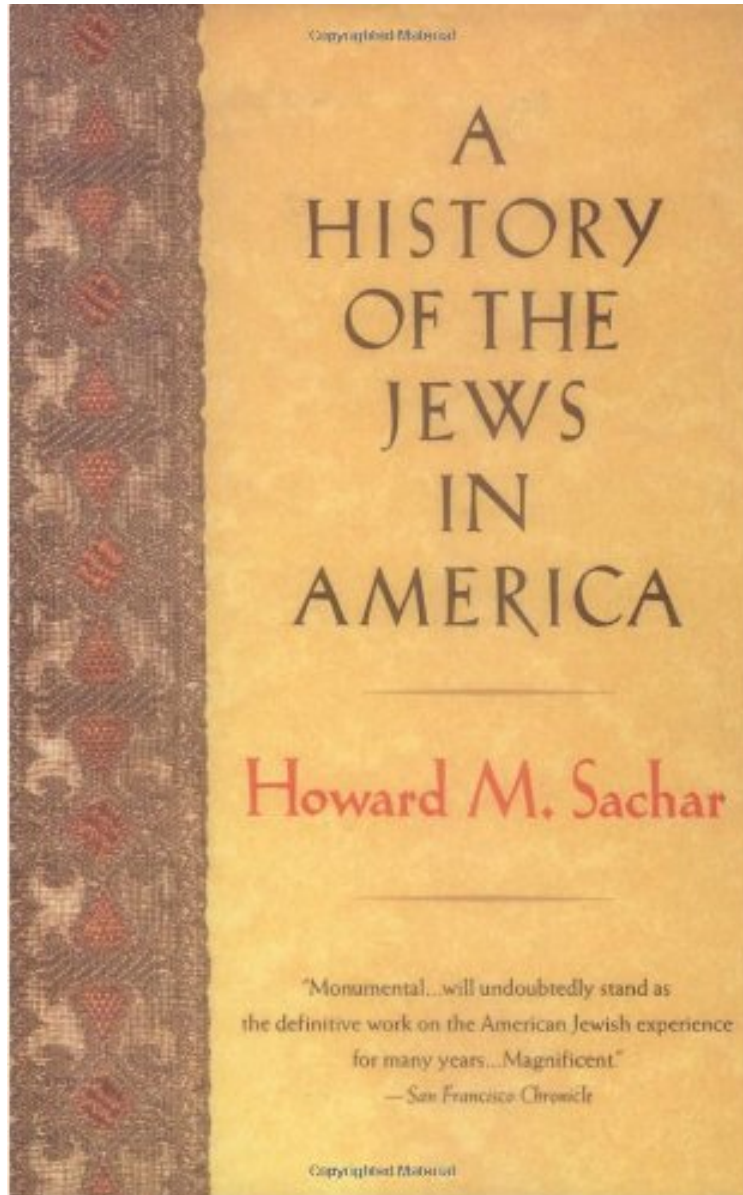


(Download free ebook) A History of the Jews in America

A History of the Jews in America

Howard M. Sachar

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Howard M. Sachar : A History of the Jews in America before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A History of the Jews in America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An excellent depiction of the struggle of Jews to find peace and prosperity. By Duo Cyclor Howard Sachar hasn't missed a beat in his excellent book. He has captured the struggle of a persecuted people to adapt and find a home in one of the few places in world where they would find freedom and

fulfillment. He tells all, the good and the bad. People who have made America the great place it is as well as those who were involved in the darker side of life. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Joel dex goorthank you 0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. History alive. By heavenslove Trying to learn about early Jew to America. My mothers family came early to America and I have found that her family name maybe Jewish.

Spanning 350 years of Jewish experience in this country, *A History of the Jews in America* is an essential chronicle by the author of *The Course of Modern Jewish History*. With impressive scholarship and a riveting sense of detail, Howard M. Sachar tells the stories of Spanish marranos and Russian refugees, of aristocrats and threadbare social revolutionaries, of philanthropists and Hollywood moguls. At the same time, he elucidates the grand themes of the Jewish encounter with America, from the bigotry of a Christian majority to the tensions among Jews of different origins and beliefs, and from the struggle for acceptance to the ambivalence of assimilation.

From Publishers Weekly Monumental in scope and depth, this vibrantly detailed chronicle sweeps from New Amsterdam of 1654, where Brazilian Jewish refugees established a beachhead in the future New York, to the 1980s campaign to resettle Soviet Jews in the United States. In the most comprehensive and revealing account to date of the saga of American Jewry, George Washington University historian Sachar explores how Jews faced the challenge of preserving their historic group identity within a widening matrix of Americanization. He charts the contributions of Jews from the Revolutionary War to the California Gold Rush of 1849 to labor activism and Tin Pan Alley. He also profiles scores of influential Jews ranging from Samuel Gompers to Alfred Heinz (Henry) Kissinger. Sachar (*A History of Israel*) includes particularly incisive sections on American Jews' heated divisions over Zionism, the efforts to rescue Europe's Jews from Nazism, black-Jewish relations and the Jews' impact on American culture. This absorbing narrative unfolds a splendid epic of immigration, acceptance, acculturation and reaffirmed identity in the face of institutionalized discrimination. BOMC alternate. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Author of *The Course of Modern Jewish History* (Vintage, 1990), *A History of Israel* (LJ 5/1/87), and *Diaspora* (LJ 3/15/85. o.p.), Sachar specializes in writing grand one-volume historical syntheses, encyclopedic in scope and arresting in detail. Here he provides a sweeping narrative history of American Jews from their beginnings to contemporary times, the most comprehensive single volume as yet written on the subject. Reflecting intimate familiarity with voluminous secondary sources and punctuated by telling primary citations, this book is a veritable treasure trove of information. Despite a wooden first hundred pages and an imperious disdain for Orthodox Judaism, it provides a lively, engaging, and thoughtful depiction of East European/German-Jewish tensions, evolving American Jewish secular culture, and American Jewish politics. A signal achievement, furnishing a valuable aperçu for scholars and an abundance of historical insights for lay readers. BOMC alternate. -Benny Kraut, Univ. of Cincinnati Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s With this comprehensive, insightful, and spirited opus, Sachar (*Modern History*/George Washington Univ.; *A History of Israel*, 1976 and 1977, etc.) rises to the position of preeminent Jewish historian of our day. Sachar's study aims far above the "Look Who's Jewish" genre of pop Jewish-American history, yet there are passages about men of Jewish descent who sponsored Columbus's voyages, speculation about the Jewishness of Abraham Lincoln's ancestry, and, much later, lists of Jewish entertainers, scientists, scholars, etc., whose Jewishness was often less than relevant. Sachar is at his best when succinctly presenting a generation's grappling with social, philosophical, political, and theological issues after major Jewish milestones like the influx of Eastern European immigrants, the Holocaust, and the Six-Day War. Both the "beatification" and "martyrology" of Holocaust study and the new religion of Israelism are critically discussed. Sachar has a historian's gift for mapping out the key crossroads facing the American Jewish community at each major juncture, from the American Revolution to the current "quota crisis" with the black community. He then offers a journalist's-eye view of the major figures behind the ideas and movements. Journalist Sachar can be rather subjective as he paints Orthodox rabbis ("hairshirt tribalists") like Bernard Revel as amoral opportunists, and liberal secularists like Rabbi Stephen Wise as intrepid pioneers. Most laypeople of any stripe, though, will appreciate his saucy dismissal of most American rabbis as "preening pulpiteers, social climbers, publicity and financial bonus seekers." In his reviews of major cultural figures, Sachar praises anyone that Irving Howe likes and trashes celebrated artists like Elie Wiesel--and, while noting that America has always swallowed up her Jews, he favors saccharine projections about the children of intermarried couples being "raised as Jews." There are chapter headings like "the German-Jewish Conscience at Efflorescence" and adjectives such as "latitudinarian," but this immensely readable tome offers several centuries' worth of crystallized energy. -- Copyright 1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.