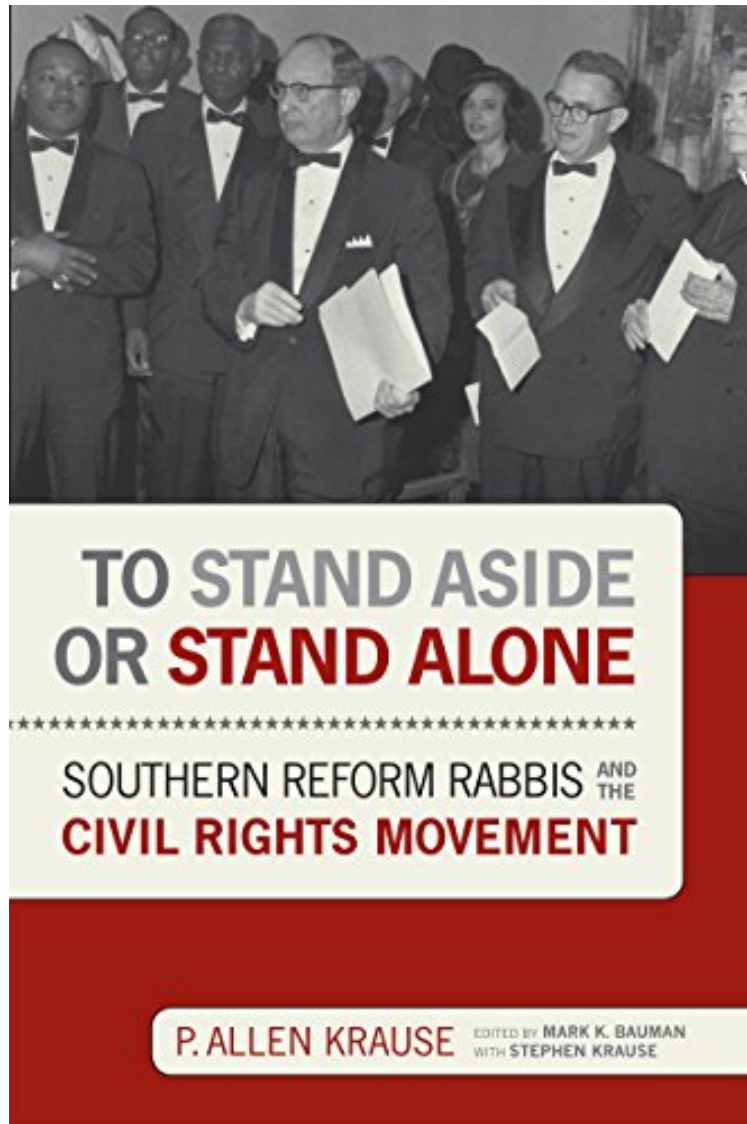


# To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement

*P. Allen Krause*

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#147807 in Books Krause P Allen 2016-12-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.50 x 6.00l, #File Name: 0817319247424 pages To Stand Aside or Stand Alone Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement | File size: 77.Mb

**P. Allen Krause : To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By James Fromstein Rare insights into the special

problems of Southern rabbis in the Civil Rights years of the 1960s.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Sober Account of Jewish Activism During the Civil Rights MovementBy Rabbi Laurence Elis Milder, Ph.D.This is an essential book for anyone studying the civil rights movement. Krause has captured a place and a moment in time--how Southern Reform rabbis responded to "desegregation," as it was called then. The honesty conveyed in these interviews helps us understand the complexity and range of responses they had. Most advocated for civil rights, many took leadership roles within their communities, some were tepid in their activism, and some braved harrowing threats and violence in return for their courage. Of particular interest is the conflicted relationship many had with their own national organizations, their Northern colleagues, and other clergy in their own communities.

A landmark collection of previously unpublished interviews with Reform rabbis concerning their roles in the civil rights movement. In 1966, a young rabbinical student named P. Allen Krause conducted interviews with twelve Reform rabbis from southern congregations concerning their thoughts, principles, and activities as they related to the civil rights movement. Perhaps because he was a young seminary student or more likely because the interviewees were promised an embargo of twenty-five years before the interviews would be released to the public, the rabbis were extremely candid about their opinions on and their own involvement with what was still an incendiary subject. Now, in *To Stand Aside or Stand Alone: Southern Reform Rabbis and the Civil Rights Movement*, their stories help elucidate a pivotal moment in time. After a distinguished rabbinical career, Krause wrote introductions to and annotated the interviews. When Krause succumbed to cancer in 2012, Mark K. Bauman edited the manuscripts further and wrote additional introductions with the assistance of Stephen Krause, the rabbi's son. The result is a unique volume offering insights into these rabbis' perceptions and roles in their own words and with more depth and nuance than hitherto available. This exploration into the lives of these teachers and civic leaders is supported by important contextual information on the local communities and other rabbis, with such background information forming the basis of a demographic profile of the Reform rabbis working in the South. The twelve rabbis whom Krause interviewed served in Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Virginia, and the substance and scope of their discussions cover some of the most crucial periods in the civil rights movement. Although some have provided accounts that appeared elsewhere or have written about their experiences themselves, several new voices appear here, suggesting that more southern rabbis were active than previously thought. These men functioned within a harsh environment: rabbis' homes, synagogues, and Jewish community centers were bombed; one rabbi, who had been beaten and threatened, carried a pistol to protect himself and his family. The views and actions of these men followed a spectrum from gradualism to activism; while several of the rabbis opposed the evils of the separate and unequal system, others made peace with it or found reasons to justify inaction. Additionally, their approaches differed from their activist colleagues in the North even more than from each other. Within these pages, readers learn about the attitudes of the rabbis toward each other, toward their congregants, toward national Jewish organizations, and toward local leaders of black and white and Protestant and Catholic groups. Theirs are dramatic stories of frustration, cooperation, and conflict.

"No one who is interested in this subject will henceforth be able to understand the full picture without consulting *To Stand Aside or Stand Alone*. Rabbi Krause is to be commended for conducting the interviews so thoughtfully and for laboring to bring them to light in their complete form, and Bauman and the younger Krause are to be applauded for seeing the work to its conclusion in such a professional and instructive manner." *Southern Jewish History* "*To Stand Aside or Stand Alone* will provide the English-speaking world with a documentary treasure trove that is, to the best of my knowledge, *sui generis*." Gary Phillip Zola, author of *Isaac Harby of Charleston, 1788-1828: Jewish Reformer and Intellectual and coeditor of *A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping**