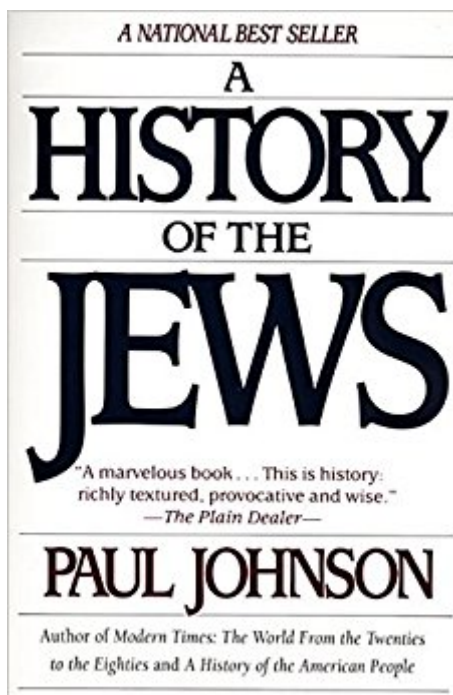


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A History Of The Jews



Synopsis

A national bestseller, this brilliant 4000 year survey covers not only Jewish history but the impact of Jewish genius and imagination on the world. By the author of *Modern Times: The World From the Twenties to the Eighties*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Paul Johnson says that writing *A History of the Jews* was like writing a history of the world "seen from the viewpoint of a learned and intelligent victim." Johnson's history begins with the Bible and ends with the establishment of the State of Israel. Throughout, Johnson's history is driven by a philosophical interest: "The Jews," he writes, "stand right at the centre of the perennial attempt to give human life the dignity of a purpose. Does their own history suggest that such attempts are worth making? Or does it reveal their essential futility?" Johnson's history is lucid, thorough, and--as one would expect of almost any project with such a broad scope--a little wrong-headed. By the end of the book, readers will be grateful for Johnson's questioning of the Jews' confidence in their cosmic significance. However, readers may also be a little annoyed by his energetic inquiries as to whether this significance was man-made or providentially provided. Either way, it's a given: for a historian of Israel, this should adequately settle the question. Johnson's 600-page history is probably the best we've got by a living gentile--which is no small accomplishment at all. --Michael Joseph Gross

Less a seminal contribution than a distillation of a wide range of sources, this history of the Jews

focuses on their four-millennia interplay with, and adaption to, other, often hostile, civilizations a "world history seen from the viewpoint of a learned and intelligent victim." Weaving biblical and archeological data, Johnson (Modern Times and A History of Christianity is particularly deft at placing the patriarchs and early Israelites (the Bronze Age through the destruction of the First Temple) in their historical context. His dense, somewhat arbitrary, capsule extols Judaic rational scholarship which contributed to ethical monotheism and the 18th-century economic system, in turn and denigrates mystic kabbalah "heresy of the most pernicious kind." Although Johnson, who seeks to acknowledge "the magnitude of the debt Christianity owes to Judaism," traces "an inherent conflict" between the religion and the state of Israel through the various ages, the work is incontrovertibly sympathetic to Zionism. BOMC and QPBC featured alternates; author tour. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Given as a Christmas gift to a man who misunderstood the Jews. I pray he now has a better idea of what the Jews went through in 4000 years to survive as a people who have given the world brilliant scientists, politicians, authors, musicians, television and radio comics, and many brilliant physicians, to name a few areas where the Jewish people excelled through hard work and belief in their own genius and talents. Highly recommended author and topic.

Hard to understand how folks for centuries have blamed the Jews for every fault in the world. The book in itself was in excellent shape.

I'm disappointed that the author continually claims Sumerian texts are proof of the existence or occurrence of a person or event in the Bible. Are two references to Zeus proof he existed? The author states, "There can be no doubt there was some kind of huge inundation ...". His proof of the biblical flood is that it was written about on Sumerian cuneiform tablets. In that case, the author can also rely on the flood legends of native American tribes to confirm the biblical flood. There is actually some good evidence there was a flood that might be the basis of the biblical story. Recent archeology indicates the Persian Gulf once had a much lower water level and inhabited areas were flooded because of the melting of the ice sheets.

Absolutely Fascinating! Amazing amount of research and historical context that I had never known or understood.

A great following of 'all' the issues addressed in the Bible from Adm forward. The changes in Prophetic leaders to king type leadership. From the Israelites to the Jews founding.

This is a very good book by Paul Johnson. It gives a great history and background on the Jews and gave me the knowledge I needed.

GREAT BOOK FOR JEWS AND EVERYONE TOO. IT IS LIKE ---EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT JEWS BUT DIDN'T WANT TO ASK! WELL WRITTEN! MIKE

Superb accounting of the history of the Jewish people from ancient times to the state of Israel.

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