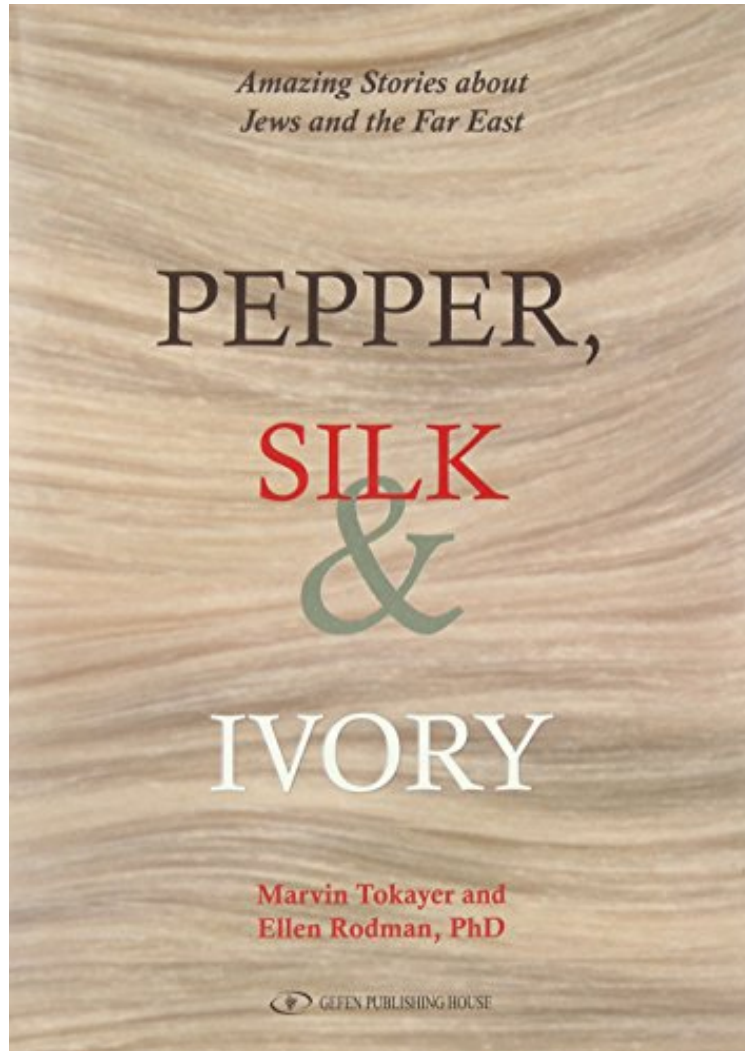


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Pepper, Silk Ivory: Amazing Stories about Jews and the Far East

Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, Ellen Rodman Ph.D
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Rabbi Marvin Tokayer, Ellen Rodman Ph.D : Pepper, Silk Ivory: Amazing Stories about Jews and the Far East before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pepper, Silk Ivory: Amazing Stories about Jews and the Far East:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Silk Ivory was like uncovering buried treasureBy Dennis A. LeventhalOpening Pepper, Silk Ivory was like uncovering buried treasure. It is not only a delightful read, but also it is a broad brush exposure of a major lacuna in Diaspora history. In the aggregate, these stories, a collage of compelling characters, sketch a profile of life trajectories impelled from Jewish cultural traditions and shaped by powerful historical contexts. They reveal how even the most unique Jewish individuals feel the impulse to serve the greater interests of civilization and humanity-at-large. Weaving elements of his personal experiences into these stories of

contact with the more contemporary actors on the stage of history provides a flavor of intimacy with his subject matter. From a personal point of view, his opus enriched my knowledge of some of our Asia wanderers, and taught me about many I never knew. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Important work of Jewish History By Marla Petal Rabbi Marvin Tokayer's book engages the lay reader in the fascinating, overlooked, and potentially forgotten stories of dozens of Jews and Asians, who made a significant impact on the lives of many. Tokayer has diligently chronicled his many rich relationships, encounters, and explorations, to leave us in awe of how little we know. This is a treasure map for the modern Jewish explorer in Asia, full of marvelous references, and paths to follow. Tokayer is instantly forgiven for the sometimes sketchy and jumpy narratives, and missing segues, as he has packed this book full of people that we may all wish we had been so lucky to meet. But then, perhaps the biggest gift of all is if we might in our own lives experience the kind of curiosity about the people we encounter... and inquire of them too about their lives... and discover and chronicle just a few of the impacts they too have made... 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It starts off pretty good, and it's amazing By Meyati It starts off pretty good, and it's amazing, but I couldn't finish the book because the last quarter of the book is downright tedious. The front starts off with 2 Gun Cohen, who guarded Chinese leaders in the 1920s. It goes into amazing people that did more than survive Japanese imprisonment. It has an interesting section on India, and how people of different religions lived peaceably until the Western Europeans showed up. It has an interesting modern story of how Yasser Arafat, head of the PLO, made a state visit to India, and the Indian Air Force pilots that protected Arafat's plane were Indian Jews.

Pepper, Silk Ivory reveals a missing page in Jewish history, the amazing stories of Jews who both benefited from and contributed to the Far East. Here you will read about the juvenile delinquent who later became known as the uncrowned Jewish king of China; the woman who refused to give up until the Japanese Constitution included rights for women and children; the secret behind one of the world's most famous logos; and the American baseball player who spied for the United States in Japan. You will also learn the stories of the Jew who served as Singapore's first chief minister; the eccentric writer who introduced China to the West with her pet gibbon always at her side; the Marrano physician in India whose famous volume on botany and pharmacology in the sixteenth-century caused as much excitement as the discovery of penicillin did in the twentieth-century; the Jewish musicians who enhanced both Eastern music and the quality of life for everyone in Asia; the ashram in India created by the Jewish guru who became known as The Mother; and the sexual therapist, poker buddy, doctors and other Jewish members of Mao Zedong's inner circle. Consummate storyteller Rabbi Marvin Tokayer draws on a half century of personal experiences in Asia and a wealth of knowledge about Jews and the Far East, and prolific writer and television producer Ellen Rodman, Ph.D., weave together colorful characters and their captivating stories into this fascinating book.

Delightful, informative and altogether fascinating stories. Tokayer and Rodman have filled an important gap in Jewish history. --Richard Zoglin, Time magazine theater critic This fine, surprising addition to the history of the Jewish people awakens readers from the Eurocentric and Near East visions of Jewish culture and influence. The stories are wonderfully varied the authors evidence their great passion for their subject. I am hopeful that this volume reaches every Jewish library and library of Far East history. --Philip K. Jason, Jewish Book World A rich and provocative book about the lost stories of Jews and the Far East. The narratives are interesting and detailed. An important book today truly marvelous. --Dr. Mehnaz M. Afridi, Director, Manhattan College Holocaust, Genocide, and Interfaith Education Center A fascinating, superbly researched book of footnote characters, incidents and events which deftly fills in wide gaps in history. Who knew? --Jeffrey Lyons, Lyons Den, CBS Radio About the Author Rabbi Marvin Tokayer began his rabbinic career in 1962 as a US Air Force chaplain stationed in southern Japan. In 1968, he returned to serve as rabbi of the thousand-member Jewish community of Japan, a post he held until 1976; he remains Lifetime Honorary Rabbi of the community. He also served on the Federation of Jewish Communities of Southeast Asia and the Far East and as Founding Board Member of the Sino-Judaic Institute. He contributed seven articles on rabbinics and the Orient for the Encyclopedia Judaica, authored twenty books in Japanese on Judaica and Japan, and coauthored (with Mary Swartz) The Fugu Plan The Untold Story of the Japanese and the Jews during World War II. Ellen Rodman is a writer, producer, and the president of LN Productions LLC, a production and media consulting company based in New York. Prior to founding her own company, Dr. Rodman served as an executive at NBC, where she launched the first missing children's campaign in connection with the broadcast of the made-for-television movie Adam, and at Group W where she accepted a DuPont Columbia Award for Whispering Hope, the company's outreach program on Alzheimer's disease. The former family entertainment reviewer for the New York Times, Dr. Rodman is also the author of numerous magazine and newspaper articles on subjects ranging from culture and media to education and health.