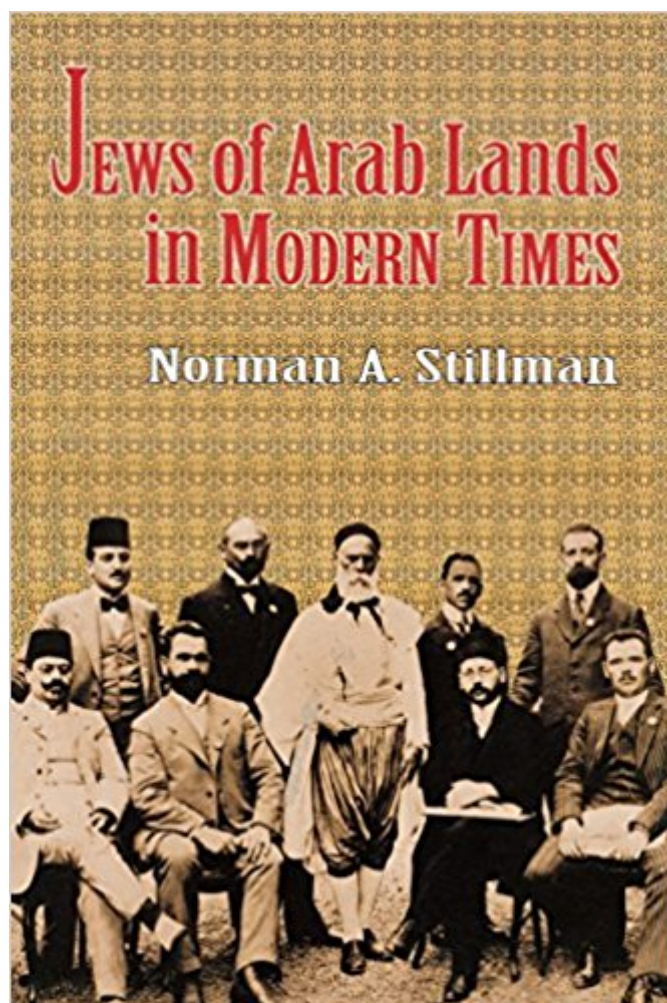


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The Jews Of Arab Lands In Modern Times



Synopsis

At a time when hostilities and violence in the Middle East and Persian Gulf continually threaten the world with war, anyone seeking to understand the current situation must become familiar with the interrelationships of the Jewish and Arab cultures. This book focuses on the forces, events, and personalities that over the past 150 years have shaped the Jewish communities of the Arab world, changing the relations between Jews and Arabs more radically than anything since the rise of Islam nearly 1400 years ago. Norman A. Stillman is the Schusterman/Josey Professor of Judaic History at the University of Oklahoma and is an internationally recognized authority on the history and culture of the Islamic world and on Sephardic and Oriental Jewry.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

• "A concise and instructive analysis of the status of Jews in a diverse group of countries ranging from Morocco in the west to Iraq in the east ... this book is valuable for its ability to enrich understanding of this important part of Jewish history by placing it within the political, economic and cultural life of the Arab world." • "New York Times (New York Times New York Times 2012-12-19)" • "In scope and perspective, The Jews of Arab Lands in Modern Times is impressive." • "Jerusalem Post (Jerusalem Post Jerusalem Post 2012-12-19)" • "An absolutely amazing historical account which brings us insights into Jewish life in the Muslim world, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the different paths of development followed by European and Middle Eastern Jews in modern times." • "Chashm Andaaz Magazine (Chashm Andaaz Magazine Chashm Andaaz Magazine 2012-12-19)"

Very thorough. The source book of original documents is especially helpful.

An informative clearly written history. Stillman's approach is not partisan. Yet it does not hesitate to make important conclusions. A good read. A brilliant scholar.

amazing work

This is one of the most important books, for it is both history and documentary, of the Jews of Arab lands in modern times. The first hundred pages are a history of Jews in the Arab world. It begins in the 7th century with the conquests of Islam and then describes the ascendancy, decline and persecutions that followed. It tells of the Sephardim and also of the persecutions by the Almohads which destroyed, albeit temporarily, North African Jewry. The documentary history forms more than two thirds of the book and is what makes this a virtual museum to the history of these Jewish communities. It begins with the time of Mohammed and the first Jewish converts and persecutions of Jews in Arabia. Documents show how Jizya, the special discrimination tax that Jews were forced to pay for their 'protection' to Muslim leaders. Other documents show how the Caliphs intervened in the appointment of Jewish leaders or arbitrated in disputes between karaites and Rabbinical Jews. One document from 1198 tells the story of the forced conversion of the Jews of Aden by the Muslim rulers. One document from Egypt deals with whether a Jewish female prostitute may donate money to buy a Torah scroll. The last documents are the most harrowing and deal with the coming of Europeans and Blood Libels in the late 19th century. An amazing source book and a must have for anyone interested in the true history of the Middle East, one that also deals with minorities like Jews who once were an important part of the fabric of that part of the world. Seth J. Frantzman

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