

(Download) Diaspora: Homelands in Exile (2 Volume Set)

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Frederic Brenner

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Frederic Brenner : Diaspora: Homelands in Exile (2 Volume Set) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Diaspora: Homelands in Exile (2 Volume Set):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful! By Sondra Macdonald These two volumes are beautifully written and are accompanied with photographs that tell a story in themselves although there are explanations for each of them. I highly recommend this set. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Sam Litvin Amazing photography of the people who are widely known but mostly misunderstood. 24 of 26 people found the following review helpful. Magnificent Photographs Of A People United In Exile By Jana L. Perskie French photographer Frederic Brenner has brilliantly documented Jewish life in the Diaspora with his magnificent photographs. He has spent the last twenty-five years traveling through over forty countries, on five continents, creating and compiling this collection of images of Jewish communities, faces and culture. Brenner has woven a thread, through the visual image, that shows a people united in their heritage. This beautiful two volume set is presented in a heavy laminated slipcase. Volume I, PHOTOGRAPHS, contains 262 of Brenner's black and white photos, 2 two-page color photographs, and one map. There are images of a Jewish Harley-Davidson motorcycle club with members posed in front of a Miami Beach synagogue; Jewish workers and their children from Birobidzhan, the former Soviet Union's Jewish autonomous region; portraits of modern Jewish writers living in Austria and Germany; women who have lost their children to the secret police in Argentina; Marranos in Portugal who continue the tradition of celebrating the Passover secretly; Jewish men selling Christian souvenirs in Rome's St. Peter's Piazza; a spiritual gathering of Navahos and Jews in Arizona; Jewish barbers from Tajikistan and merchants from Calcutta. The only color

photographs in the book show a yellow swatch of cloth printed with the Star of David that Jews were forced to wear under the Nazis. There is an entire room covered in the same cloth - a photograph commissioned for the Vienna State Opera that hung there as a stage curtain. Volume II, VOICES, contains writings - essays and commentary from such modern intellectuals and authors as Carlos Fuentes, Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg, Georges Steiner, Andr Aciman, Jacques Derrida and the voices of the people photographed. Frederic Brenner wrote, "The Jews I have photographed are all contemporary, but together they reflect a full spectrum of space and time . . . Diaspora: An experience of dispossession and discontinuity. . . . The photographs enable us to see and acknowledge the multiple threads from which we are woven, to listen to and acknowledge the multiple voices within us, even when paradoxical and discordant." These massive albums represent a tremendous achievement. Brenner has given a gift to us all. These books deserve a place of honor in the home. JANA

Since 1978, French photographer Frdric Brenner has been chronicling the Jewish Diaspora by producing visual social histories of Jewish communities. Diaspora is a photographic record of his 25-year search for the Jewish population in 40 countries over five continents. Volume I, 344 pages, is a collection of 262 of Brenner's more than 80,000 photographs, the most extensive and diverse visual record of Jewish life ever created. A four page color insert includes two full-color photographs. Volume II is 164 pages of evocative essays by leading intellectuals on the meaning and significance to each of them of 60 of Brenner's photographs, reproduced here in smaller format. Diaspora is a landmark project that captures the scope and dynamism of one of the world's oldest, most diverse communities, and challenges stereotypes held by Jews and non-Jews alike.

From Publishers Weekly If a group of eastern European Jews re-create their shtetl when they settle in Israel, then which place is home and which is exile? And while a secular Soviet general calls himself a Jew, and so does a man whose ancestors came to India almost 2,000 years ago, what, if anything, do they have in common? These are the kinds of questions provoked by Brenner's stunning collection of photographs, taken over the course of 25 years, chronicling Jewish lives, often in declining communities, in every corner of the world, from Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan to Ethiopia and Las Vegas. For anyone, Jewish or otherwise, who generally thinks of Jews in terms of Israel and the United States, the book will be a revelation. The images are full of surprises and ironies: contemporary Marranos in Portugal continue to celebrate Passover secretly, as they did during the Inquisition; a young Yemeni immigrant to Israel wears traditional sidelocks like his counterparts from eastern Europe; the men who sell Christian souvenirs in the piazza at St. Peter's in Rome are all Jewish. Brenner's images of women are particularly striking: six American breast cancer survivors are photographed shirtless; mothers of the desaparecidos in Argentina (of whom a disproportionate number were Jews) exhibit anguish and dignity; and a beautifully constructed photo presents a circular grouping of Holocaust survivors paired with their lesbian daughters. Brenner, who is French and has an advanced degree in anthropology, is well equipped to ponder (as he does in brief texts accompanying the photos in Vol. 2) the enigma of identity, its shifting nature in tension with a thread of continuity through time and space. Also accompanying his text are commentaries and personal reflections from writers and thinkers as diverse as Andre Aciman, Jacques Derrida and Julius Lester. Responding to a group portrait of men in a teahouse in Azerbaijan, Aciman sums up a paradox of the diaspora: "Why do they blend in so easily? Isn't it improbable how Jewish all Jews look." Of a group of Jewish barbers with their Muslim customers in Tajikistan, Brenner writes, "I wanted to show how these dhimmi Jews in Muslim lands successively embraced the Russian conquest and the Bolshevik revolution--which they believed would bring them emancipation but which instead confined them to professions such as shoe-mender and barber." This extraordinary volume is well worth it for the richness and variety of images, which will delight and sometimes perplex readers. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From The New Yorker Since the late nineteen-seventies, Brenner has travelled the world photographing Jewish families and communities: Hasidim in Jerusalem, seeking to re-create the village life of their forebears in Eastern Europe; Marranos in Portugal, observing their rituals in secret, as they have since the Inquisition; the women rabbis and cantors of New York's Jewish Theological Seminary; and, in a more secular vein, Tajikistani barbers, Hollywood moguls, and Calcutta merchants. This handsome two-volume set presents Brenner's images along with commentary from such writers as Jacques Derrida, Julius Lester, Stanley Cavell, and Carlos Fuentes. Often the pictures provoke contradictory responses, as when a group of Roman Jews are shown standing proudly amid the ruins of a classical amphitheatre. Brenner's work elegiac, celebratory, irreverent transcends portraiture, representing instead a prolonged, open-ended inquiry into the nature of identity and heritage. Copyright 2005 The New Yorker

From Booklist *Starred* Brenner has spent the last 25 years documenting the lives of Jews in 40 countries on five continents and has taken some 80,000 photographs, many of them previously unpublished. This book's publication will coincide with a photo exhibition of Brenner's work that began a worldwide tour in October in the Brooklyn Museum. Brenner was born in Paris in 1959 and took the first photo that appears in this book when he was 18. Volume 1 contains 262 remarkable black-and-white photos. They depict the ethnic, cultural, and social diversity of the Jewish people and show how they have lived in relationship to their environment. Volume 2 contains another 60 photographs, along with commentaries and essays by contemporary

scholars, philosophers, historians, poets, and novelists. One critic writes that "Brenner specializes in creating images that draw the viewer beyond the apparent simplicity of their subject into a darker connecting of opposites." Brenner himself writes that the photos "enable us to see and acknowledge the multiple threads from which we are woven." These incredibly moving images don't lend themselves to easy definition or categorization, but they are intimate impressions of a people and their history. George Cohen Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved