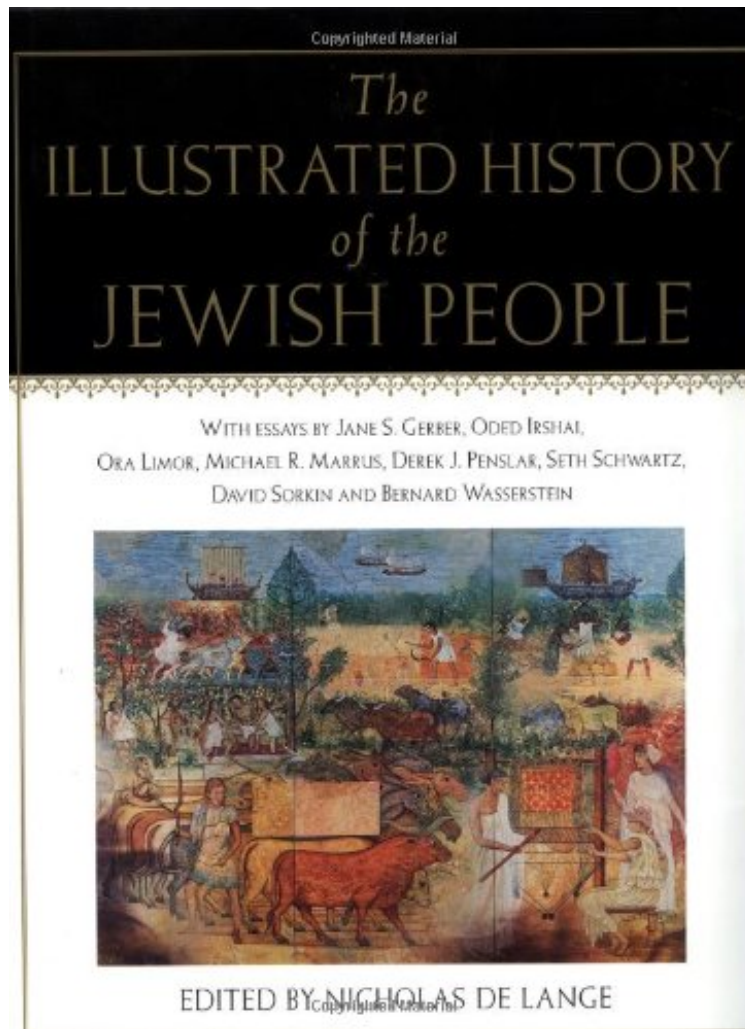


(Free read ebook) The Illustrated History of the Jewish People

## The Illustrated History of the Jewish People

*Nicholas de Lange*

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**Nicholas de Lange : The Illustrated History of the Jewish People** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Illustrated History of the Jewish People:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. and not as much as I would have liked about internal developments By John T. Landry I learned a lot from this careful, fairly dispassionate collection of essays on the major periods of Jewish history: from the rise of the kingdom of Israel to the fall of the second temple, beginnings of the Diaspora, life under Medieval Christendom in the West, life under Islam in the East, liberalization in Europe, the Shoah, origins and birth of the state of Israel, and recent times. Partly for source reasons, it says a lot about relations with other people, and not as much as I would have liked about internal developments, especially religious ones. The chapter about life under Islam was eye-opening -- almost all Jews lived under relatively tolerant Islamic rule from 900

to 1600 -- and made me think Islam was a greater influence on developments in Judaism than Christianity. The final chapter felt unduly pessimistic. 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Interesting essays and pictures. By Gary Sprandel I think in the West, we sometimes are not aware of Jewish history after the Old Testament, but this book, presents 8 chapters of Jewish history, at least 7 in the last two millennium. Each of the esteemed authors presents a unique perspective and analysis on the time period they covered, such as "Herod's reforms", or the "impact of Christianity". The chapters on the relationship of Jews with Muslims, and the slow march into the Modern World were most interesting. The book concludes with a discussion of Arab-Israeli relationships that helps in understanding some of the current tensions. There are some remarkable pictures, such as a coin from Jerusalem when under Persian Rule, an Ivory pomegranate from King Solomon temple, or pictures of the refuge ship the SS St. Louis waiting for news in Havana's Harbor. A map at the start of each chapter helps place the history in a larger regional context. I might have enjoyed a little more explanation of some of the ideas of the time, such as the Philosophies of Hillel, the laws of Moses Maimonides, the radical thoughts of Spinoza, or some of the mysticism of the Kabbalah.

A wonderfully accessible, beautifully illustrated chronicle of Jewish life through the ages, based on the best recent scholarship. With essays by Jane Gerber, Oded Irshai, Ora Limor, Michael Marrus, Derek Penslar, Seth Schwartz, David Sorkin, and Bernard Wasserstein. Maps; black-and-white illustrations; 48 full-color pages.

.com By most accounts Jewish history begins with the Babylonians' destruction of Jerusalem in 586 B.C. This well-made compendium, written by many hands, is in agreement. However, *The Illustrated History of the Jewish People* departs from traditional history in many ways, most notably in its attempts to understand figures who have been reduced to symbols. Herod, for example, "deserved his reputation for ruthlessness, cruelty and paranoia," but was also a product of his time, caught in a complex web of politics only partly of his own making. Editor Nicholas De Lange and the volume's contributors do a fine job of gathering the many strains of Jewish history into a single narrative, which ends with a discussion of the ongoing search for peace in the Middle East. From *Library Journal* In the 13 years since the appearance of the best-selling documentary and popular history *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews* (Summit), much has happened in the Jewish world. Translator and author De Lange (*Atlas of the Jewish World, Facts on File, 1992*) has edited a collection of eight essays by respected scholars in the field that chronologically survey Jewish history from biblical times to Prime Minister Rabin's assassination. Understandably, no topic is fully explored, but this work does provide a well-illustrated, balanced format to encourage historical exploration. This will definitely become a major Bar/Bat Mitzvah and Chanukah gift item and will be of interest to the general public, but its lack of citations might discourage students from using it as a place to begin research. The lack of a glossary is also a major omission for the general reader, since the essayists freely use a variety of useful but otherwise undefined terms. Recommended for Judaica collections. ?Andrew B. Wertheimer, Woodman Astronomical Lib., Madison, Wis. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. The editor, Nicholas de Lange, a reader in Hebrew and Jewish studies at Cambridge University, has assembled an unimpeachable group of historians, whose eight chronologically and thematically organized essays are models of contemporary scholarship. The narrative is lucid and lively, as faithful to traditional sources as it is aware of their fallibility. -- *The New York Times Book*, James E. Young