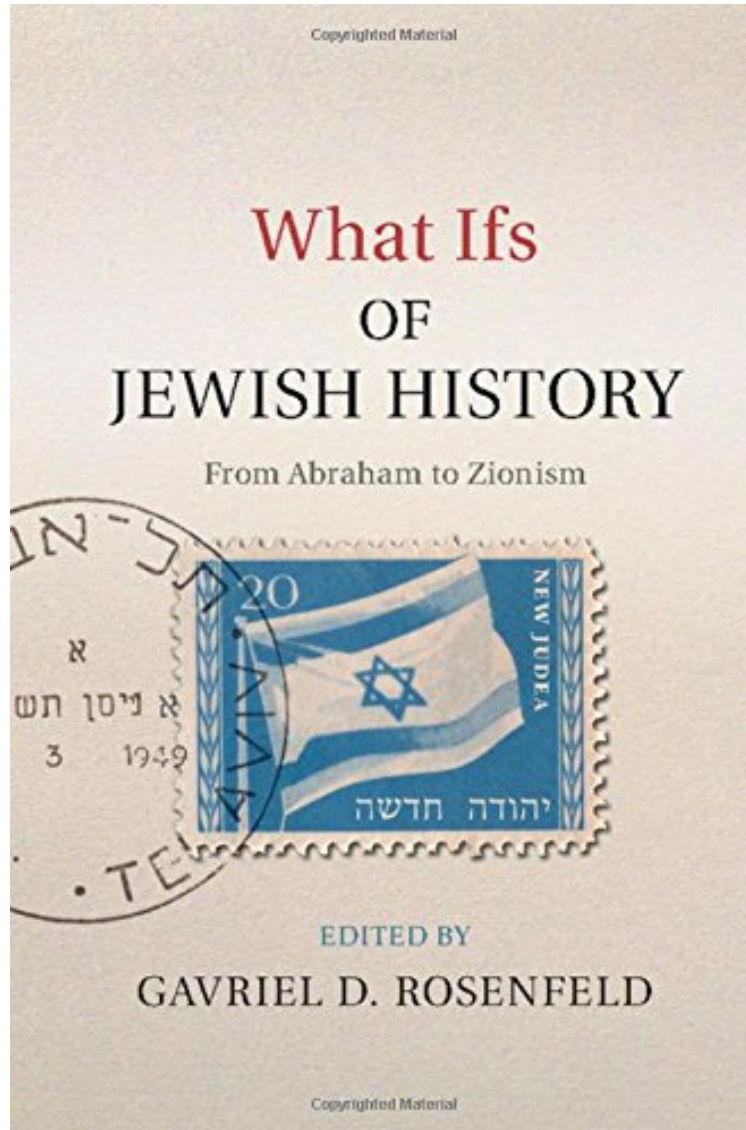


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## What Ifs of Jewish History: From Abraham to Zionism

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#1415873 in Books Ingramcontent 2016-10-24Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.98 x .91 x 5.981, .0 #File Name: 110703762X412 pagesWhat Ifs of Jewish History From Abraham to Zionism | File size: 44.Mb

**From Ingramcontent :** **What Ifs of Jewish History: From Abraham to Zionism** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Ifs of Jewish History: From Abraham to Zionism:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Good overall storyBy MGGood overall story. Liked the alternate story of what if israel was in Uganda and what if Hitler was killed in Georg Esler bomb. Most story say that there would have been a jewish state even without the Holocausts but with the Holocaust and all the atrocities commidet there(well the nazis did mass killing of jewish and other groups of people) there would not have had a social

acceptance of Jewish people. Liked the story about Walter Rathnau president of Germany. The only story I didn't like was the first one on Passover and the Exodus from Egypt. It wasn't even a counterfactual but a lesson about the role of Exodus in Jewish history. Even authors who don't like counterfactuals like the one who wrote on what if Rommel had won at El Alamein have written good counterfactuals story based on real events. On the one about the Afrika Korps there no alternate story a la Turtledove or Tsouras but the author says based on what happened in the former Soviet Union and the extermination plans made by the mufti and the Third Reich leaders what would have happened. This book is not only for Jewish people (I am a French Canadian or Quebecer and born Catholic) but for everybody who likes counterfactuals story. I could compare it to Robert Cowley book *What If* of American History. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A few interesting essays By Alan from NYC This book is a mixed bag. Some of the essays will be of interest to many readers, others to just a few. Among the better ones: *Nazis win the Battle of El Alamein* -- explains how the Nazis would have employed in the Middle East the same tactics used in the Soviet Union to destroy the Jews. *Final Solution completed* -- describes what the Nazis would have done to preserve detailed information about the Jewish people after completing the Holocaust in Europe. *Holocaust averted* -- describes the consequences of WW2 starting a year early, due to failure to reach agreement at Munich in Sep 1938. The problem is that many of the essays are just dull. more like academic treatises than essays aimed at a wider audience. An additional problem is that there is little text explaining what did happen, making it difficult for a nonspecialist to determine the point of divergence. All in all, a disappointment.

What if the Exodus had never happened? What if the Jews of Spain had not been expelled in 1492? What if Eastern European Jews had never been confined to the Russian Pale of Settlement? What if Adolf Hitler had been assassinated in 1939? What if a Jewish state had been established in Uganda instead of Palestine? Gavriel D. Rosenfeld's pioneering anthology examines how these and other counterfactual questions would have affected the course of Jewish history. Featuring essays by sixteen distinguished scholars in the field of Jewish Studies, *What Ifs of Jewish History* is the first volume to systematically apply counterfactual reasoning to the Jewish past. Written in a variety of narrative styles, ranging from the analytical to the literary, the essays cover three thousand years of dramatic events and invite readers to indulge their imaginations and explore how the course of Jewish history might have been different.

"The enduring value of counterfactual approaches emerges clearly from Gavriel Rosenfeld's ably constructed collection of perceptive and exciting essays. The volume is a major contribution to the method as well as to Jewish history." Jeremy Black, University of Exeter, and author of *Other Pasts, Different Presents, Alternative Futures* "Gavriel Rosenfeld has produced a marvellously imaginative book. While it is not 'history' in the conventional sense, it is certain to be appreciated, even treasured, by scholars and all of those deeply concerned with the fate of European Jewry." Michael Berkowitz, University College London "Counterfactual thinking is implicit in Jewish culture, from the grumbling of the liberated slaves about the watermelons they would have enjoyed in Egypt to the 'Dayenu' song in the Passover Seder. Entertaining and educational, *What Ifs of Jewish History* makes explicit the main junctures in Jewish history by imagining what would have been otherwise, including a Jewish state in Africa and a Christian state in Israel, a world without Jews and history without the Holocaust." Aviezer Tucker, author of *Our Knowledge of the Past: A Philosophy of Historiography* "So why not a counterfactual? They are essential to making causal claims, normative judgments, and identity construction. The contributors to this fascinating volume conduct a series of sophisticated and eminently plausible counterfactual experiments towards these ends. Readers will learn much about Jewish history, European and Middle Eastern history." Ned Lebow, King's College London About the Author Gavriel D. Rosenfeld is Professor of History at Fairfield University. His area of specialization is the history and memory of the Nazi era. He is the author of several books, including *Building After Auschwitz: Jewish Architecture and the Memory of the Holocaust* (2011), which was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award in the category of visual arts, *The World Hitler Never Made: Alternate History and the Memory of Nazism* (Cambridge, 2005), *Munich and Memory: Architecture, Monuments and the Legacy of the Third Reich* (2000) and the co-edited work, *Beyond Berlin: Twelve German Cities Confront the Nazi Past* (2008). Rosenfeld is a frequent contributor to the *Forward* newspaper and edits the blog, *The Counterfactual History*.