noise and disruptions that permeate our lives. But, located within the pages of **The Jews Of Modernity** an enchanting fictional prize brimming with fresh thoughts, lies an immersive symphony waiting to be embraced. Crafted by a masterful musician of language, that captivating masterpiece conducts readers on a psychological journey, well unraveling the hidden melodies and profound affect resonating within each carefully constructed phrase. Within the depths of this moving assessment, we can explore the book is key harmonies, analyze its enthralling writing type, and surrender ourselves to the profound resonance that echoes in the depths of readers souls.

**Nathan Birnbaum and Jewish Modernity** Jess Olson 2013-01-09 This book explores the life and thought of one of the most important but least known figures in early Zionism, Nathan Birnbaum. Now remembered mainly for his coinage of the word "Zionism," Birnbaum was a towering figure in early Jewish nationalism. Because of his unusual intellectual trajectory, however, he has been written out of Jewish history. In the middle of his life, in the depth of World War I, Birnbaum left his venerable position as a secular Jewish nationalist for religious Orthodoxy, an unheard of decision in his time. To the dismay of his former colleagues, he adopted a life of strict religiosity and was embraced as a leader in the young, growing world of Orthodox political activism in the interwar period, one of the most successful and powerful movements in interwar central and eastern Europe. Jess Olson brings to light documents from one of the most complete archives of Jewish nationalism, the Nathan and Solomon Birnbaum Family Archives, including materials previously unknown in the study of Zionism, Yiddish-based Jewish nationalism, and the history of Orthodoxy. This book is an important meditation on the complexities of Jewish political and intellectual life in the most tumultuous period of European Jewish history, especially of the interplay of national, political, and religious identity in the life of one of its most fascinating figures.

Kabbalah and Jewish Modernity Roni Weinstein

2016-05-19 Roni Weinstein's sociological reading of the kabbalistic ideas of the early modern period suggests that they gained acceptance because they met the needs of contemporary Jewish society. Although these ideas were presented as continuing a tradition, their goal was reformation: few aspects of Jewish life were not changed in consequence. This broadly based and innovative study challenges accepted ideas on the origins of Jewish modernity, and also shows how Counter-Reformation Catholicism affected these developments.

Makers of Jewish Modernity Jacques Picard 2016-08-09 A unique reference to leading Jewish figures who helped shape the modern world This superb collection presents more than forty incisive portraits of leading Jewish thinkers, artists, scientists, and other public figures of the last hundred years who, in their own unique ways, engaged with and helped shape the modern world. Makers of Jewish Modernity features entries on political figures such as Walther Rathenau, Rosa Luxemburg, and David Ben-Gurion; philosophers and critics such as Walter Benjamin, Hannah Arendt, Isaiah Berlin, Jacques Derrida, and Judith Butler; and artists such as Mark Rothko. The book provides fresh insights into the lives and careers of novelists like Franz Kafka, Saul Bellow, and Philip Roth; the filmmakers Joel and Ethan Coen; social scientists such as Sigmund Freud; religious leaders and thinkers such as Avraham Kook and Martin Buber; and many others. Written by a

diverse group of leading contemporary scholars from around the world, these vibrant and frequently surprising portraits offer a global perspective that highlights the multiplicity of Jewish experience and thought. A reference book like no other, *Makers of Jewish Modernity* includes an informative general introduction that situates its subjects within the broader context of Jewish modernity as well as a rich selection of photos.

**Jewish Meaning in a World of Choice** David Ellenson 2014-10-01 Internationally recognized scholar David Ellenson shares twenty-three of his most representative essays, drawing on three decades of scholarship and demonstrating the consistency of the intellectual-religious interests that have animated him throughout his lifetime. These essays center on a description and examination of the complex push and pull between Jewish tradition and Western culture. Ellenson addresses gender equality, women's rights, conversion, issues relating to who is a Jew, the future of the rabbinate, Jewish day schools, and other emerging trends in American Jewish life. As an outspoken advocate for a strong Israel that is faithful to the democratic and Jewish values that informed its founders, he also writes about religious tolerance and pluralism in the Jewish state. The former president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, the primary seminary of the Reform movement, Ellenson is widely respected for his vision of advancing Jewish unity and of preparing leadership for a contemporary Judaism that balances tradition with the demands of a changing world. Scholars and students of Jewish religious thought, ethics, and modern Jewish history will welcome this erudite collection by one of today's great Jewish leaders.

**Jewish Music and Modernity** Philip Bohlman 2012 Bohlman investigates several aspects of Jewish music within the context of the period beginning with the emancipation of German-Jewish culture during the eighteenth century and culminating in the destruction of that same culture under the Nazis.

**The Modernity of Others** Ari Joskowicz 2013-11-06 The most prominent story of nineteenth-century German and French Jewry has focused on Jewish adoption of liberal middle-class values. *The Modernity of Others* points to

an equally powerful but largely unexplored aspect of modern Jewish history: the extent to which German and French Jews sought to become modern by criticizing the anti-modern positions of the Catholic Church. Drawing attention to the pervasiveness of anti-Catholic anticlericalism among Jewish thinkers and activists from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, the book turns the master narrative of Western and Central European Jewish history on its head. From the moment in which Jews began to enter the fray of modern European politics, they found that Catholicism served as a convenient foil that helped them define what it meant to be a good citizen, to practice a respectable religion, and to have a healthy family life. Throughout the long nineteenth century, myriad Jewish intellectuals, politicians, and activists employed anti-Catholic tropes wherever questions of political and national belonging were at stake: in theoretical treatises, parliamentary speeches, newspaper debates, the founding moments of the Reform movement, and campaigns against antisemitism.

*Response to Modernity* Michael A. Meyer 1995-04-01 The movement for religious reform in modern Judaism represents one of the most significant phenomena in Jewish history during the last two hundred years. It introduced new theological conceptions and innovations in liturgy and religious practice that affected millions of Jews, first in central and Western Europe and later in the United States. Today Reform Judaism is one of the three major branches of Jewish faith. Bringing to life the ideas, issues, and personalities that have helped to shape modern Jewry, *Response to Modernity* offers a comprehensive and balanced history of the Reform Movement, tracing its changing configuration and self-understanding from the beginnings of modernization in late 18th century Jewish thought and practice through Reform's American renewal in the 1970s.

*In the Shadow of History* Jose Faur 1992-02-06 This book focuses on the Iberian Jews and conversos, Jews who converted to Christianity. It explores the idea of the "other" in both Jewish and Christian traditions, the differences between the perspectives of the "persecuted" and "persecutors," and the vision of modernity among some of the Iberian Jews of the period.

Special attention is devoted to da Costa and Spinoza, offering a new perspective on the Jewish history of ideas.

**Renaissance Philosophy in Jewish Garb**

Giuseppe Veltri 2008-12-31 The book deals with the coordinates of “modernity” as premises of Jewish philosophy in the Renaissance and early modern period.

**The Jewish Decadence** Jonathan Freedman

2021-04-19 As Jewish writers, artists, and intellectuals made their way into Western European and Anglo-American cultural centers, they encountered a society obsessed with decadence. An avant-garde movement characterized by self-consciously artificial art and literature, philosophic pessimism, and an interest in nonnormative sexualities, decadence was also a smear, whereby Jews were viewed as the source of social and cultural decline. In *The Jewish Decadence*, Jonathan Freedman argues that Jewish engagement with decadence played a major role in the emergence of modernism and the making of Jewish culture from the 1870s to the present. The first to tell this sweeping story, Freedman demonstrates the centrality of decadence to the aesthetics of modernity and its inextricability from Jewishness. Freedman recounts a series of diverse and surprising episodes that he insists do not belong solely to the past, but instead reveal that the identification of Jewishness with decadence persists today.

**Transforming the World** Leo Dee 2023-04-19

Rabbi Leo Dee answers the fundamental question: why bother being Jewish in a modern world? Using history and logic, Rabbi Dee explains how Judaism enhances daily life to make it more meaningful. *Transforming the World: The Jewish Impact on Modernity* focuses on the tolerance and equality of all mankind that is fundamental in Judaism. With a combination of commandments, traditions, and history, Rabbi Dee shows how Jewish culture transforms your life and the wider world for the better.

**Transformation** Larry Silver 2001 With emancipation in nineteenth-century Europe, Jewish artists at last had an opportunity to develop their new professional vocation. At first only a few notable painters emerged, but in Berlin before World War I, Jewish artists and art professionals dominated the new, progressive

art world; their successes quickly spread to other parts of the globe, as Jewish history came to encompass not only Europe but also America and Palestine, later Israel. This book, accompanying an exhibition of graphic works on display at the Arthur Ross Gallery of the University of Pennsylvania, examines the vicissitudes of Jewish art activity over the span of the twentieth century. It focuses on a variety of key issues in the life and work of Jewish artists, including emigration and immigration, dilemmas of women artists, Zionism and the land of Israel, the trauma of the Holocaust, the importance of New York as an artistic center, and the relation to other Jewish creative artists (in theater, in film, in music, in literature). Separate essays--by the volume editor, Harry Rand, Juliet Bellow, and Freyda Spira--address in detail the issues of diaspora and universalism, the New York School of Abstract Expressionism, women artists and their spaces, and the Berlin world of graphic artists and their publishers. Contributors: Harry Rand is Curator of Cultural History at the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution; he previously served as Senior Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the National Museum of American Art. Juliet Bellow is a doctoral student in the history of art program at the University of Pennsylvania. Freyda Spira is a doctoral student in the history of art program at the University of Pennsylvania.

*Choices in Modern Jewish Thought* Eugene B. Borowitz 1995 Jewish philosophy responds to the challenges of today's world. By studying the ideas of great contemporary thinkers readers will achieve a rich understanding of our contemporary spiritual needs.

*Judaism Within Modernity* Michael A. Meyer 2001 A collection of articles, most of them published previously. The following deal with antisemitism:

**Between Jewish Tradition and Modernity**

Michael A. Meyer 2014-10-20 Although the ideas of “tradition” and “modernity” may seem to be directly opposed, David Ellenson, a leading contemporary scholar of modern Jewish thought, understood that these concepts can also enjoy a more fluid relationship. In honor of Ellenson, editors Michael A. Meyer and David N. Myers have gathered contributors for *Between Jewish*

Tradition and Modernity: Rethinking an Old Opposition to examine the permutations and adaptations of these intertwined forms of Jewish expression. Contributions draw from a range of disciplines and scholarly interests and vary in subject from the theological to the liturgical, sociological, and literary. The geographic and historical focus of the volume is on the United States and the State of Israel, both of which have been major sites of inquiry in Ellenson's work. In twenty-one essays, contributors demonstrate that modernity did not simply replace tradition in Judaism, but rather entered into a variety of relationships with it: adopting or adapting certain elements, repossessing rituals that had once been abandoned, or struggling with its continuing influence. In four parts—Law, Ritual, Thought, and Culture—contributors explore a variety of subjects, including the role of reform in Israeli Orthodoxy, traditions of twentieth-century bar/bat mitzvah, end-of-life ethics, tensions between Zionism and American Jewry, and the rise of a 1960s New York Jewish counterculture. An introductory essay also presents an appreciation of Ellenson's scholarly contribution. Bringing together leading Jewish historians, anthropologists, sociologists, philosophers and liturgists, *Between Jewish Tradition and Modernity* offers a collective view of a historically and culturally significant issue that will be of interest to Jewish scholars of many disciplines.

**Toward Modernity** Jacob Katz 2017-09-08 First Published in 2017. Routledge is an imprint of Taylor & Francis, an Informa company.

*After Emancipation* David Ellenson 2004-12-30 David Ellenson prefaces this fascinating collection of twenty-three essays with a remarkably candid account of his intellectual journey from boyhood in Virginia to the scholarly immersions in the history, thought, and literature of the Jewish people that have informed his research interests in a long and distinguished academic career. Ellenson, President of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, has been particularly intrigued by the attempts of religious leaders in all denominations of Judaism, from Liberal to Neo-Orthodox, to redefine and reconceptualize themselves and their traditions in the modern period as both the Jewish community and

individual Jews entered radically new realms of possibility and change. The essays are grouped into five sections. In the first, Ellenson reflects upon the expression of Jewish values and Jewish identity in contemporary America, explains his debt to Jacob Katz's socio-religious approach to Jewish history, and shows how the works of non-Jewish social historian Max Weber highlight the tensions between the universalism of western thought and Jewish demands for a particularistic identity. In the second section, "The Challenge of Emancipation," he indicates how Jewish religious leaders in nineteenth-century Europe labored to demonstrate that the Jewish religion and Jewish culture were worthy of respect by the larger gentile world. In a third section, "Denominational Responses," Ellenson shows how the leaders of Liberal and Orthodox branches of Judaism in Central Europe constructed novel parameters for their communities through prayer books, legal writings, sermons, and journal articles. The fourth section, "Modern Responsa," takes a close look at twentieth-century Jewish legal decisions on new issues such as the status of women, fertility treatments, and even the obligations of the Israeli government towards its minority populations. Finally, review essays in the last section analyze a few landmark contemporary works of legal and liturgical creativity: the new Israeli Masorti prayer book, David Hartman's works on covenantal theology, and Marcia Falk's *Book of Blessings*. As Ellenson demonstrates, "The reality of Jewish cultural and social integration into the larger world after Emancipation did not signal the demise of Judaism. Instead, the modern setting has provided a challenging context where the ongoing creativity and adaptability of Jewish religious leaders of all stripes has been tested and displayed."

**Modernity and the Jews in Western Social Thought** Chad Alan Goldberg 2017-05-23 The French tradition: 1789 and the Jews -- The German tradition: capitalism and the Jews -- The American tradition: the city and the Jews  
**Moses Mendelssohn** Shmuel Feiner 2010-11-16 From the prizewinning Jewish Lives series, an accessible and fascinating biography of Moses Mendelssohn, the seminal Jewish philosopher "A fascinating portrait of an

important Enlightenment figure."—Library Journal The "German Socrates," Moses Mendelssohn (1729–1786) was the most influential Jewish thinker of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. A Berlin celebrity and a major figure in the Enlightenment, revered by Immanuel Kant, Mendelssohn suffered the indignities common to Jews of his time while formulating the philosophical foundations of a modern Judaism suited for a new age. His most influential books included the groundbreaking *Jerusalem* and a translation of the Bible into German that paved the way for generations of Jews to master the language of the larger culture. Feiner's book is the first that offers a full, human portrait of this fascinating man—uncommonly modest, acutely aware of his task as an intellectual pioneer, shrewd, traditionally Jewish, yet thoroughly conversant with the world around him—providing a vivid sense of Mendelssohn's daily life as well as of his philosophical endeavors. Feiner, a leading scholar of Jewish intellectual history, examines Mendelssohn as father and husband, as a friend (Mendelssohn's long-standing friendship with the German dramatist Gotthold Ephraim Lessing was seen as a model for Jews and non-Jews worldwide), as a tireless advocate for his people, and as an equally indefatigable spokesman for the paramount importance of intellectual independence.

*American Modernity and Jewish Identity* Steven Martin Cohen 1983-01-01

Jews Of Modernity Himmelfarb 1973-06-28

**Judaism and Modernity** Gillian Rose 2017-03-28 A reinterpretation of thinkers from Benjamin and Rosenzweig to Simone Weil and Derrida *Judaism and Modernity: Philosophical Essays* challenges the philosophical presentation of Judaism as the sublime 'other' of modernity. Here, Gillian Rose develops a philosophical alternative to deconstruction and post-modernism by critically re-engaging the social and political issues at stake in every reconstruction.

*Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century* Gershon David Hundert 2004-02-10 Annotation A history of Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the eighteenth century which argues that this largest Jewish community in the world at that time must be at the center of consideration of

modernity in Jewish history.

*Another Modernity* Clémence Boulouque 2020-09-01 *Another Modernity* is a rich study of the life and thought of Elia Benamozegh, a nineteenth-century rabbi and philosopher whose work profoundly influenced Christian-Jewish dialogue in twentieth-century Europe.

Benamozegh, a Livornese rabbi of Moroccan descent, was a prolific writer and transnational thinker who corresponded widely with religious and intellectual figures in France, the Maghreb, and the Middle East. This idiosyncratic figure, who argued for the universalism of Judaism and for interreligious engagement, came to influence a spectrum of religious thinkers so varied that it includes proponents of the ecumenical Second Vatican Council, American evangelists, and right-wing Zionists in Israel. What Benamozegh proposed was unprecedented: that the Jewish tradition presented a solution to the religious crisis of modernity. According to Benamozegh, the defining features of Judaism were universalism, a capacity to foster interreligious engagement, and the political power and mythical allure of its theosophical tradition, Kabbalah—all of which made the Jewish tradition uniquely equipped to assuage the post-Enlightenment tensions between religion and reason. In this book, Clémence Boulouque presents a wide-ranging and nuanced investigation of Benamozegh's published and unpublished work and his continuing legacy, considering his impact on Christian-Jewish dialogue as well as on far-right Christians and right-wing religious Zionists.

*Viennese Jewish Modernism: Freud, Hofmannsthal, Beer-Hofmann, and Schnitzler* This book provides a perspective on modernism by focusing on the works of Freud, Hofmannsthal, Beer-Hofmann and Schnitzler. The subject is examined from viewpoints both within and outside the contexts of Jewish identity.

Germans, Jews and the Claims of Modernity Jonathan M. Hess 2002-01-01 In the analysis of the debates in Germany over Jews, Judaism and Jewish emancipation in the late 18th and 19th centuries, Jonathan M. Hess reconstructs a crucial chapter in the history of secular anti-Semitism. He examines not only the thinking of German intellectuals of the time but also that of

Jewish writers, revealing the connections between anti-Semitism and visions of modernity, and the Jewish responses to the treat posed by these connections.

**Response to Modernity** Michael A. Meyer

1995 Reform Judaism is today one of the three major branches of the Jewish faith. This is a history of the Reform movement, tracing its changing configuration and self-understanding from the beginnings of modernisation in late 18th-century Jewish thought and practice to American renewal in the 1970s.

**Antisemitism and Modernity** Hyam Maccoby

2006-02-14 The subject of anti-Semitism, not long ago thought to be a dead issue, has been revised due to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Maccoby traces the now topical discussion of the origins of Anti-Semitism, and especially its development in the modern world. The key questions that are addressed include: How is it that this medieval prejudice proved so lasting and potent? Are the roots of anti-Semitism religious? If so, how do these roots differ in Christianity and Islam? By what means did it bridge the gap between medievalism and Enlightenment? How was it that many of the most respected Enlightenment figures (such as Voltaire) dedicated as they were to tolerance and pluralism, retained a virulent anti-Semitism? These questions, and many more, are dealt with as Maccoby explores the roots of the anti-Semitism, tracing it from its origins, and shows how it has changed in accordance with the shifting ideas of the modern world but without changing in its essence. Antisemitism and Modernity is essential reading for those with interests in the development of anti-Semitism, its manifestation in the current world and its future. *Chaim Potok* Daniel Walden 2015-09-22 Chaim Potok was a world-class writer and scholar, a Conservative Jew who wrote from and about his tradition and the conflicts between observance and acculturation. With a plain, straightforward style, his novels were set against the moral, spiritual, and intellectual currents of the twentieth century. This collection aims to widen the lens through which we read Chaim Potok and to establish him as an authentic American writer who created unforgettable characters forging American identities for themselves while retaining their Jewish nature. The essays

illuminate the central struggle in Potok's novels, which results from a profound desire to reconcile the appeal of modernity with the pull of traditional Judaism. The volume includes a memoir by Adena Potok and ends with Chaim Potok's "My Life as a Writer," a speech he gave at Penn State in 1982. Aside from the editor, the contributors are Victoria Aarons, Nathan P. Devir, Jane Eisner, Susanne Klingenstein, S. Lillian Kremer, Jessica Lang, Sanford E. Marovitz, Kathryn McClymond, Hugh Nissenson, Adena Potok, and Jonathan Rosen.

**Jewish Philosophy and the Crisis of**

**Modernity** Leo Strauss 2012-02-01 Explores the impact on Jews and Judaism of the crisis of modernity, analyzing modern Jewish dilemmas and providing a prescription for their resolution. *The Other Jewish Question* Jay Geller 2011 Will appeal to readers interested in psychoanalysis, in Jewish studies, in cultural studies, and in the whole question of "the body," which has been so intensely discussed in recent years. Maps the dissemination of and possible interrelationships among these corporeal signifiers in Germanophone cultures between the Enlightenment and the Shoah. Geller is known as a pioneer in Jewish studies, especially in its cultural studies mode.

*Divided Passions* Paul R. Mendes-Flohr 1991 Paul Mendes-Flohr is emerging as the leading Jewish intellectual historian of the present generation. In particular, he is responsible for a significant amount of the important and pertinent scholarship in the field of German-Jewish intellectual history. No one else is quite as intimately knowledgeable with this material, the ambiguous legacy of one of the most inventive and poignant episodes of creativity in the life of the Diaspora. *Divided Passions* is a collection of published and unpublished essays and articles by Paul Mendes-Flohr from the past decade. In a manner that underscores their continued relevance and significance, Mendes-Flohr writes about the problems that Buber, Rosenzweig, Bloch, Simon, Scholem and others tried to crystallize and resolve. Mendes-Flohr moves with effortless authority among the disciplines of theology, philosophy, literature, history, and sociology. Fitted with these interdisciplinary resources, he enriches his treatment of themes and figures in ways that

exceed the scope, to say nothing of the execution, found in other literature. The book conveys a rare metaphysical depth, for questions of faith, identity, and Dasein explored by the intellectual figures of the past are also personal ones for the author as well. Mendes-Flohr's exceptional ability to keep this body of work alive and available provides an outstanding source of commentary on the subjects that dominate the agenda of modern Jewish studies.

**Women Writing Jewish Modernity,**

**1919-1939** Allison Schachter 2021-12-15

Finalist, 2023 National Jewish Book Award

Winners in Women's Studies In Women Writing

Jewish Modernity, 1919-1939, Allison Schachter

rewrites Jewish literary modernity from the point

of view of women. Focusing on works by

interwar Hebrew and Yiddish writers, Schachter

illuminates how women writers embraced the

transgressive potential of prose fiction to

challenge the patriarchal norms of Jewish

textual authority and reconceptualize Jewish

cultural belonging. Born in the former Russian

and Austro-Hungarian Empires and writing from

their homes in New York, Poland, and

Mandatory Palestine, the authors central to this

book—Fradl Shtok, Dvora Baron, Elisheva

Bikhovsky, Leah Goldberg, and Debora

Vogel—seized on the freedoms of social

revolution to reimagine Jewish culture beyond

the traditionally male world of Jewish letters.

The societies they lived in devalued women's

labor and denied them support for their work. In

response, their writing challenged the social

hierarchies that excluded them as women and as

Jews. As she reads these women, Schachter

upends the idea that literary modernity was a

conversation among men about women, with a

few women writers listening in. Women writers

revolutionized the very terms of Jewish fiction at

a pivotal moment in Jewish history, transcending

the boundaries of Jewish minority identities.

Schachter tells their story and in so doing calls

for a new way of thinking about Jewish cultural

modernity.

*Modernity and the Holocaust* Zygmunt Bauman

2000 A new afterword to this edition, "The Duty

to Remember--But What?" tackles difficult issues

of guilt and innocence on the individual and

societal levels. Zygmunt Bauman explores the

silences found in debates about the Holocaust,

and asks what the historical facts of the Holocaust tell us about the hidden capacities of present-day life. He finds great danger in such phenomena as the seductiveness of martyrdom; going to extremes in the name of safety; the insidious effects of tragic memory; and efficient, "scientific" implementation of the death penalty. Bauman writes, "Once the problem of the guilt of the Holocaust perpetrators has been by and large settled... the one big remaining question is the innocence of all the rest--not the least the innocence of ourselves." Among the conditions that made the mass extermination of the Holocaust possible, according to Bauman, the most decisive factor was modernity itself.

Bauman's provocative interpretation counters the tendency to reduce the Holocaust to an episode in Jewish history, or to one that cannot be repeated in the West precisely because of the progressive triumph of modern civilization. He demonstrates, rather, that we must understand the events of the Holocaust as deeply rooted in the very nature of modern society and in the central categories of modern social thought.

*Mobile Modernity* Todd Samuel Presner 2007

"Treating the German railway as both an iconic symbol of modernity and a crucial social, technological, and political force, Presner advances a groundbreaking interpretation of the ways in which mobility is inextricably linked to German and Jewish visions of modernity. Moving beyond the tired model of a failed German-Jewish dialogue, Presner emphasizes the mutual entanglement of the very categories of German and Jewish and the many sites of contact and exchange that occurred between German and Jewish thinkers." "Rather than a conventional, linear history that culminates in the tragedy of the Holocaust, Presner produces a cultural mapping that articulates a much more complex story of the hopes and catastrophes of mobile modernity. By focusing on the spaces of encounter emblematically represented by the overdetermined triangulation of Germans, Jews, and trains, he introduces a new genealogy for the study of European and German-Jewish modernity."--Jacket.

**American Judaism, Adventure in Modernity**

Jacob Neusner 1978

*Mediating Modernity* Lauren B. Strauss

2008-06-02 In *Mediating Modernity*,

contemporary Jewish scholars pay tribute to Michael A. Meyer, scholar of German-Jewish history and the history of Reform Judaism, with a collection of essays that highlight growing diversity within the discipline of Jewish studies. The occasion of Meyer's seventieth birthday has served as motivation for his colleagues Lauren B. Strauss and Michael Brenner to compile this volume, with essays by twenty-four leading academics, representing institutions in five countries. *Mediating Modernity* is introduced by an overview of modern Jewish historiography, largely drawing on Meyer's work in that field, delineating important connections between the writing of history and the environment in which it is written. Meyer's own areas of specialization are reflected in essays on Moses Mendelssohn, German-Jewish historiography, the religious and social practices of German Jews, Reform Judaism, and various Jewish communities in America. The volume's field of inquiry is broadened by essays that deal with gender issues, literary analysis, and the historical relationship of Israel and the Palestinians. Though other volumes have been compiled to honor Jewish historians, *Mediating Modernity* is unique in the personal and intellectual relationships shared by its contributors and Michael A. Meyer. Scholars of Jewish studies, German history, and religious history will appreciate this timely volume.

Modernity, Culture, and 'the Jew' Bryan Chetty 1998 This book provides a rich and wide-ranging analysis of Jewish history and culture, relating them to theories of modernity and postmodernity and to recent debates on ethnicity and postcolonialism. The sixteen essays are divided into four parts, addressing psychoanalysis and gender, literary antisemitism, modernity/postmodernity and the Jew, and the memory of the Holocaust. A Foreword and Afterword place these concerns in an extended multicultural and postcolonial context. What is at stake when Jewish history and culture are inserted into current feminist, gay and lesbian, postcolonial and postmodern revisions of modernity? Even the radical reconstruction of modernity has created a host of new orthodoxies which themselves need to be unsettled. Along with an amorphous political correctness, mainstream cultural studies has,

routinely, written out the question of Jewishness, assuming it as part of a supposed Judeo-Christian tradition. On the other side of the barricades, however, those apologists for the efficacy of Western modernity have continued to banish Jewish difference from their brave new world in a desperate bid to signify the universality of the modern project. The essays in this collection are written in the margins of these reductive oppositions. They recognize that the Jewish other is both at the heart of Western metropolitan culture and is also what must be excluded in order for dominant racial and sexual identities to be formed and maintained. There is a virtue in this ambivalent positioning, this center of the road, which characterizes Jewish history and culture both then and now. "

Jewish Responses to Modernity Eli Lederhendler 1997-08 Facing the dizzying array of changes commonly referred to as modernity, Jews in 19th-century Eastern Europe and early 20th-century America reflected the crises and opportunities of the modern world most eloquently in their speech, culture, and literature. Relying on those spoken and written words as eyewitnesses, Eli Lederhendler illustrates how the self-perceptions of Jews evolved, both in the Old World and among immigrants to America. He focuses on a wide range of subjects to provide an overview of this clash between old and new and to reveal ways in which cultural conflicts were reconciled. How, for instance, was messianic language adapted to serve nationalistic goals? What did America signify to Jewish thinkers at the turn of the century? What do Jewish user's guides to the New World tell us about Jewish secular culture and its perspective on sex, love, marriage, etiquette, and health? More generally, what do Jewish letters and literature tell us about how communities adapt to radically new environments? *Jewish Responses to Modernity* highlights the manner in which codes and symbols are passed from one generation to the next, reinforcing a group's sense of self and helping to define its relations with other. The book clearly demonstrates the importance of language as a vehicle for minority-group self-expression in the past and in the present.

The End of Jewish Modernity Enzo Traverso 2016 A provocative take on Jewish history,



explaining the metamorphoses of mainstream Jewish culture and politics.

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