Lloyd Gartner provides a vivid description of the changing fortunes of the Jewish communities of Old World Europe, the Middle East, and beyond and their gradual expansion into the New World of the Americas. The book begins in 1650, when the Jewish population had fallen to roughly 1.25 million, less than one sixth of its peak at the start of the Christian era. Gartner’s vivid description of the changing fortunes of the Jewish communities of Old World Europe, the Middle East, and beyond and their gradual expansion into the New World of the Americas begins in 1650, when the Jewish population had fallen to roughly 1.25 million, less than one sixth of its peak at the start of the Christian era. Gartner leads us through the traditions, religious laws, migrations, and relations between one’s neighbors, through the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, and into the Holocaust, the dark shadows of anti-Semitism, and the Second World War, bringing us up to the present with Zionism and the founding of Israel. Eminently readable and impeccably researched, the book is an expert introduction to one of the central themes of modern history.
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A Short History of the Jews

by Paul F.2007-01-23 A comprehensive historical survey of the Jewish presence in Central Europe from the late eighteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. It explores the many facets of Jewish life, including its cultural, social, and religious aspects, and offers insights into the experiences of Jews in Central Europe during this period. The book is divided into twelve chapters, each focusing on a different aspect of Jewish life. It is an indispensable resource for researchers and students of Jewish history.

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Writing a Modern Jewish History

Susannah Heschel's 2000-01 In this insightful book, a scholar and distinguished group of writers explores the Jewish experience in the American and celebrates the legacy of Salo Wittmayer Baron (1895-1989), a prominent scholar who revolutionized the study of Jewish history during his lengthy tenure at Columbia University. Rama's important essays are reflected throughout these editor, which centers on the unique identity of Jewish people. These essays address the meaning and significance of portraits and symbols of Jewish America, the history of an extraordinary group of Jews in the months Amos, the characteristic traits observed by Jewish women in their criticisms of various issues in twentieth-century America, the place of Jews in modern American culture, the "Jewish unconscious" of the art critic Meyer Schkolne, and Sidsen's influence on a historian and teacher. A group of Jews by Robert Pinsky accompanies the essays. Together these essays form a dynamic interplay of ideas that encourages readers to think deeply about Jewish history and identity.

The Hebrew Book in Early Modern Italy

Joseph R. Hacker 2011-06-18 The rise of printing had major effects on culture and society in the early modern period, and the presence of this new technology—and the relatively rapid emergence of it among early modern Jews—certainly had an effect on many aspects of Jewish culture. One major change that printing seem to have brought to the Jewish communities of Christian Europe, particularly in Italy, was greater interaction between Jews and Christians in the production and dissemination of books. Starting in the early sixteenth century, the houses of production for Jewish books in many places in Italy were in Christian-owned print shops, with Jews and Christians collaborating on the editorial and technical processes of book production. As the Jewish-Christian collaboration often took place under conditions of control by Christians (for example, the involvement of Christian typesetters and printers, supervision and ownership of Hebrew texts, and state control of Hebrew printing), its study opens up an important set of questions about the role that Christians played in shaping Jewish culture. Presenting new research by an international group of scholars, this book represents a step toward a fuller understanding of Jewish book history. Individual essays focus on a range of issues related to the production and dissemination of Hebrew books as well as their audiences. Topics include the activities of writers and printers, the creation of new types of literature and the transformation of canonical works in the era of print, the internal and external censorship of Hebrew books, and the reading interests of Jews. An introduction contextualizes the state of scholarship in the field and offers an overview of the transition from manuscript to print in this period.

Gender and Assimilation in Modern Jewish History

Paula E. Hyman 2017-05-01 Paula Hyman broadens and revises earlier analyses of Jewish assimilation, which depicted Jews as though they were all men, by focusing on women and the domestic as well as the public sphere. Surveying Jewish communities in new conditions in Europe and the United States in the years between 1850 and 1950 she rewrites the experience of women as reflected in their writings—women, newspaper and journal articles, and texts of speeches—and finds that Jewish women's patterns of assimilation differ from male's and that an examination of these differences exposes the tension inherent in the project of Jewish assimilation. Patterns of assimilation varied not only among men and women but also according to geographical locale and social class. Germany, France, England, and the United States offered diverse levels of civic equality to their Jewish populations, and by the 1870s of the nineteenth century, their relatively small Jewish communities were generally defined by their middle-class characteristics. In contrast, the eastern European nations contained relatively large and overwhelmingly non-middle-class Jewish populations. Hyman considers how these differences between East and West influenced gender norms, which in turn shaped Jewish women's responses to the changing conditions of the modern world and how few emerged in the large communities of eastern European Jews in the United States. The book concludes with an exploration of the sexual politics of Jewish identity. Rama argues that the construction of a Jewish identity as a separate (and separate) category for a society in which they have achieved political equality and economic success was manifested in their criticism of, and distancing from, Jewish women. The work integrates a wide range of primary and secondary sources to incorporate Jewish women's history into one of the oldest themes in modern Jewish history, that of assimilation. The book is addressed to a wide audience, those with an interest in modern Jewish history, in women's history, and in ethnic studies and all who are concerned with the experience and identity of Jews in modern world.

Studies in Contemporary Jewry

Jonathan Frankel 1994-12-29 Published annually by the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, this acclaimed series includes essays, articles, book reviews, and lists of recent dissertations by major scholars in the field. The series explores Jewish life and thought in the modern world, from the Holocaust to the study of Jewish historiography in terms of changing national and popular mythologies, the flow of ideas, and historical consciousness of Jews in modern times. From essays dealing with the origins of Jewish historiography in the 19th century, to contemporary perspectives and methodologies, this book provides a great overview and novel insights into the field.