

[DOWNLOAD] American Post-Judaism: Identity and Renewal in a Postethnic Society (Religion in North America)

American Post-Judaism: Identity and Renewal in a Postethnic Society (Religion in North America)

Shaul Magid

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



 Download

 Read Online

#1280127 in Books Shaul Magid 2013-04-09 2013-04-09 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.55 #File Name: 0253008026408 pages American Post Judaism Identity and Renewal in a Postethnic Society | File size: 29.Mb

Shaul Magid : American Post-Judaism: Identity and Renewal in a Postethnic Society (Religion in North America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised American

Post-Judaism: Identity and Renewal in a Postethnic Society (Religion in North America):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A deep and enriching analysis of Jewish Renewal and its solutions for our postmodern era. By Enyphill Shaul Magid is one of the best in his field. His analyses are piercing and his research is meticulous and broad in scope. His comparative studies in each chapter of the book--which place several thinkers in dialogue with one another--allow for a textured comprehension of the topic and an engaging read. Don't get me wrong, though: this is not an easy book. I am an academic and am familiar with the Jewish and philosophical terms and concepts in the book; and it still required a bit of work for me to make it through and absorb the messages and sharp demarcations. But, this is a must-read for those who want to familiarize themselves with the philosophical and sociological underpinnings of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's Jewish Renewal project. What is good about this book? 1) Jewish Renewal is something obscure for most of us. Professor Magid really dissects the philosophy and helps the reader get to the core messages so often blurred by lofty "spiritual" jargon. 2) Fresh and exciting ways are offered to tackle the post-modern condition the Jewish world finds itself in today. 3) Access to a great mind. Magid's writing is clear. And his scope of knowledge is impressive. These two together, along with his depth and personal connection to the topic, all provide a most pleasant pathway into the inner corridors of Jewish thought. Cons: 1) This is not a beginner's book (this can be a pro or a con--depends on the audience). 2) Magid is a dedicated student (talmid) of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, On one hand, this instigates a comprehensive analysis of his writings. However, sometimes an apologetic vibe can be picked up. And sometimes the reader can't help but wish the critical lens with which other thinkers are scrutinized would be equally applied to Reb Zalman. (See the last chapter on post-Holocaust literature, for instance. Schachter-Shalomi seems to not have a clear message on the Holocaust. But Magid presents him as having one. This requires a bit of acrobatics. Also, the claims made by Shalomi on this topic are disturbing at times, but nevertheless seem to be portrayed by the author in a positive light.) 3) This is a personal one which may (only) resonate with other rationalist-leaning readers: I found it hard to accept some of the "new" paradigms being offered by Jewish Renewal, as per how they were depicted in the book, because they often are based on (New Age) spirituality and axioms such as "we have entered into a new phase, the era of Aquarius" and the like. And I just don't know how to digest this and integrate it into my rational categories of thought. Magid thoroughly presents the problem: Judaism can't address this generation with an old Torah. But the answer(s) I found less compelling. But for those more spiritually oriented, this may not be a barrier. In all, this is a most compelling work, by a top-notch scholar. And it offers much food for thought for all Jewish educators today. In a day of "posts" (post-modernism, post-Zionism, post-monotheism, post-ethnicity, etc.), the Jewish world often seems befuddled and alarmed at the drastic changes in our new generation. Magid offers the reader a philosophical, historical, psychological and sociological map, based on Jewish Renewal, for understanding the sources of this generation's angst, all the while presenting new avenues for living and experiencing Judaism based on these understandings. If you want to think deeply, experience new paradigms for understanding and living Judaism, and acquire a solid foothold in Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi's thought, this is the book for you. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book, but it is a very slow read. By Bruce Wolf This is a wonderful review of renewal Judaism. The book is very slow reading because of sentence structure and the innumerable references. The author is a font of knowledge. Having met him for a class, I found this book a wonderful extension of his information. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Jewish Renewal in Context. By Bokoner An excellent contribution to a respected Indiana University Press series of works on American religion, this one offers new resources for understanding Jews, Judaism(s), and newly emerging patterns of cultural and religious practices at a time when "ethnicity" may be declining as a viable identity-marker. Reading this book in relation (or in contrast) to earlier influential studies (for instance, Will Herberg's Protestant Catholic Jew) suggests that it similarly could (and should) become a focal point for lively discussion and debate about American Jews and ways toward a potentially creative future well beyond any "melting pot" vs. "unmeltable ethnic" mentality. Clearly and insightfully written. Highly recommended.

How do American Jews identify as both Jewish and American? American Post-Judaism argues that Zionism and the Holocaust, two anchors of contemporary American Jewish identity, will no longer be centers of identity formation for future generations of American Jews. Shaul Magid articulates a new, post-ethnic American Jewishness. He discusses pragmatism and spirituality, monotheism and post-monotheism, Jesus, Jewish law, sainthood and self-realization, and the meaning of the Holocaust for those who have never known survivors. Magid presents Jewish Renewal as a movement that takes this radical cultural transition seriously in its strivings for a new era in Jewish thought and practice.

[R]equired reading for anyone directly concerned with Jewish survival, and for everyone interested in the state of institutional religion and personal spirituality in the US today. . . Highly recommended. (Choice)[Magid's] American Post-Judaism provides a timely and necessary, if controversial, entry into contemporary Jewish theology. Highly recommended. (H-Judaic) Shaul Magid . . . has just happened to write one of the most important books on American

Judaism written of late. . . . Magid has a keen eye on the politics of change and renewal as they impact Israel and the American Jewish community. (The Daily Beast)Magid's important book is a clear and realistic albeit incomplete preliminary analysis of Judaism in America; its achievements; and its crises. It provides a variety of perspectives on the creation of contemporary Jewish society in the U.S. . . . that provide an accurate portrait of postethnic Judaism. (Haaretz)[American Post-Judaism] deals with the reality of American Jewish life with realism and with insight. (JNS)[T]his spirited and erudite collection has much to contribute to the sociological understanding of American Jewry. . . . When read against the findings of the Pew Study, however, his observation that American Jewry has arrived at a 'between moment' strikes me as singularly prescient. (Sociology of Religion)The ongoing public conversation about the future of American Judaism is embodied in a small library of recent books, many of which have been considered here. None of them, however, offers quite the same potent brew of courage, clarity, passion and expertise as Shaul Magid's American Post-Judaism . . . , a scholarly but also visionary book about what it means to be a Jew in America today. (Jewish Journal) In every case, Shaul Magid's point is that the old paradigms for thinking about Jews and Judaism—specifically the ethnically inflected, assimilation-phobic, chosen/one God model—are dead. But all is not lost. He is optimistic that if we redefine the terms of Jewish survival, we will see just how much Jews have gained in these transformations. (Lila Corwin Berman Temple University)About the AuthorShaul Magid is Jay and Jeannie Schottenstein Professor of Jewish Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. He is author of From Metaphysics to Midrash (IUP, 2008).