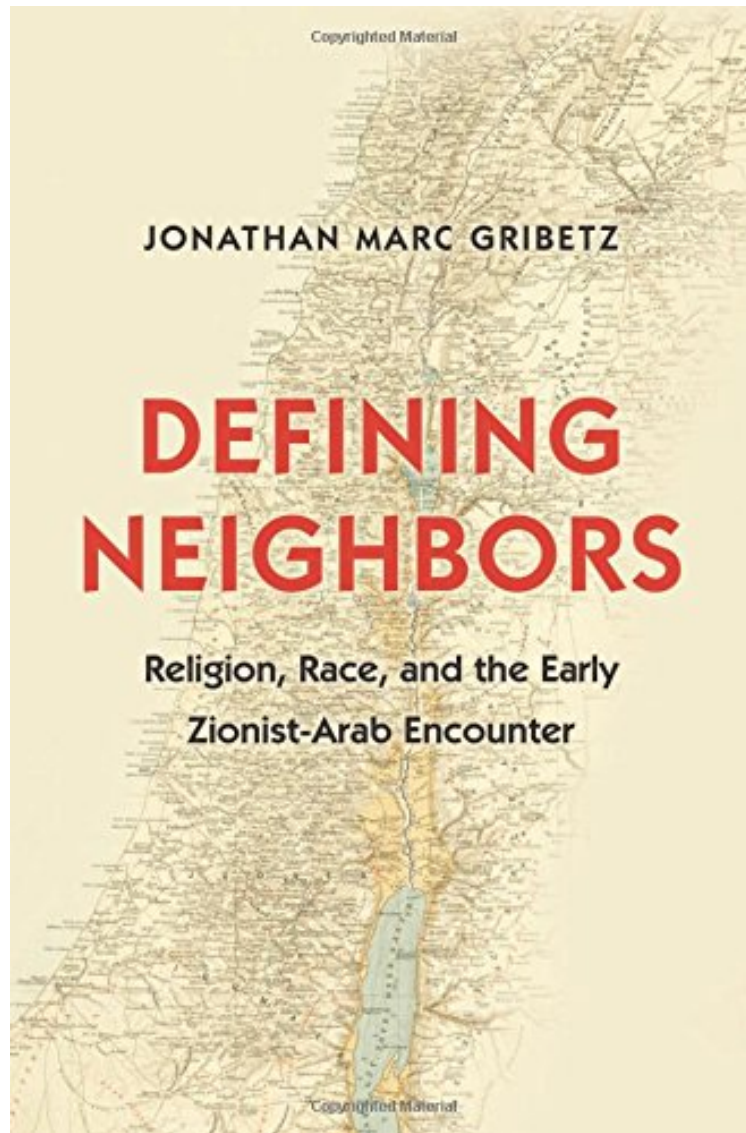


(Free read ebook) Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)

Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World)

Jonathan Marc Gribetz

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Jonathan Marc Gribetz : Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab Encounter (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defining Neighbors: Religion, Race, and the Early Zionist-Arab

Encounter (Jews, Christians, and Muslims from the Ancient to the Modern World):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. But the author does not paint a romantic picture of perfect harmony. He shows how these ways of understanding ...By Reading Jews and Muslims in Paris This book will quite simply blow your mind. You think you know how Jews and Arabs have long seen each other? Even if you know a lot about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, think again. The author shows how not only were Jews and Arabs not always enemies in Palestine, they didn't necessarily see each other as Jews and Arabs. Often they thought that religion or race were more important than nationalism, and sometimes that meant that they saw each other not as enemies but as religious or racial brothers. But the author does not paint a romantic picture of perfect harmony. He shows how these ways of understanding each other became sources of greater conflict over time and he is always very careful to maintain tremendous nuance. I could not put this book down. I found it at once riveting, brilliant, and deeply moving. Can't recommend it highly enough!

As the Israeli-Palestinian conflict persists, aspiring peacemakers continue to search for the precise territorial dividing line that will satisfy both Israeli and Palestinian nationalist demands. The prevailing view assumes that this struggle is nothing more than a dispute over real estate. *Defining Neighbors* boldly challenges this view, shedding new light on how Zionists and Arabs understood each other in the earliest years of Zionist settlement in Palestine and suggesting that the current singular focus on boundaries misses key elements of the conflict. Drawing on archival documents as well as newspapers and other print media from the final decades of Ottoman rule, Jonathan Gribetz argues that Zionists and Arabs in pre-World War I Palestine and the broader Middle East did not think of one another or interpret each other's actions primarily in terms of territory or nationalism. Rather, they tended to view their neighbors in religious terms--as Jews, Christians, or Muslims--or as members of "scientifically" defined races--Jewish, Arab, Semitic, or otherwise. Gribetz shows how these communities perceived one another, not as strangers vying for possession of a land that each regarded as exclusively their own, but rather as deeply familiar, if at times mythologized or distorted, others. Overturning conventional wisdom about the origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Gribetz demonstrates how the seemingly intractable nationalist contest in Israel and Palestine was, at its start, conceived of in very different terms. Courageous and deeply compelling, *Defining Neighbors* is a landmark book that fundamentally recasts our understanding of the modern Jewish-Arab encounter and of the Middle East conflict today.

"In the ever-growing and highly saturated field of Arab-Israeli conflict studies, it is rare for a book to break new ground and challenge long-held and well-entrenched perceptions. This is one of those rare exceptions." - Choice
A "field-changing new book... Indeed, such a sensitive treatment of historical texts, in light of multiple political contexts, geographic frames, and religious and cultural discourses should serve as a model for many historians working to interpret, categorize, and contextualize the texts they encounter--and for all those who study how changing circumstances change the terms of discourse and lead to mutual understanding or misunderstanding." - Jewish History
"Gribetz's fascinating book makes a major contribution to the literature on early Zionist-Arab encounters, in particular, and to the intellectual history of late Ottoman Palestine and the Levant, more generally." - AJS
"Gribetz's work... contextualize[s] a present-day shift toward religious rhetoric, symbols and organizations in the conflict. He shows that religion was once central for Jews and Arabs seeking to understand each other, and that nationality is in fact a latecomer to that encounter. But more importantly, he shows that a religious encounter need not mean a holy war." - Haaretz