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god torah and israel these three concepts i e personal belief the meaning of jewish ritual acts and the purpose of continued jewish existence have been the focus of jewish thought throughout history but the last four centuries presented jewish thinkers with difficult challenges these lectures address the challenges to jewish intellectual thought in the past 500 years identifying such challenges and revealing the ways in which a small group of jewish thinkers attempted to address these challenges this book examines the thought and legacy of rabbi loew the maharal one of the most important jewish thinkers taking a multi disciplinary approach the book encompasses organized perspectives that range from east european cultural and intellectual history to medieval jewish intellectual history and its legacies to rabbinic theology to italian jewish history to early modern jewish intellectual history to maharal studies to postmodernism and judaism to jewish political theory comparative religion and cinematic studies the jewish intellectual tradition has a long and complex history that has resulted in significant and influential works of scholarship in this book the authors suggest that there is a series of common principles that can be extracted from the jewish intellectual tradition that have broad even life changing implications for individual and societal achievement these principles include respect for tradition while encouraging independent often disruptive thinking a precise system of logical reasoning in pursuit of the truth universal education continuing through adulthood and living a purposeful life the main objective of this book is to understand the historical development of these principles and to demonstrate how applying them judiciously can lead to greater intellectual productivity a more fulfilling existence and a more advanced society focusing on an epoch of spectacular demographic political economic and cultural changes for european jewry cultural intermediaries chronicles the lives and thinking of ten jewish intellectuals of the renaissance nine of them from italy and one a portuguese exile who settled in the ottoman empire after a long sojourn in italy david b ruderman giuseppe veltri and the other contributors to this volume detail how in the relative openness of cultural exchange encountered in such intellectual centers as florence mantua pisa naples ferrara and salonika these jewish savants sought to enlarge their cultural horizons to correlate the teachings of their own tradition with those outside it and to rethink the meaning of their religious and ethnic identities within the intellectual and religious categories common to european civilization as a whole the engaging intellectual profiles created especially for this volume by scholars from israel north america and europe represent an important rereading and reinterpretation of early modern jewish culture and society and its broader european

intellectual contexts this book analyzes major transformations in jewish life and thought from idolatry to exclusive monotheism in the biblical age from state based identity to cultural nationalism in the roman empire and in the european diaspora from theology to secularism and revived political nationalism in the modern period fundamental questions are asked about jewish survival in a variety of topics including prophecy jewish law midrash the roman jewish wars stoicism secular poetry in muslim spain marx and freud and hebrew literature through the ages paul mendes flohr is emerging as the leading jewish intellectual historian of the present generation in particular he is responsible for a significant amount of the important and pertinent scholarship in the field of german jewish intellectual history no one else is quite as intimately knowledgeable with this material the ambiguous legacy of one of the most inventive and poignant episodes of creativity in the life of the diaspora divided passions is a collection of published and unpublished essays and articles by paul mendes flohr from the past decade in a manner that underscores their continued relevance and significance mendes flohr writes about the problems that buber rosenzweig bloch simon scholem and others tried to crystallize and resolve mendes flohr moves with effortless authority among the disciplines of theology philosophy literature history and sociology fitted with these interdisciplinary resources he enriches his treatment of themes and figures in ways that exceed the scope to say nothing of the execution found in other literature the book conveys a rare metaphysical depth for questions of faith identity and dasein explored by the intellectual figures of the past are also personal ones for the author as well mendes flohr s exceptional ability to keep this body of work alive and available provides an outstanding source of commentary on the subjects that dominate the agenda of modern jewish studies a selection of the work of an outstanding jewish scholar which stretches across the entire spectrum of jewish creativity from the hellenistic to the modern period volume three of this exciting series focuses on jewish intellectual history in the middle ages the editors and contributors have made available for the first time in english translation seminal articles culled from the wealth of scholarly studies written in hebrew by experts of the past generation and current researchers breaking new ground in the field the binah series provides a valuable resource for teaching this rich period in jewish civilization on the undergraduate level jewish muslim intellectual history entangled unearths forgotten texts that once belonged to the library of the karaite community in cairo consigned to oblivion for centuries many of these manuscripts were sold in the second half of the nineteenth century to the national library of russia in st petersburg where they remained inaccessible to most scholars until the end of the cold war the texts from the karaite library cover a remarkable spectrum of medieval literary genres and scholarly disciplines spanning works by jewish muslim and christian authors in both hebrew and arabic as such they provide unique access to an otherwise lost body of literature from the medieval islamicate world this timely volume presents for the first time edited fragments of six texts by adherents of the multazila a school of rational theology that emerged in the eighth century ce including karaite copies and recensions of works by muslim authors notably Dabd al jabb r al hamadh and Dabd all h b sa Dd al labb d as well as original jewish mu tazil treatises the collection is concluded by an

anonymous rabbanite refutation of the highly influential polemical tract against judaism entitled if land at value and this collection offers unprecedented insights into the intellectual crossroads between muslims and jews of the eastern mediterranean and the middle east it will be an invaluable resource to students and scholars engaged with this period of history irving howe saul bellow lionel trilling these are names that immediately come to mind when one thinks of the new york jewish intellectuals of the late thirties and forties and yet the new york jewish intellectual community was far larger and more diverse than is commonly thought in the other new york jewish intellectuals we find a group of thinkers who may not have had widespread celebrity status but who fostered a real sense of community within the jewish world in these troubled times what unified these men and women was their commitment and allegiance to the jewish people here we find hayim greenberg henry hurwitz marie syrkin maurice samuel ben halperin trude weiss rosmarin morris raphael cohen ludwig lewisohn milton steinberg will herberg a m klein and mordecai kaplan and many others divided into 3 sections opinion makers men of letters and spiritual leaders the book will be of particular interest to students and others interested in jewish studies american intellectual history as well as history of the 30s and 40s berger addresses three broad themes in jewish intellectual history jewish approaches to cultures external to judaism and the controversies triggered by this issue in medieval and modern times the impact of christian challenges and differing philosophical orientations on jewish interpretation of the bible and messianic visions movements and debates from antiquity to the present how have the jews survived for millennia they have defied odds by overcoming the travails of exile persecution and recurring plans for their annihilation many have attempted to explain this singular success as a result of divine intervention in this engaging book david n myers charts the long journey of the jews through history at the same time it points to two unlikely and decidedly this worldly factors to explain the survival of the jews antisemitism and assimilation usually regarded as grave dangers these two factors have continually interacted with one other to enable the persistence of the jews at every turn in their history not just in the modern age jews have adapted to new environments cultures languages and social norms these bountiful encounters with host societies have exercised the cultural muscle of the jews preventing the atrophy that would have occurred if they had not interacted so extensively with the non jewish world it is through these encounters indeed through a process of assimilation that jews came to develop distinct local customs speak many different languages and cultivate diverse musical culinary and intellectual traditions left unchecked the jews well honed ability to absorb from surrounding cultures might have led to their disappearance and yet the route toward full and unbridled assimilation was checked by the nearly constant presence of hatred toward the jew anti jewish expression and actions have regularly accompanied jews throughout history part of the ironic success of antisemitism is its malleability its talent in assuming new forms and portraying the jew in diverse and often contradictory images for example at once the arch capitalist and revolutionary communist antisemitism not only served to blunt further assimilation but in a paradoxical twist affirmed the jew s sense of difference from the host society and thus together assimilation and antisemitism at least up to a certain limit contribute to

the survival of the jews as a highly adaptable and yet distinct group irving howe saul bellow lionel trilling these are names that immediately come to mind when one thinks of the new york jewish intellectuals of the late thirties and forties and yet the new york jewish intellectual community was far larger and more diverse than is commonly thought in the other new york jewish intellectuals we find a group of thinkers who may not have had widespread celebrity status but who fostered a real sense of community within the jewish world in these troubled times what unified these men and women was their commitment and allegiance to the jewish people here we find havim greenberg henry hurwitz marie syrkin maurice samuel ben halperin trude weiss rosmarin morris raphael cohen ludwig lewisohn milton steinberg will herberg a m klein and mordecai kaplan and many others divided into 3 sections opinion makers men of letters and spiritual leaders the book will be of particular interest to students and others interested in jewish studies american intellectual history as well as history of the 30s and 40s in re inventing the jewish past european jewish intellectuals and the zionist return to history david n myers explores a fascinating and untold chapter in modern jewish intellectual history the role of the first generation of jewish scholars at the hebrew university in jerusalem in establishing jewish studies within the framework of a jewish national university re inventing the jewish past will be of interest to students of jewish european and middle eastern history as well as to scholars engaged in the study of diasporas comparative nationalism and the relationship between history and memory catastrophe and utopia studies the biographical trajectories intellectual agendas and major accomplishments of select jewish intellectuals during the age of nazism and the partly simultaneous partly subsequent period of incipient stalinization by focusing on the relatively underexplored region of central and eastern europe which was the primary centre of jewish life prior to the holocaust served as the main setting of the nazi genocide but also had notable communities of survivors the volume offers significant contributions to a european jewish intellectual history of the twentieth century approaching specific historical experiences in their diverse local contexts the twelve case studies explore how jewish intellectuals responded to the unprecedented catastrophe how they renegotiated their utopian commitments and how the complex relationship between the two evolved over time they analyze proximate jewish reactions to the most abysmal discontinuity represented by the judeocide while also revealing more subtle lines of continuity in jewish thinking ferenc laczó is assistant professor in history at maastricht university and joachim von puttkamer is professor of eastern european history at friedrich schiller university jena and director of the imre kertész kolleg a study on the scientific dimension of jewish intellectual history in the early modern world this remarkable group of essays describes the culture wars that consolidated a new secular ethos in mid twentieth century american academia and generated the fresh energies needed for a wide range of scientific and cultural enterprises focusing on the decades from the 1930s through the 1960s david hollinger discusses the scientists social scientists philosophers and historians who fought the christian biases that had kept jews from fully participating in american intellectual life today social critics take for granted the comparatively open outlook developed by these men and men they were mostly and charge that their

cosmopolitanism was not sufficiently multicultural yet hollinger shows that the liberal cosmopolitans of the mid century generation defined themselves against the realities of their own time mccarthyism nazi and communist doctrines a legacy of anti semitic quotas and both protestant and catholic versions of the notion of a christian america the victory of liberal cosmopolitans was so sweeping by the 1960s that it has become easy to forget the strength of the enemies they fought most books addressing the emergence of jewish intellectuals celebrate an illustrious cohort of literary figures based in new york city but the pieces collected here explore the long postponed acceptance of jewish immigrants in a variety of settings especially the social science and humanities faculties of major universities scattered across the country hollinger acknowledges the limited rather parochial sense of mankind that informed some mid century thinking but he also inspires in the reader an appreciation for the integrationist aspirations of a society truly striving toward equality his cast of characters includes vannevar bush james b conant richard hofstadter robert k merton lionel trilling and j robert oppenheimer thirteen leading scholars offer a fresh look at four key topics in medieval jewish studies the history of jewish communities in western christendom jewish christian interactions in medieval europe medieval jewish biblical exegesis and religious literature and historical representations of medieval jewry in hungarian jews in the age of genocide ferenc laczó offers a pioneering intellectual history of how a major european jewish community responded to its exceptional drama during the age of persecution and the unprecedented tragedy in its immediate aftermath ever since the first encounter between judaism and the western world in the second century be jewish thinkers like maimonides gersonides r moses havyim luzzatto and rabbi a i kook have grappled with issues of jewish faith and modernity the works they published which comprise jewish classical philosophy were products of the highest intellectual caliber and no question of faith no matter how embarrassing or heretical was overlooked in this book raphael shuchat presents the reader with some of the main and timeless issues of jewish philosophy over the ages and updates them to twenty first century thinking making each issue relevant for the modern reader this book offers a fresh intellectual outlook on the jewish faith and contains a timely message for all religionists and thinkers in the twenty first century it will be of great use to both students and laymen between the years 1550 and 1650 italy s jewish intellectuals created a unique and enduring synthesis of the great literary and philosophical heritage of the andalusian jews and the renaissance s renewal of perspective while remaining faithful to the beliefs behaviors and language of their tradition italian jews proved themselves open to a rapidly evolving world of great richness the crisis of aristotelianism which progressively touched upon all fields of knowledge religious fractures and unrest the scientific revolution and the new perception of reality expressed through a transformation of the visual arts these are some of the changes experienced by italian jews which they were affected by in their own particular way this book explores the complex relations between jews and the world that surrounded them during a critical period of european civilization the relations were rich problematic and in some cases strained alternating between opposition and dialogue osmosis and distinction nineteenth century european thought especially in germany was increasingly

dominated by a new historicist impulse to situate every event person or text in its particular context at odds with the transcendent claims of philosophy and more significantly theology historicism came to be attacked by its critics for reducing human experience to a series of disconnected moments each of which was the product of decidedly mundane rather than sacred origins by the late nineteenth century and into the weimar period historicism was seen by many as a grinding force that corroded social values and was emblematic of modern society s gravest ills resisting history examines the backlash against historicism focusing on four major jewish thinkers david myers situates these thinkers in proximity to leading protestant thinkers of the time but argues that german jews and christians shared a complex cultural and discursive world best understood in terms of exchange and adaptation rather than influence after examining the growing dominance of the new historicist thinking in the nineteenth century the book analyzes the critical responses of hermann cohen franz rosenzweig leo strauss and isaac breuer for this fascinating and diverse quartet of thinkers historicism posed a stark challenge to the ongoing vitality of judaism in the modern world and yet as they set out to dilute or eliminate its destructive tendencies these thinkers often made recourse to the very tools and methods of historicism in doing so they demonstrated the utter inescapability of historicism in modern culture whether approached from a christian or jewish perspective examines the intellectual proclivities of twelfth and thirteenth century ashkenazic rabbinic culture as a whole this remarkable and thought provoking work by one of the leading figures in the scholarly revival of jewish studies in the former soviet union is a sustained reflection on the course of jewish history and of the impact of the jews over the past millennia on wider developments it is one of the most fascinating reflections on this vital topic to appear in recent times antony polonsky albert abramson professor of holocaust studies brandeis university and the united states holocaust memorial museum in viddish shtetl simply means town how does such an unassuming word come to loom so large in modern jewish culture with a proliferation of uses and connotations by examining the meaning of shtetl jeffrey shandler asks how jewish life in provincial towns in eastern europe has become the subject of extensive creativity memory and scholarship from the early modern era in european history to the present in the post holocaust era the shtetl looms large in public culture as the epitome of a bygone traditional jewish communal life people now encounter the jewish history of these towns through an array of cultural practices including fiction documentary photography film memoirs art heritage tourism and political activism at the same time the shtetl attracts growing scholarly interest as historians social scientists literary critics and others seek to understand both the complex reality of life in provincial towns and the nature of its wide ranging remembrance shtetl a vernacular intellectual history traces the trajectory of writing about these towns by jews and non jews residents and visitors researchers novelists memoirists journalists and others to demonstrate how the yiddish word for town emerged as a key word in jewish culture and studies shandler proposes that the intellectual history of the shtetl is best approached as an exemplar of engaging jewish vernacularity and that the variable nature of this engagement far from being a drawback is central to the subject s enduring interest this 1998 book is a comprehensive account of the high hebraic

culture developed by the jews in normandy during the middle ages and in particular during the anglo norman period this culture has remained virtually unknown to the public and to the scholarly world throughout modern times until a combination of recent manuscript discoveries and archaeological findings delineated this phenomenon for the first time the book explores the origins of this remarkable community beginning with topographical evidence pointing to the arrival of the jews in normandy as early as roman and gallo roman times through autograph documentary testimony available in the cairo genizah manuscripts and early medieval latin sources finally using the rich manuscript evidence of twelfth and early thirteenth century writers which attest to the high cultural level attained by this community and to its social and political interaction with the christian world of anglo norman times and their aftermath in a bold challenge to the long held scholarly notion that rabbinic judaism already was an established presence during the second temple period boccaccini argues that rabbinic judaism was a daring reform movement that developed following the destruction of the jerusalem temple and took shape in the first centuries of the common era the work is a history of jewish beliefs regarding the concept of the soul the idea of resurrection and the nature of the afterlife the work describes these beliefs accounts for the origin of these beliefs discusses the ways in which these beliefs have evolved and explains why the many changes in belief have occurred views about the soul resurrection and the afterlife are related to other jewish views and to broad movements in jewish thought and jewish intellectual history is placed within the context of the history of western thought in general that history begins with the biblical period and extends to the present time jewish muslim intellectual history entangled unearths forgotten texts that once belonged to the library of the karaite community in cairo consigned to oblivion for centuries many of these manuscripts were sold in the second half of the nineteenth century to the national library of russia in st petersburg where they remained inaccessible to most scholars until the end of the cold war the texts from the karaite library cover a remarkable spectrum of medieval literary genres and scholarly disciplines spanning works by jewish muslim and christian authors in both hebrew and arabic as such they provide unique access to an otherwise lost body of literature from the medieval islamicate world this timely volume presents for the first time edited fragments of six texts by adherents of the multazila a school of rational theology that emerged in the eighth century ce including karaite copies and recensions of works by muslim authors notably abd at jabbar at hamadhan and abd all b salld at labbad as well as original jewish multazild treatises the collection is concluded by an anonymous rabbanite refutation of the highly influential polemical tract against judaism entitled if IIm al vIhId this collection offers unprecedented insights into the intellectual crossroads between muslims and jews of the eastern mediterranean and the middle east it will be an invaluable resource to students and scholars engaged with this period of history this critical study traces the development of the literary forms and conventions of the babylonian talmud or bavli analyzing those forms as expressions of emergent rabbinic ideology the bavli which evolved between the third and sixth centuries in sasanian iran babylonia is the most comprehensive of all documents produced by rabbinic jews in late antiquity it became the authoritative legal source for medieval judaism and for some its opinions remain definitive today kraemer here examines the characteristic preference for argumentation and process over settled conclusions of the bavli by tracing the evolution of the argumentational style he describes the distinct eras in the development of rabbinic judaism in babylonia he then analyzes the meaning of the disputational form and concludes that the talmudic form implies the inaccessibility of perfect truth and that on account of this opinion the pursuit of truth in the characteristic talmudic concern for rabbinic process becomes the ultimate act of rabbinic piety sinkoff s book is about the pivotal role played by jewish american intellectuals in the postwar years told through lucy dawidowicz s profoundly influential american jewish life that was bookended by world war i and the fall of soviet communism and buffeted by nazism and the murder of the jews of europe reared in a yiddish speaking socialist home committed to jewish life in the diaspora dawidowicz dallied with communism as a college student became a staunch fdr democrat in the 1930s and then a committed liberal until the mid 1960s yet toward the end of her life she identified as a neoconservative based on never before used archives and oral interviews from left to right argues that dawidowicz s shift to the right was not predestined it came out of the lived historical realities of prewar poland the trauma of watching the holocaust unfold from new york her work with jewish refugees in postwar germany the creation of holocaust consciousness in which she played a major role the rise of both holocaust denial and antisemitism in the 1970s and 1980s and her study of jewish history indelibly shaped by nazism and the holocaust lucy dawidowicz s life intersected with the central issues and personalities that shaped jewish life in the twentieth century and her story fills an essential gap in jewish intellectual history this volume explores jewish approaches to the faith reason debate through detailed analyses of jewish thinkers from the 12th to the 20th centuries catastrophe and utopia studies the biographical trajectories intellectual agendas and major accomplishments of select jewish intellectuals during the age of nazism and the partly simultaneous partly subsequent period of incipient stalinization by focusing on the relatively underexplored region of central and eastern europe which was the primary centre of jewish life prior to the holocaust served as the main setting of the nazi genocide but also had notable communities of survivors the volume offers significant contributions to a european jewish intellectual history of the twentieth century approaching specific historical experiences in their diverse local contexts the twelve case studies explore how jewish intellectuals responded to the unprecedented catastrophe how they renegotiated their utopian commitments and how the complex relationship between the two evolved over time they analyze proximate jewish reactions to the most abysmal discontinuity represented by the judeocide while also revealing more subtle lines of continuity in jewish thinking german jewish intellectuals have occupied center stage in the discourse on judaism and modernity since the enlightenment dedicated to paul mendes flohr this volume explores the complex interaction between jewish thought and the often competing claims of non jewish society and culture thus creating a rich image of german jewry s intellectual world in the modern period the outcome is a unique collection of essays that provides crucial new insights into the religious and political dimension characterizing the thought of those populating the pantheon of german

jewish thinkers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries this study offers an intellectual biography of the philosopher political thinker and historian of ideas sir isaiah berlin it aims to provide the first historically contextualized monographic study of berlin s formative years and identify different stages in his intellectual development allowing a reappraisal of his theory of liberalism this book offers the reader a voyage in the new world that opened up to the enlightened jewish reader of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries a time when the first glimmerings of emancipation and secular education were giving large numbers of jews their first exposure to science literature and art and opening their minds to new ideas and as on any voyage led by a knowledgeable guide there are fascinating side trips along the way insights into the world of scholarship then and now and into the nature of knowledge all this was happening at a time when jews civil status and place in society was undergoing great change in europe in this seminal work zeev gries shows that although the history of the book in the jewish world has long been regarded as the province of librarians and bibliophiles it is in fact the history of the jewish intellect he starts by tracing the awakening of a dormant jewish intelligentsia men women and children who were thirsty for knowledge books were the magic kiss that opened new doors to the modern world within a century jews were making invaluable contributions to the advancement of science and of culture more generally by surveying the literary output of those years the author is able to discover what books were being published where they were published and distributed and who was reading them he surveys the fields of halakhic literature ethical literature kabbalistic and mystical literature literature for children and women and more general literature he talks about the role of libraries and of book reviews above all he considers the role of books as agents of culture were they guardians of hallowed sanctity or harbingers of secularization gries shows how the types of books favoured by the jewish reading public offer an insight into the changing nature of their portable homeland he then goes on to discuss the haskalah movement and the tensions between increasing secularization and the more traditional world view as well as how the resurrection of hebrew as a secular literary language contributed to the awakening of jewish nationalism nevertheless he argues that the study of literary history of the period reveals that secular and zionist leanings were not the only trends present jewish literature continued to be permeated with the spirit of religion

Jewish Intellectual History 2002-01-01 god torah and israel these three concepts i e personal belief the meaning of jewish ritual acts and the purpose of continued jewish existence have been the focus of jewish thought throughout history but the last four centuries presented jewish thinkers with difficult challenges these lectures address the challenges to jewish intellectual thought in the past 500 years identifying such challenges and revealing the ways in which a small group of jewish thinkers attempted to address these challenges

Studies in Nineteenth-century Jewish Intellectual History 1964 this book examines the thought and legacy of rabbi loew the maharal one of the most important jewish thinkers taking a multi disciplinary approach the book encompasses organized perspectives that range from east european cultural and intellectual history to medieval jewish intellectual history and its legacies to rabbinic theology to italian jewish history to early modern jewish intellectual history to maharal studies to postmodernism and judaism to jewish political theory comparative religion and cinematic studies

Rabbinic Theology and Jewish Intellectual History 2013 the jewish intellectual tradition has a long and complex history that has resulted in significant and influential works of scholarship in this book the authors suggest that there is a series of common principles that can be extracted from the jewish intellectual tradition that have broad even life changing implications for individual and societal achievement these principles include respect for tradition while encouraging independent often disruptive thinking a precise system of logical reasoning in pursuit of the truth universal education continuing through adulthood and living a purposeful life the main objective of this book is to understand the historical development of these principles and to demonstrate how applying them judiciously can lead to greater intellectual productivity a more fulfilling existence and a more advanced society

The Jewish Intellectual Tradition 2021-01-19 focusing on an epoch of spectacular demographic political economic and cultural changes for european jewry cultural intermediaries chronicles the lives and thinking of ten jewish intellectuals of the renaissance nine of them from italy and one a portuguese exile who settled in the ottoman empire after a long sojourn in italy david b ruderman giuseppe veltri and the other contributors to this volume detail how in the relative openness of cultural exchange encountered in such intellectual centers as florence mantua pisa naples ferrara and salonika these jewish savants sought to enlarge their cultural horizons to correlate the teachings of their own tradition with those outside it and to rethink the meaning of their religious and ethnic identities within the intellectual and religious categories common to european civilization as a whole the engaging intellectual profiles created especially for this volume by scholars from israel north america and europe represent an important rereading and reinterpretation of early modern jewish culture and society and its broader european intellectual contexts

Cultural Intermediaries 2004-04-23 this book analyzes major transformations in jewish life and thought from idolatry to exclusive monotheism in the biblical age from state based identity to cultural nationalism in the roman empire and in the european diaspora from theology to secularism and revived political

nationalism in the modern period fundamental questions are asked about jewish survival in a variety of topics including prophecy jewish law midrash the roman jewish wars stoicism secular poetry in muslim spain marx and freud and hebrew literature through the ages

Major Turning Points in Jewish Intellectual History 2003-11-05 paul mendes flohr is emerging as the leading jewish intellectual historian of the present generation in particular he is responsible for a significant amount of the important and pertinent scholarship in the field of german jewish intellectual history no one else is quite as intimately knowledgeable with this material the ambiguous legacy of one of the most inventive and poignant episodes of creativity in the life of the diaspora divided passions is a collection of published and unpublished essays and articles by paul mendes flohr from the past decade in a manner that underscores their continued relevance and significance mendes flohr writes about the problems that buber rosenzweig bloch simon scholem and others tried to crystallize and resolve mendes flohr moves with effortless authority among the disciplines of theology philosophy literature history and sociology fitted with these interdisciplinary resources he enriches his treatment of themes and figures in ways that exceed the scope to say nothing of the execution found in other literature the book conveys a rare metaphysical depth for questions of faith identity and dasein explored by the intellectual figures of the past are also personal ones for the author as well mendes flohr s exceptional ability to keep this body of work alive and available provides an outstanding source of commentary on the subjects that dominate the agenda of modern jewish studies

Divided Passions 1991 a selection of the work of an outstanding jewish scholar which stretches across the entire spectrum of jewish creativity from the hellenistic to the modern period

Essays in Jewish Intellectual History 1981 volume three of this exciting series focuses on jewish intellectual history in the middle ages the editors and contributors have made available for the first time in english translation seminal articles culled from the wealth of scholarly studies written in hebrew by experts of the past generation and current researchers breaking new ground in the field the binah series provides a valuable resource for teaching this rich period in jewish civilization on the undergraduate level

Jewish Intellectual History in the Middle Ages 1994-10-30 jewish muslim intellectual history entangled unearths forgotten texts that once belonged to the library of the karaite community in cairo consigned to oblivion for centuries many of these manuscripts were sold in the second half of the nineteenth century to the national library of russia in st petersburg where they remained inaccessible to most scholars until the end of the cold war the texts from the karaite library cover a remarkable spectrum of medieval literary genres and scholarly disciplines spanning works by jewish muslim and christian authors in both hebrew and arabic as such they provide unique access to an otherwise lost body of literature from the medieval islamicate world this timely volume presents for the first time edited fragments of six texts by adherents of the multitazila a school of rational theology that emerged in the eighth century ce including

karaite copies and recensions of works by muslim authors notably labd al jabb r al hamadh labd all labd all labb d as well as original jewish multazil treatises the collection is concluded by an anonymous rabbanite refutation of the highly influential polemical tract against judaism entitled if all labd d this collection offers unprecedented insights into the intellectual crossroads between muslims and jews of the eastern mediterranean and the middle east it will be an invaluable resource to students and scholars engaged with this period of history

Jewish-Muslim Intellectual History Entangled: Textual Materials from the Firkovitch Collection, Saint Petersburg 2020-08-03 irving howe saul bellow lionel trilling these are names that immediately come to mind when one thinks of the new york jewish intellectuals of the late thirties and forties and yet the new york jewish intellectual community was far larger and more diverse than is commonly thought in the other new york jewish intellectuals we find a group of thinkers who may not have had widespread celebrity status but who fostered a real sense of community within the jewish world in these troubled times what unified these men and women was their commitment and allegiance to the jewish people here we find hayim greenberg henry hurwitz marie syrkin maurice samuel ben halperin trude weiss rosmarin morris raphael cohen ludwig lewisohn milton steinberg will herberg a m klein and mordecai kaplan and many others divided into 3 sections opinion makers men of letters and spiritual leaders the book will be of particular interest to students and others interested in jewish studies american intellectual history as well as history of the 30s and 40s

The "Other" New York Jewish Intellectuals 1994-10 berger addresses three broad themes in jewish intellectual history jewish approaches to cultures external to judaism and the controversies triggered by this issue in medieval and modern times the impact of christian challenges and differing philosophical orientations on jewish interpretation of the bible and messianic visions movements and debates from antiquity to the present

Cultures in Collision and Conversation 2011 how have the jews survived for millennia they have defied odds by overcoming the travails of exile persecution and recurring plans for their annihilation many have attempted to explain this singular success as a result of divine intervention in this engaging book david n myers charts the long journey of the jews through history at the same time it points to two unlikely and decidedly this worldly factors to explain the survival of the jews antisemitism and assimilation usually regarded as grave dangers these two factors have continually interacted with one other to enable the persistence of the jews at every turn in their history not just in the modern age jews have adapted to new environments cultures languages and social norms these bountiful encounters with host societies have exercised the cultural muscle of the jews preventing the atrophy that would have occurred if they had not interacted so extensively with the non jewish world it is through these encounters indeed through a process of assimilation that jews came to develop distinct local customs speak many different languages and cultivate diverse musical culinary and intellectual traditions left unchecked the jews well honed ability to absorb from surrounding cultures might have led to their disappearance and yet the route toward full and unbridled assimilation was checked by the nearly

constant presence of hatred toward the jew anti jewish expression and actions have regularly accompanied jews throughout history part of the ironic success of antisemitism is its malleability its talent in assuming new forms and portraying the jew in diverse and often contradictory images for example at once the arch capitalist and revolutionary communist antisemitism not only served to blunt further assimilation but in a paradoxical twist affirmed the jew s sense of difference from the host society and thus together assimilation and antisemitism at least up to a certain limit contribute to the survival of the jews as a highly adaptable and yet distinct group

Jewish History: A Very Short Introduction 2017-04-18 irving howe saul bellow lionel trilling these are names that immediately come to mind when one thinks of the new york jewish intellectuals of the late thirties and forties and yet the new york jewish intellectual community was far larger and more diverse than is commonly thought in the other new york jewish intellectuals we find a group of thinkers who may not have had widespread celebrity status but who fostered a real sense of community within the jewish world in these troubled times what unified these men and women was their commitment and allegiance to the jewish people here we find hayim greenberg henry hurwitz marie syrkin maurice samuel ben halperin trude weiss rosmarin morris raphael cohen ludwig lewisohn milton steinberg will herberg a m klein and mordecai kaplan and many others divided into 3 sections opinion makers men of letters and spiritual leaders the book will be of particular interest to students and others interested in jewish studies american intellectual history as well as history of the 30s and 40s

The Other New York Jewish Intellectuals 1994-10-01 in re inventing the jewish past european jewish intellectuals and the zionist return to history david n myers explores a fascinating and untold chapter in modern jewish intellectual history the role of the first generation of jewish scholars at the hebrew university in jerusalem in establishing jewish studies within the framework of a jewish national university re inventing the jewish past will be of interest to students of jewish european and middle eastern history as well as to scholars engaged in the study of diasporas comparative nationalism and the relationship between history and memory

Re-inventing the Jewish Past 1995 catastrophe and utopia studies the biographical trajectories intellectual agendas and major accomplishments of select jewish intellectuals during the age of nazism and the partly simultaneous partly subsequent period of incipient stalinization by focusing on the relatively underexplored region of central and eastern europe which was the primary centre of jewish life prior to the holocaust served as the main setting of the nazi genocide but also had notable communities of survivors the volume offers significant contributions to a european jewish intellectual history of the twentieth century approaching specific historical experiences in their diverse local contexts the twelve case studies explore how jewish intellectuals responded to the unprecedented catastrophe how they renegotiated their utopian commitments and how the complex relationship between the two evolved over time they

analyze proximate jewish reactions to the most abysmal discontinuity represented by the judeocide while also revealing more subtle lines of continuity in jewish thinking ferenc laczó is assistant professor in history at maastricht university and joachim von puttkamer is professor of eastern european history at friedrich schiller university jena and director of the imre kertész kolleg

Catastrophe and Utopia 2017-11-20 a study on the scientific dimension of jewish intellectual history in the early modern world

Jewish Thought and Scientific Discovery in Early Modern Europe 2001 this remarkable group of essays describes the culture wars that consolidated a new secular ethos in mid twentieth century american academia and generated the fresh energies needed for a wide range of scientific and cultural enterprises focusing on the decades from the 1930s through the 1960s david hollinger discusses the scientists social scientists philosophers and historians who fought the christian biases that had kept jews from fully participating in american intellectual life today social critics take for granted the comparatively open outlook developed by these men and men they were mostly and charge that their cosmopolitanism was not sufficiently multicultural yet hollinger shows that the liberal cosmopolitans of the mid century generation defined themselves against the realities of their own time mccarthyism nazi and communist doctrines a legacy of anti semitic quotas and both protestant and catholic versions of the notion of a christian america the victory of liberal cosmopolitans was so sweeping by the 1960s that it has become easy to forget the strength of the enemies they fought most books addressing the emergence of jewish intellectuals celebrate an illustrious cohort of literary figures based in new york city but the pieces collected here explore the long postponed acceptance of jewish immigrants in a variety of settings especially the social science and humanities faculties of major universities scattered across the country hollinger acknowledges the limited rather parochial sense of mankind that informed some mid century thinking but he also inspires in the reader an appreciation for the integrationist aspirations of a society truly striving toward equality his cast of characters includes vannevar bush james b conant richard hofstadter robert k merton lionel trilling and j robert oppenheimer

The Rise of Modern Judaism 1982-08-01 thirteen leading scholars offer a fresh look at four key topics in medieval jewish studies the history of jewish communities in western christendom jewish christian interactions in medieval europe medieval jewish biblical exegesis and religious literature and historical representations of medieval jewry

Mystics, Philosophers, and Politicians 1982 in hungarian jews in the age of genocide ferenc laczó offers a pioneering intellectual history of how a major european jewish community responded to its exceptional drama during the age of persecution and the unprecedented tragedy in its immediate aftermath Science, Jews, and Secular Culture 2021-06-08 ever since the first encounter between judaism and the western world in the second century bce jewish thinkers like maimonides gersonides r moses hayyim luzzatto and rabbi a i kook have grappled with issues of jewish faith and modernity the works they

published which comprise jewish classical philosophy were products of the highest intellectual caliber and no question of faith no matter how embarrassing or heretical was overlooked in this book raphael shuchat presents the reader with some of the main and timeless issues of jewish philosophy over the ages and updates them to twenty first century thinking making each issue relevant for the modern reader this book offers a fresh intellectual outlook on the jewish faith and contains a timely message for all religionists and thinkers in the twenty first century it will be of great use to both students and laymen Studies in Medieval Jewish Intellectual and Social History 2012-01-20 between the years 1550 and 1650 italy s jewish intellectuals created a unique and enduring synthesis of the great literary and philosophical heritage of the andalusian jews and the renaissance s renewal of perspective while remaining faithful to the beliefs behaviors and language of their tradition italian jews proved themselves open to a rapidly evolving world of great richness the crisis of aristotelianism which progressively touched upon all fields of knowledge religious fractures and unrest the scientific revolution and the new perception of reality expressed through a transformation of the visual arts these are some of the changes experienced by italian jews which they were affected by in their own particular way this book explores the complex relations between jews and the world that surrounded them during a critical period of european civilization the relations were rich problematic and in some cases strained alternating between opposition and dialogue osmosis and distinction Hungarian Jews in the Age of Genocide 2016-09-12 nineteenth century european thought especially in germany was increasingly dominated by a new historicist impulse to situate every event person or text in its particular context at odds with the transcendent claims of philosophy and more significantly theology historicism came to be attacked by its critics for reducing human experience to a series of disconnected moments each of which was the product of decidedly mundane rather than sacred origins by the late nineteenth century and into the weimar period historicism was seen by many as a grinding force that corroded social values and was emblematic of modern society s gravest ills resisting history examines the backlash against historicism focusing on four major jewish thinkers david myers situates these thinkers in proximity to leading protestant thinkers of the time but argues that german jews and christians shared a complex cultural and discursive world best understood in terms of exchange and adaptation rather than influence after examining the growing dominance of the new historicist thinking in the nineteenth century the book analyzes the critical responses of hermann cohen franz rosenzweig leo strauss and isaac breuer for this fascinating and diverse quartet of thinkers historicism posed a stark challenge to the ongoing vitality of judaism in the modern world and yet as they set out to dilute or eliminate its destructive tendencies these thinkers often made recourse to the very tools and methods of historicism in doing so they demonstrated the utter inescapability of historicism in modern culture whether approached from a christian or jewish perspective The Rise of Modern Judaism 1978 examines the intellectual proclivities of twelfth and thirteenth century ashkenazic rabbinic culture as a whole Jewish Faith in a Changing World 2012 this remarkable and thought provoking work by one of the leading figures in the scholarly revival of jewish studies in

the former soviet union is a sustained reflection on the course of jewish history and of the impact of the jews over the past millennia on wider developments it is one of the most fascinating reflections on this vital topic to appear in recent times antony polonsky albert abramson professor of holocaust studies brandeis university and the united states holocaust memorial museum

Italian Jewry in the Early Modern Era 2013 in yiddish shtetl simply means town how does such an unassuming word come to loom so large in modern jewish culture with a proliferation of uses and connotations by examining the meaning of shtetl jeffrey shandler asks how jewish life in provincial towns in eastern europe has become the subject of extensive creativity memory and scholarship from the early modern era in european history to the present in the post holocaust era the shtetl looms large in public culture as the epitome of a bygone traditional jewish communal life people now encounter the jewish history of these towns through an array of cultural practices including fiction documentary photography film memoirs art heritage tourism and political activism at the same time the shtetl attracts growing scholarly interest as historians social scientists literary critics and others seek to understand both the complex reality of life in provincial towns and the nature of its wide ranging remembrance shtetl a vernacular intellectual history traces the trajectory of writing about these towns by jews and non jews residents and visitors researchers novelists memoirists journalists and others to demonstrate how the yiddish word for town emerged as a key word in jewish culture and studies shandler proposes that the intellectual history of the shtetl is best approached as an exemplar of engaging jewish vernacularity and that the variable nature of this engagement far from being a drawback is central to the subject s enduring interest Resisting History 2010-01-10 this 1998 book is a comprehensive account of the high hebraic culture developed by the jews in normandy during the middle ages and in particular during the anglo norman period this culture has remained virtually unknown to the public and to the scholarly world throughout modern times until a combination of recent manuscript discoveries and archaeological findings delineated this phenomenon for the first time the book explores the origins of this remarkable community beginning with topographical evidence pointing to the arrival of the jews in normandy as early as roman and gallo roman times through autograph documentary testimony available in the cairo genizah manuscripts and early medieval latin sources finally using the rich manuscript evidence of twelfth and early thirteenth century writers which attest to the high cultural level attained by this community and to its social and political interaction with the christian world of anglo norman times and their aftermath

The Intellectual History and Rabbinic Culture of Medieval Ashkenaz 2013 in a bold challenge to the long held scholarly notion that rabbinic judaism already was an established presence during the second temple period boccaccini argues that rabbinic judaism was a daring reform movement that developed following the destruction of the jerusalem temple and took shape in the first centuries of the common era

The Jewish Conundrum in World History 2010 the work is a history of jewish beliefs regarding the concept of the soul the idea of resurrection and the nature

of the afterlife the work describes these beliefs accounts for the origin of these beliefs discusses the ways in which these beliefs have evolved and explains why the many changes in belief have occurred views about the soul resurrection and the afterlife are related to other jewish views and to broad movements in jewish thought and jewish intellectual history is placed within the context of the history of western thought in general that history begins with the biblical period and extends to the present time

ShtetI 2014-01-15 jewish muslim intellectual history entangled unearths forgotten texts that once belonged to the library of the karaite community in cairo consigned to oblivion for centuries many of these manuscripts were sold in the second half of the nineteenth century to the national library of russia in st petersburg where they remained inaccessible to most scholars until the end of the cold war the texts from the karaite library cover a remarkable spectrum of medieval literary genres and scholarly disciplines spanning works by jewish muslim and christian authors in both hebrew and arabic as such they provide unique access to an otherwise lost body of literature from the medieval islamicate world this timely volume presents for the first time edited fragments of six texts by adherents of the multipation as school of rational theology that emerged in the eighth century ce including karaite copies and recensions of works by muslim authors notably labd at jabbler at hamadher and labd aller by saled at labbled as well as original jewish multipation. It reatises the collection is concluded by an anonymous rabbanite refutation of the highly influential polemical tract against judaism entitled if the maler of this collection offers unprecedented insights into the intellectual crossroads between muslims and jews of the eastern mediterranean and the middle east it will be an invaluable resource to students and scholars engaged with this period of history

The Jews in Medieval Normandy 1998-05-04 this critical study traces the development of the literary forms and conventions of the babylonian talmud or bavli analyzing those forms as expressions of emergent rabbinic ideology the bavli which evolved between the third and sixth centuries in sasanian iran babylonia is the most comprehensive of all documents produced by rabbinic jews in late antiquity it became the authoritative legal source for medieval judaism and for some its opinions remain definitive today kraemer here examines the characteristic preference for argumentation and process over settled conclusions of the bavli by tracing the evolution of the argumentational style he describes the distinct eras in the development of rabbinic judaism in babylonia he then analyzes the meaning of the disputational form and concludes that the talmudic form implies the inaccessibility of perfect truth and that on account of this opinion the pursuit of truth in the characteristic talmudic concern for rabbinic process becomes the ultimate act of rabbinic piety

Roots of Rabbinic Judaism 2002 sinkoff s book is about the pivotal role played by jewish american intellectuals in the postwar years told through lucy dawidowicz s profoundly influential american jewish life that was bookended by world war i and the fall of soviet communism and buffeted by nazism and the murder of the jews of europe reared in a yiddish speaking socialist home committed to jewish life in the diaspora dawidowicz dallied with communism as a

college student became a staunch fdr democrat in the 1930s and then a committed liberal until the mid 1960s yet toward the end of her life she identified as a neoconservative based on never before used archives and oral interviews from left to right argues that dawidowicz s shift to the right was not predestined it came out of the lived historical realities of prewar poland the trauma of watching the holocaust unfold from new york her work with jewish refugees in postwar germany the creation of holocaust consciousness in which she played a major role the rise of both holocaust denial and antisemitism in the 1970s and 1980s and her study of jewish history indelibly shaped by nazism and the holocaust lucy dawidowicz s life intersected with the central issues and personalities that shaped jewish life in the twentieth century and her story fills an essential gap in jewish intellectual history

Toward a History of Jewish Thought 2020-03-09 this volume explores jewish approaches to the faith reason debate through detailed analyses of jewish thinkers from the 12th to the 20th centuries

Jewish-Muslim Intellectual History Entangled 2020-07-23 catastrophe and utopia studies the biographical trajectories intellectual agendas and major accomplishments of select jewish intellectuals during the age of nazism and the partly simultaneous partly subsequent period of incipient stalinization by focusing on the relatively underexplored region of central and eastern europe which was the primary centre of jewish life prior to the holocaust served as the main setting of the nazi genocide but also had notable communities of survivors the volume offers significant contributions to a european jewish intellectual history of the twentieth century approaching specific historical experiences in their diverse local contexts the twelve case studies explore how jewish intellectuals responded to the unprecedented catastrophe how they renegotiated their utopian commitments and how the complex relationship between the two evolved over time they analyze proximate jewish reactions to the most abysmal discontinuity represented by the judeocide while also revealing more subtle lines of continuity in jewish thinking

The Mind of the Talmud 1990-12-06 german jewish intellectuals have occupied center stage in the discourse on judaism and modernity since the enlightenment dedicated to paul mendes flohr this volume explores the complex interaction between jewish thought and the often competing claims of non jewish society and culture thus creating a rich image of german jewry s intellectual world in the modern period the outcome is a unique collection of essays that provides crucial new insights into the religious and political dimension characterizing the thought of those populating the pantheon of german jewish thinkers in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries

From Left to Right 2020 this study offers an intellectual biography of the philosopher political thinker and historian of ideas sir isaiah berlin it aims to provide the first historically contextualized monographic study of berlin s formative years and identify different stages in his intellectual development allowing a reappraisal of his theory of liberalism

Faith, Reason, Politics 2013 this book offers the reader a voyage in the new world that opened up to the enlightened jewish reader of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries a time when the first glimmerings of emancipation and secular education were giving large numbers of jews their first exposure to science literature and art and opening their minds to new ideas and as on any voyage led by a knowledgeable guide there are fascinating side trips along the way insights into the world of scholarship then and now and into the nature of knowledge all this was happening at a time when jews civil status and place in society was undergoing great change in europe in this seminal work zeev gries shows that although the history of the book in the jewish world has long been regarded as the province of librarians and bibliophiles it is in fact the history of the jewish intellect he starts by tracing the awakening of a dormant jewish intelligentsia men women and children who were thirsty for knowledge books were the magic kiss that opened new doors to the modern world within a century jews were making invaluable contributions to the advancement of science and of culture more generally by surveying the literary output of those years the author is able to discover what books were being published where they were published and distributed and who was reading them he surveys the fields of halakhic literature ethical literature kabbalistic and mystical literature literature for children and women and more general literature he talks about the role of libraries and of book reviews above all he considers the role of books as agents of culture were they guardians of hallowed sanctity or harbingers of secularization gries shows how the types of books favoured by the jewish reading public offer an insight into the changing nature of their portable homeland he then goes on to discuss the haskalah movement and the tensions between increasing secularization and the more traditional world view as well as how the resurrection of hebrew as a secular literary language contributed to the awakening of jewish nationalism nevertheless he argues that the study of literary history of the period reveals that secular and zionist leanings were not the only trends present jewish literature continued to be permeated with the spirit of religion

Catastrophe and Utopia 2018

German-Jewish Thought Between Religion and Politics 2012-03-30

Isaiah Berlin 2012-03-14

The Book in the Jewish World 2007

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