

Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora

Larry Tye

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Larry Tye : Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Home Lands: Portraits of the New Jewish Diaspora:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The writing is stronger than the thesisBy Shalom FreedmanThis is a very well- written study. It provides information and insight into Jewish communities such as the one in the Ukraine or the one in Dublin, Ireland which receive scant attention. However its writing is stronger than its central thesis i.e. that Judaism in the Diaspora is strongly reviving and that it now is on a par with Israel as ' center' of the Jewish people.

Anyone who knows the elementary demographic data on the assimilating and aging Jewish diaspora knows that this thesis is based on looking at an important minority element in the community . i.e. those Jews who care more now than before about their connection with Judaism, especially the more religious Jews. Moreover in simple theological terms it is either ignorance or heresy to put the Diaspora on the level of Israel. Israel is in Jewish religious terms the place where one can best serve G-d. And in terms of Jewish national life, and any semblance of an independent Jewish community and world it is the single center we have .The book again is very well written and provides interesting insights into a number of Diaspora families and communities.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. excellent readBy Lisa DillesI am almost done with this book and I disagree with the above reviewer! I think it is very well-written, informative, and links some very interesting aspects of the Jewish people. This helps to understand this people who have survived in so many settings, still with a strong sense of connection to Judaism. Whether they are religious or not, there is just some indefinable something that exists. Larry Tye does a great job of looking around the world in a multilevel way to explore this powerful element. I also found his stance on the strength and permanence and acceptability of Diaspora life to be realistic and positive. I give it four stars only because I worry that it is a bit too optimistic about the future... Highly recommended!5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Irish Jews and moreBy Shana DietzThis is an interesting, in-depth look at Jewish communitites in Europe, America, and Israel, including some citites where we don't usually think of as Jewish, such as Dublin or Dusseldorf or Atlanta. Tye focuses on 1-2 individuals to give the broader history, which makes the study more accessible. Well-written, but for a more serious reader, you will feel as if you know these city's Jews and their community very well after each chapter. If you're interested in just one of the cities, you can read that chapter independently as well. Well worth the time and effort if you want to learn more about today's Jews outside of Israel.

In his travels overseas as a reporter for The Boston Globe, Larry Tye found a Jewish world that was being revitalized in ways that were not reflected in what he was reading about the disappearing diaspora and the vanishing Jews of America. His discoveries led him to write Home Lands, a compelling narrative that tells the story of a renewed Jewish diaspora.Tye picked seven Jewish communities around the world, and in each he zeroes in on a single family or congregation whose tale reflects the wider community's history and current situation. The first impression that emerges from his travels are the cities' differences. Far more striking, however, is what they share-Jews everywhere still have enough customs and rituals in common for outsiders to see them as part of the same people.

.com Throughout Western history, resilience has been among the most distinguishing characteristic of Jewish communities. Larry Tye's Home Lands: Portrait of the New Jewish Diaspora attempts to shed new light on this timeless quality. Tye, a reporter at The Boston Globe, argues that the traditional dream of the Diaspora, as summarized by the final line of the Passover Seder--"Next year in Jerusalem!"--has changed. Today, he says, Jews "are forever rooted in Israel, but no longer need to live there." The Diaspora no longer wait in hope of returning to the Holy Land; instead they are grounded in the permanent homes they have made and the cultures they have created throughout the world. And the relationships among these communities, he argues, are just as important as the relationship that each one has to Israel. Home Lands tours seven centers of Jewish life, including Dublin, Dusseldorf, and Atlanta. In each case, Tye tells the story of a Jewish community in counterpoint to the story of one representative family. Together, these stories add a deeply personal dimension to Home Lands' political argument. The book's final chapter, about the Jews of Israel, fulfills Tye's promise to describe "a new encounter of equals, to replace the old one where Israel was seen as the center of the Jewish solar system with Diaspora communities orbiting as distant planets." --Michael Joseph GrossFrom Publishers WeeklyThe new Jewish diaspora of a "heterogeneous people who thrive in secular societies" is here to stay, asserts Boston Globe journalist Tye (The Father of Spin). As these diverse Jewish communities have become not merely way stations but enduring homes, they have begun to remake Judaism itself. Tye tells this intriguing story through sketches of people and of life in seven cities. In Dsseldorf, he finds an Orthodox rabbi invoking a more pluralistic Judaism to educate Russian refugees. In Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine, a fervent Lubavitcher Hasidic rabbi has energized a dormant community. In Buenos Aires, a Jewish polity fragmented by economic setbacks and anti-Semitic attacks has begun to revive with new models of worship and organization. In Paris, Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews have forged ties that could serve as a model for their fractious brethren in Israel. Tye's chapter on Dublin, where the Jewish community is dying, may at first seem anomalous, but, he argues, their determination to reestablish their "Gaelic brand of Judaism" elsewhere is a testament to the ability of Jews to survive wherever they may be. His two American chapters focus on Boston, where the Jewish community has fused learning, spirituality and social justice, and Atlanta, where rival denominations work with considerable amity. Yet Tye's optimism might have been better contextualized by a broader survey. Though the author understandably had to winnow his examples from many compelling possibilities, readers may wonder about Jewish communities in such places as Melbourne, Montreal and Johannesburg. While not a breakout book, Tye's presentation of a new diaspora may intrigue a broad Jewish audience. Agent, Jill Kneerim. Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalAward-winning Boston Globe journalist Tye (The Father of Spin) has written a rich and instructive book on Jewish life

around the world. Each of seven chapters addresses a unique Jewish community, including some in expected locales (Boston and Paris) and some in surprising ones (Dvsseldorf, Germany and Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine). Each account is woven with a personal, anecdotal thread, as the author follows the fortunes of various Jewish families in their home cities. Tye profiles his own Jewish background to illustrate the American Jewish experience. His book is more than a personal travelog, however. Tye believes that Jewish life is thriving, even in the most unlikely places, and that there is a symbiotic relationship between Israel and the Jews around the world, at great benefit to both. This thoughtful work deserves a close reading. Recommended for medium and large libraries serving a Jewish clientele. Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., IL Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.