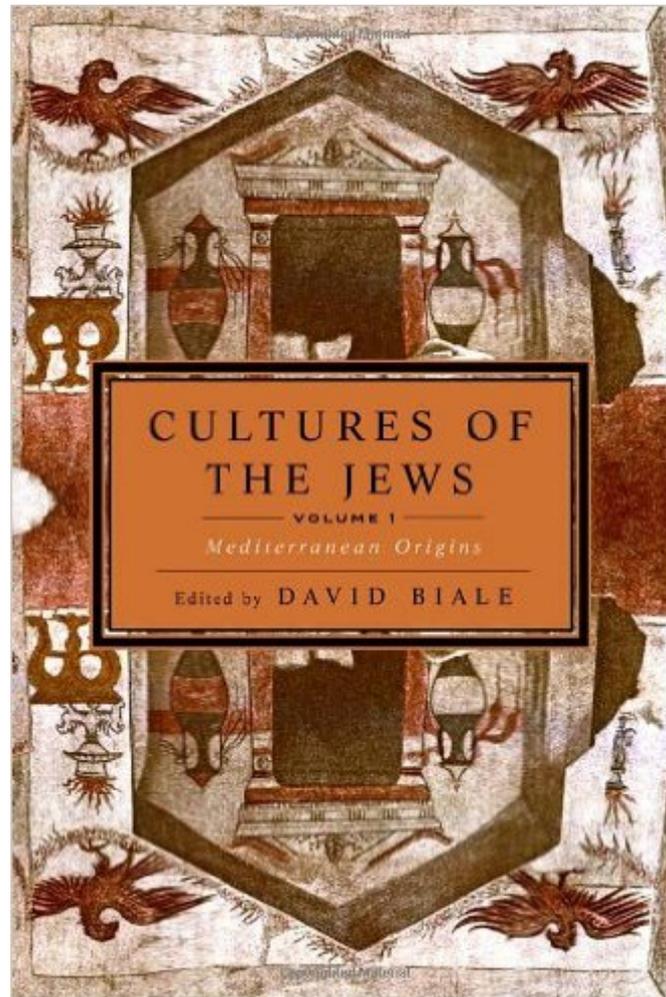


The book was found

Cultures Of The Jews, Volume 1: Mediterranean Origins



Synopsis

Scattered over much of the world throughout most of their history, are the Jews one people or many? How do they resemble and how do they differ from Jews in other places and times? What have their relationships been to the cultures of their neighbors? To address these and similar questions, some of the finest scholars of our day have contributed their insights to *Cultures of the Jews*, a winner of the National Jewish Book Award upon its hardcover publication in 2002. Constructing their essays around specific cultural artifacts that were created in the period and locale under study, the contributors describe the cultural interactions among different Jews—“from rabbis and scholars to non-elite groups, including women”—as well as between Jews and the surrounding non-Jewish world. What they conclude is that although Jews have always had their own autonomous traditions, Jewish identity cannot be considered the fixed product of either ancient ethnic or religious origins. Rather, it has shifted and assumed new forms in response to the cultural environment in which the Jews have lived. *Mediterranean Origins*, the first volume in *Cultures of the Jews*, describes the concept of the “People” or “Nation” of Israel that emerges in the Hebrew Bible and the culture of the Israelites in relation to that of neighboring Canaanite groups. It also discusses Jewish cultures in Babylonia, in Palestine during the Greco-Roman and Byzantine periods, and in Arabia during the formative years of Islam.

Book Information

Paperback: 354 pages

Publisher: Schocken (January 10, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0805212000

ISBN-13: 978-0805212006

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.9 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #231,486 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #226 in [Books > History > World > Religious > Judaism](#) #810 in [Books > History > World > Jewish](#) #3903 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History](#)

Customer Reviews

The editor David Biale explains in the preface that the cultural histories of the Jews are marked by a pattern of assimilation and adaptation to their surrounding cultures. Not remarkable, since this

happens with any people group, but more than others the Jews have always insisted upon their distinctiveness. This distinctiveness can only be realized, however, within the context of their cultural assimilation to the majority culture wherever they are found. It's somewhere in this dynamic that aids in setting a culture of Jews apart. After reading the preface and introduction to this work explaining the project of the book along these lines, I was eager to continue only to be disappointed in the first chapter by Ilana Pardes, entitled 'Imagining the Birth of Ancient Israel: National Metaphors in the Bible'. Far from anything to do with Jewish cultural history, this essay comprised a wholly narrative-critical reading of the biblical account of Israel's origins, which the author presupposes were indeed imagined. While narrative criticism is indeed important, the author was heavy on quasi-poetical language in her description of the stories in Genesis and Exodus, reading metaphors that probably, it seemed to me, weren't intended by the authors, e.g., reading the crossing of the Red Sea as an 'initiation rite' or as a 'rebirth'. The essay was illuminating, however, as Pardes (I think aptly) sees the story of Israel in these early books as constituting somewhat of a 'national biography'. Collective Israel seems to be indeed portrayed as a character in the biblical narrative. Its biography parallels that of individual characters in the course of the story, such as Abraham and Moses. Pardes also illuminates the stories in light of comparative ancient mythological literature.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Mediterranean Diet: 150 Recipes to Lose Weight, Get Healthy and Feel Great (Mediterranean Diet, Mediterranean Diet For Beginners, Mediterranean Diet Cookbook, Mediterranean Diet Recipes)
Cultures of the Jews, Volume 1: Mediterranean Origins Mediterranean Diet: 365 Days of Easy, Delicious, and Healthy Mediterranean Diet Recipes (Mediterranean Diet Cookbook, Mediterranean Diet for Weight Loss) Top 200 Mediterranean Diet Recipes Bundle: (Mediterranean Cookbook, Mediterranean Diet, Weight Loss, Healthy Recipes, Mediterranean Slow Cooking, Breakfast, Lunch, Snacks and Dinner) Mediterranean Diet: The 4 weeks Challenge (Mediterranean Diet Cookbook, Mediterranean Diet for Beginners, Mediterranean Diet Meal Plan) Mediterranean: Slow Cooker: Paleo: Crockpot: Box Set: The Ultimate Recipes Cookbook Box Set(30+ Free Books Included!) (Mediterranean Diet, Mediterranean ... Beginners Guide, Mediterranean, Cooking) Mediterranean Diet: 30 MINUTE Mediterranean Diet Cookbook with 80 Mediterranean Diet Recipes to Help You Lose Weight, Increase Energy & Prevent Disease ... (Mediterranean Diet & Cookbook Series 2) Mediterranean Diet: The Mediterranean Diet for Beginners: 110 Delicious Recipes and The Complete Guide to Going Mediterranean Mediterranean Diet for Weight Loss: Eat Like a Spartan: Leverage Mediterranean Diet To Achieve Spartan-Like Health, Lose Weight, Get Fit, All While

Eating ... (Mediterranean diet, Mediterranean recipes) Mediterranean Diet: Revealed! 65 Delicious Mediterranean Diet Cookbook Recipes Sure To Delight and Amaze All While Losing Inches (mediterranean cookbook, ... weight loss motivation, weight loss tips 1) Mediterranean Diet: Mediterranean Diet For Diabetes-A Beginners Guide On Weight Loss While Lowering Your Blood Sugar To Reverse Type 2 Diabetes(Mediterranean ... blood sugar diet,the blood sugar solution,) Holy Serpent of the Jews: The Rabbis' Secret Plan for Satan to Crush Their Enemies and Vault the Jews to Global Dominion The Invasion Within: The Contest of Cultures in Colonial North America (Cultural Origins of North America) Healthy Recipes: 2 Manuscripts- Instant Pot Cookbook And Mediterranean diet (Instant Pot, pressure cooker, Mediterranean diet) Mediterranean Diet: The Beginners Guide to Authentic Mediterranean Cuisine (Over 100+ Recipes & 1 FULL Month Meal Plan for Healthy Weight Loss, Cookbook Guide) 5 Ingredient Cookbook: Fast and Easy Recipes With 5 or Less Ingredients Inspired by The Mediterranean Diet (Free Gift): Everyday Cooking for Busy People on a Budget (Mediterranean Diet for Beginners) Mediterranean Diet: Ultimate Boxed Set with Hundreds of Mediterranean Diet Recipes: 3 Books In 1 Boxed Set The Mediterranean Slow Cooker Cookbook: A Mediterranean Cookbook with 101 Easy Slow Cooker Recipes Mediterranean Diet: A Beginners Guide to Help Lose Weight Fast by Incorporating Healthy Eating Into Your Daily Life (Achieve Amazing Health with Delicious ... to Prepare Homemade Mediterranean Recipes) Mediterranean Diet For Beginners: Fast and Easy Mediterranean Diet Cookbook and Home Recipes for Weight Loss - PICTURES INCLUDED (Meal Plan, Healthy Eating, Weight Loss Recipes, Healthy Weight Loss)

[Dmca](#)