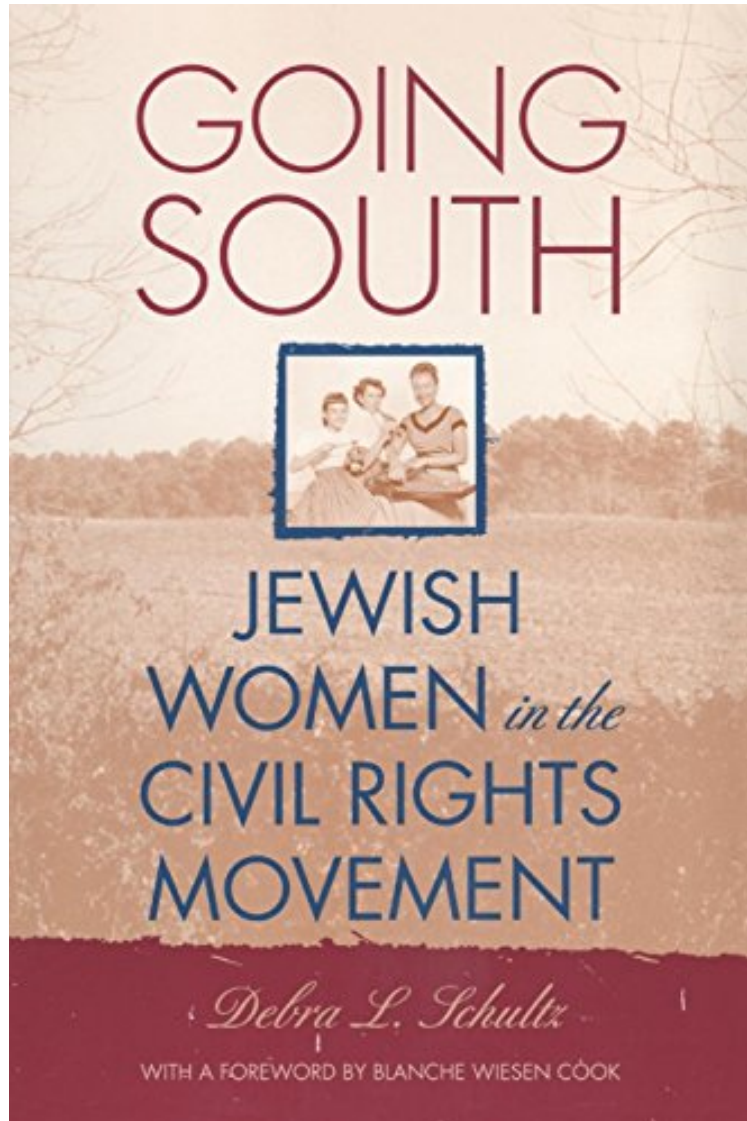



(Read now) Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement

Debra L. Schultz

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Debra L. Schultz : Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Going South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement ...By Stephen HorblittGoing South: Jewish Women in the Civil Rights Movement provides the reader with an in-depth look at Jewish Women activists who participated on the ground in the striges for Civil Right in the American South. It examines the motivations, the experiences, and the impact of the Jewish Women who contributed to the movement

that helped to move America forward. This is an extremely important history and one that should be a source of pride and admiration. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Exciting addition to civil rights scholarship
By A Customer
In a movement that unfortunately has been defined in the public perception by one charismatic black leader, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the commitment and plain hard work performed by women, black and white, has long been overlooked. Schultz's fine book adds a new chapter to the emerging fuller story of this freedom movement. Her skillful weaving of personal stories with the larger social context of the movement, and her analysis of the influence of Jewish notions of morality and social justice, make this an important addition of civil rights scholarship. Moreover, because it is so smoothly written and filled with fascinating stories, it accomplishes something rare in historical scholarship--it's fun to read!

Many people today know that the 1964 murder in Mississippi of two Jewish men--Mickey Schwerner and Andrew Goodman--and their Black colleague, James Chaney, marked one of the most wrenching episodes of the civil rights movement. Yet very few realize that Andrew Goodman had been in Mississippi for one day when he was killed; Rita Schwerner, Mickey's wife, had been organizing in Mississippi for six difficult months. Organized around a rich blend of oral histories, *Going South* follows a group of Jewish women--come of age in the shadow of the Holocaust and deeply committed to social justice--who put their bodies and lives on the line to fight racism. Actively rejecting the post-war idyll of suburban, Jewish, middle-class life, these women were deeply influenced by Jewish notions of morality and social justice. Many thus perceived the call of the movement as positively irresistible. Representing a link between the sensibilities of the early civil rights era and contemporary efforts to move beyond the limits of identity politics, the book provides a resource for all who are interested in anti-racism, the civil rights movement, social justice, Jewish activism and radical women's traditions.

From Publishers Weekly
When Barbara Jacobs, a Brandeis student, returned to campus after working with black civil rights groups in the South in 1960, she found a limerick in her university mailbox that expressed a common prejudice faced by Jewish women activists, which read in part, "She said, I'm not a whore/ I just do it for CORE/ and color's the same without lights." Blending together 15 oral histories and archival research, Schultz shows how Northern Jewish women's commitment to social justice informed in part by living in the shadow of the Holocaust played out in a time of enormous political, social and personal upheaval. There are many, sometimes painful, ironies here: often Northern women discovered that their Southern Jewish relatives, already feeling vulnerable as outsiders, wanted nothing to do with them or the movement; some faced anti-Semitism (both passive and virulent) in Southern black church groups. But Schultz never resorts to easy answers, always trying to find a historical truth that's balanced between fact and empathy. Sharply observant of her informants' lives, Schultz opens a new window not only into the civil rights movement but also into the sociology of mid-century Jewish-American culture. Her analysis is most impressive at the book's end, when she perceptively describes the protean nature of Jewish identities in the U.S. Such insightful cultural readings and criticism make this a fine contribution to both the literature of the civil rights movement and the field of Jewish studies. (Apr.) Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc. "These oral histories are compelling and fascinating, and reclaim a history previously unavailable to us. An original and important contribution."-Deborah Dash Moore, coeditor of *Jewish Women in America: An Historical Encyclopedia* "A fascinating text which adds to our understanding of recent Jewish Left and feminist politics and activism."-Australian Jewish News, Aug. 2001 "Only recently are scholars beginning to pay full attention to the key role women played during the Civil Rights Movement. *Going South* is an important portrait of an often overlooked group whose work both behind the scenes and on the front lines helped transform our nation."-Marian Wright Edelman, President, Children's Defense Fund "A well-written, serious, and important book. I learned a great deal from this interesting and rich study."-Joyce Antler, author of *The Journey Home: How Jewish Women Shaped Modern America* "More than an account of the Jewish women who went South to help in the Civil Rights Movement in the sixties, Debra Schultz has produced a fascinating investigation into the relationship between these women and their parents, their black colleagues in the movement, the Jewish communities in the Southern states, and their final difficult decision to leave the movement. *Going South* should be read by everyone interested in this vitally important period of American history."-Helen Suzman, former Member of South African Parliament
About the Author
Debra L. Schultz, a feminist historian, is Director of Programs of The Open Society Institute (Soros Foundations) Network Women's Program, which works to include women in the development of more democratic societies.