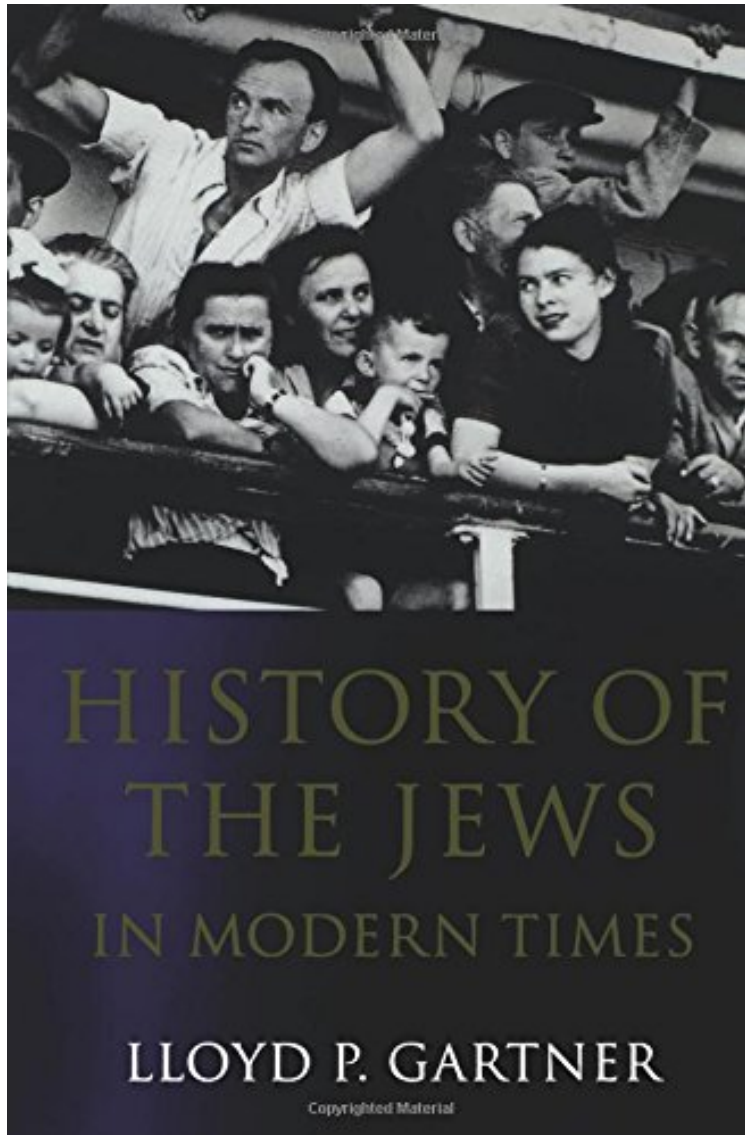


(Download pdf) History of the Jews in Modern Times

## History of the Jews in Modern Times

*Lloyd P. Gartner*

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#914836 in Books 2001-02-08 2001-02-08Ingredients: Example IngredientsOriginal language:EnglishPDF #1 4.90 x 1.30 x 7.50l, 1.05 #File Name: 0192892592480 pages | File size: 32.Mb

**Lloyd P. Gartner : History of the Jews in Modern Times** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised History of the Jews in Modern Times:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It is a very thourough history on Jews, however...By Michael Tribettthe way the book is written is quite confusing. In my opinion, history is best written in chronological order, while most of the book is in chronological order, may of the sections are not which makes it a confusing read.15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Jewish history: 1650-1980By Alan MeyerAs of this writing, I see that no

one has reviewed this book on , which is unfortunate. The book is worthy of a review. So here is my effort. Gartner covers the period from about 1650 to 1980. He explores the world events that affected Jewish communities, from the Cossack revolt in the Ukraine and Poland in which perhaps 90,000 Jews lost their lives, to the French Revolution and Jewish emancipation, immigration to America, the rise of German nationalism, Nazism and the Holocaust, and the founding of the state of Israel. Jewish responses to and participation in these events were quite varied. In the early period they were mainly religious. Participation in the wider world was essentially impossible. Self-defense was impossible. What was possible was withdrawal, mysticism, Hasidism, and a yearning for a Messiah. Gartner covers this in what, to me, was surprising and interesting depth. However, starting in the late 18th century, the first sparks of the European enlightenment reached the Jews of France and Germany and, with the coming of the French Revolution - traditional Jewish life began to undergo radical change - welcomed by some Jews and rejected by others. Jewish emancipation led to the first integrations into the larger and more cosmopolitan Christian culture, mainly in France, Germany, Great Britain, and the United States. New forms of the religion arose, such as the "Reform" movement that attempted to understand Judaism as a religion in a larger national culture, rather than a separate and self-contained culture. New occupations became possible, especially in business, but also in medicine and the arts and professions. A great awakening of Jewish aspirations occurred. A great increase in population occurred. And new forms of anti-semitism arose, reacting against this. Gartner writes from a Jewish perspective. He is a professor at Tel Aviv University. He has read and admired Jewish rabbis and writers that are unknown today except to scholars such as himself - people whose interests were far out of the mainstream of European and American history, but who played important roles in their times in Jewish intellectual or religious life. In writing about these people, he teaches us that the story of Jewish life was not entirely written by Napoleon, who was instrumental in emancipating Jews, or Hitler, who sought to kill all of them. Nor was the entire history of Jewish life encompassed in Zionism and the response to the Holocaust. I liked this book. It's clearly written. It's very well documented with extensive footnotes that include much more detail than just citations and page numbers. It covers a broad spectrum of Jewish history - political, religious, economic, intellectual and cultural. It cites statistics in very useful and enlightening ways. It attempts, on the whole successfully I think, to be objective. It is very sympathetic to the Jewish people but not, I think, antagonistic to anyone else, or blind to the failings of Jewish leaders. The emphasis is very much on European, and to a lesser extent, American Jewry, with very little about Middle Eastern Jews except for those who came to live in Israel. There is a discussion of the Holocaust, how could any treatment of modern Jewish history ignore it, but it is not the main emphasis of the book. Zionism is also discussed, but it too is not the main emphasis of the book. I'm not a scholar and have not read much Jewish history. I'm not well prepared to say what a person interested in Jewish history should read. For a history of Zionism, I preferred Walter Laquer's *A History of Zionism*. For the Holocaust, I think there are many better and deeper books. For discussion of the modern conflicts between Israel and its neighbors, there are also many better books. But this book has a place in a comprehensive understanding of modern Jewish history. It covers a lot of material that is hard to find elsewhere, with an impressive objectivity, organization, and scholarship. 2 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Early Years Excellent, But 20th Century Is Heavy-Handed and One-Sided By Melissa McHugh This book is excellent until Gartner reaches the twentieth century, and then for me, he loses the thread. I came to this subject as a student taking a class in Modern Jewish History because I felt I didn't know enough about the subject. He treated the founding of Israel as an inevitability and the role of the Palestinians is completely absent from the final chapters. When they are mentioned, he is dismissive. To me, it reads as one-sided and heavy-handed. I've been trained as undergraduate in history to consider all sides in an objective view because what emerges is always a richer and complex story. Gartner published a new edition in 2001, but failed to update the story of Israel past 1980, which I think was a massive mistake. In an age where Israel is crucial to the world, Gartner's book could fill an important role. For an edition to be missing at least twenty years of history (which is no excuse for having published in 2001, I can excuse no third edition in the last decade), I find it to be unfortunate.

Lloyd Gartner provides a vivid description of the changing fortunes of the Jewish communities of the Old World-- Europe, the Middle East, and beyond--and their gradual expansion into the New World of the Americas. The book begins in 1650, when the Jewish population had fallen to roughly 1.25 million, less than one-sixth of its peak at the start of the Christian era. Gartner leads us through the traditions, religious laws, communities, and their interactions with their neighbors, through the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, and into Emancipation, the dark shadows of anti-Semitism, and the Second World War, bringing us up to the present with Zionism and the founding of Israel. Eminently readable and impeccably researched, the book is a superb introduction to one of the central threads of modern history.

Not only has Gartner written the textbook that teachers of modern Jewish history have longed for, he has created a work of such sagacity and breadth that it deserves to become a bestseller. \* Times Higher Education Supplement  
\*About the Author Lloyd Gartner is Professor of European Jewish History Emeritus at the University of Tel-Aviv.