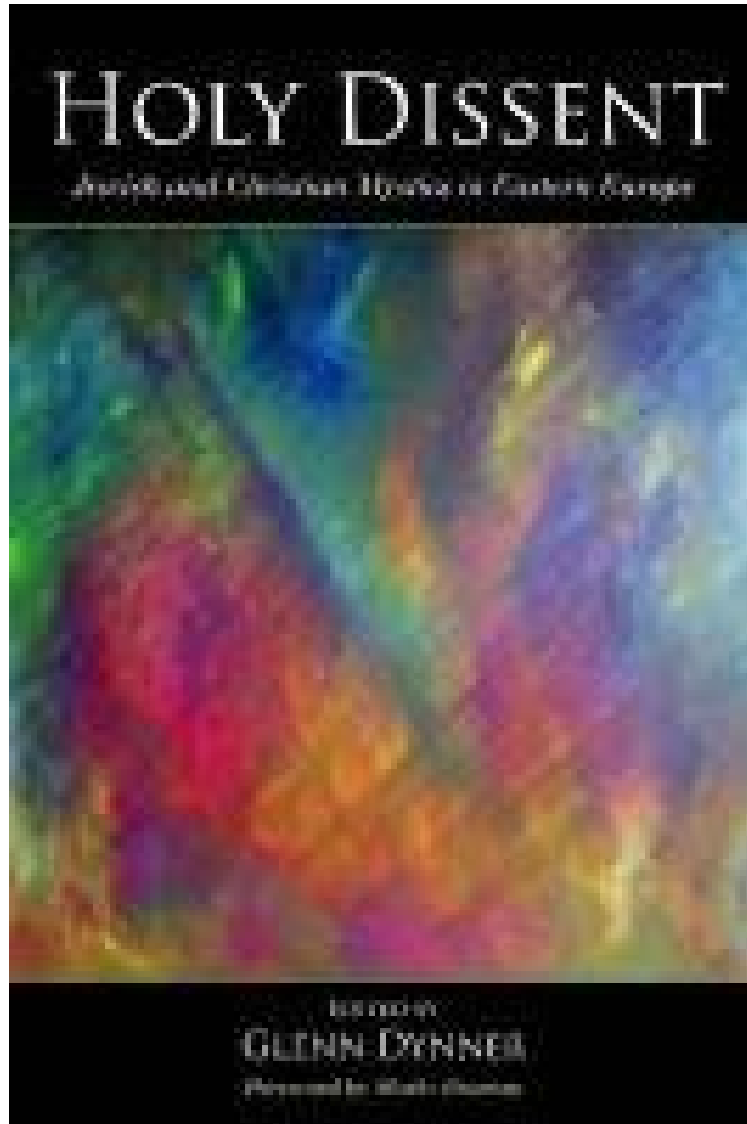


[Mobile library] Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe

## Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe

*From Brand: Wayne State Univ Pr*  
*ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



 Download

 Read Online

#2479695 in Books Wayne State Univ Pr 2011-10 2011-10-15Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.20 x 6.00l, 1.65 #File Name: 0814335179416 pages | File size: 41.Mb

**From Brand: Wayne State Univ Pr : Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ExcellentBy arlene alpertHave read only part of this book so far but what I have read has been new material and am learning a lot..Again, assumes previous background so can be difficult to read at times.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Book That Changes the FieldBy AcademicThis collection of essays contains some of the most cutting-edge scholarship on East European mysticism, both Jewish and

Christian. Instead of studying each religion and its practitioners in isolation, as is usually done, the authors are interested in how they interacted and affected each other. This take on Jewish-Christian relations in Eastern Europe is probably closer to the majority of the lived reality. Some highlights: Yohanan Petrovsky explores the common roots of Jewish and Christian folk medicine in the Ukraine; Moshe Idel's enticing claim that the Ba'al Shem Tov was born and raised in Romanian Walachia and imbibed Christian practices there; Paul Radensky's colorful descriptions of the Tolner Rebbe's court; Elliot Wolfson's mind-blowing insights into messianism; and the several studies of Christian sectarians who "Judaized" in order to rebel against state religion. This book represents a quantum leap in the study of east European religion. It will no longer be acceptable to write about movements like Hasidism in a vacuum, as is still too often the case.

The religious communities of early modern Eastern Europe-particularly those with a mystical bent-are typically studied in isolation. Yet the heavy Slavic imprint on Jewish popular mysticism and pervasive Judaizing tendencies among Christian dissenters call into question the presumed binary quality of Jewish-Christian interactions. In *Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe*, editor Glenn Dynner presents twelve essays that chart contacts, parallels, and mutual influences between Jewish and Christian mystics. With cutting-edge research on folk healers, messianists, Hasidim, and Christian sectarians, this volume presents instances of rich cultural interchange and bold border transgression. *Holy Dissent* is divided into two sections: "Jewish Mystics in a Christian World" and "Christianizing Jews, Judaizing Christians." In these essays, readers learn that Jewish and Christian folk healers consulted each other and learned from common sources; that the founder of Hasidism, Rabbi Israel Ba'al Shem Tov, likely drew inspiration from Christian ascetics; that Christian peasants sought and obtained audience with Hasidic masters; that Jewish mystics openly Christianized; and that Christian mystics openly Judaized. In contrast to prevailing models that present Jewish and Christian cultures as either rigidly autonomous or ambiguously hybrid, *Holy Dissent* charts specific types of religio-cultural exchange and broadens our conception of how cultures interact. The scholarship in this volume is notably fresh and significant and makes an important contribution across disciplines. Jewish and Christian studies scholars as well as historians of Eastern Europe will benefit from the analysis of *Holy Dissent*.

This very interesting collection of essays opens the door wide to considering Eastern European Jewry and Judaism in a broad historical context. Dynner and the participants have made a solid contribution to our understanding. I learned much from reading it. --Arthur Green, rector in the Rabbinical School, Hebrew College I cannot think of a recent collection that has so much novel and significant material in it. Some of these essays are first publications and very significant ones. Many of the contributors use newly available sources and ask fresh questions. --Shaul Stampfer, Rabbi Edward Sandrow Professor of Soviet and East European Jewry and chairman of the Department of Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem *Holy Dissent* is a collection of technical but largely accessible essays by various scholars of Eastern European Judaism and Christianity who illustrate in great detail the complex, colorful, dark, and messy marketplace of Eastern Europe from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. . . This kind of study is more complex and in my mind more fruitful than comparative religion. --Shofar Rich collection of essays. . . The picture that emerges is one of cross-cultural exchanges that flow in multiple directions and take place in a wide variety of forms and in a multitude of secular and spiritual arenas. The level of the essays is high, and some will become standouts in their fields. --The Russian About the Author Glenn Dynner is professor of Judaic studies at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York, and Hans Kohn Member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. He is the author of *Men of Silk: The Hasidic Conquest of Polish Jewish Society*.