



A PEOPLE DIVIDED

JUDAISM IN
CONTEMPORARY
AMERICA

JACK WERTHEIMER

People Divided Judaism In Contemporary America

Dana Evan Kaplan



People Divided Judaism In Contemporary America:

A People Divided Jack Wertheimer, 1997 This indispensable road map to the volcanic landscape of contemporary American Judaism reveals the profound effects that changes in the wider society everything from suburbanization to population growth to feminism have had on Jewish religious and communal life Contemporary American Judaism Dana Evan

Kaplan, 2009-08-22 No longer controlled by a handful of institutional leaders based in remote headquarters and rabbinical seminaries American Judaism is being transformed by the spiritual decisions of tens of thousands of Jews living in all corners of the United States A pulpit rabbi and himself an American Jew Dana Evan Kaplan follows this religious individualism from its postwar suburban roots to the hippie revolution of the 1960s and the multiple postmodern identities of today From Hebrew tattooing to Jewish Buddhist meditation Kaplan describes the remaking of historical tradition in ways that channel multiple ethnic and national identities While pessimists worry about the vanishing American Jew Kaplan focuses on the creative responses to contemporary spiritual trends that have made a Jewish religious renaissance possible He believes that the reorientation of American Judaism has been a bottom up process resisted by elites who have only reluctantly responded to the demands of the spiritual marketplace The American Jewish denominational structure is therefore weakening at the same time that religious experimentation is rising leading to innovative approaches that are supplanting existing institutions The result as Kaplan makes clear is an exciting transformation of what it means to be a religious Jew in twenty first century America **The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism** Dana Evan Kaplan, 2005-08-08 This volume provides

readers with a comprehensive introduction to the most important and interesting historical and contemporary facets of Judaism in America Written by twenty four leading scholars from the fields of religious studies American history and literature philosophy art history sociology and musicology the book adopts an inclusive perspective on Jewish religious experience Three initial chapters cover the development of Judaism in America from 1654 when Sephardic Jews first landed in New Amsterdam until today Subsequent chapters include cutting edge scholarship and original ideas while remaining accessible at an introductory level A secondary goal of this volume is to help its readers better understand the more abstract term of religion in a Jewish context The Cambridge Companion to American Judaism will be of interest not only to scholars but also to all readers interested in social and intellectual trends in the modern world *Religious and Cultural Implications of Technology-Mediated Relationships in a Post-Pandemic World* Ilia Delio, Noreen Herzfeld, Robert Nicasio, 2023-06-07

Technology is an integral part our world But how does inter human technology affect our ability to be present to one another to God to ourselves and to the world around us Modern technologies are reshaping human relationships While they offer new possibilities for presence across time and space they also function as either a substitute for human relationships or as a filter that mediates relationships between ourselves and others In our technologically saturated world it is vital that we become aware of how these technologies alter our perceptions our actions and our relationships Religious and Cultural Implications

of Technology Mediated Relationships in a Post Pandemic World offers a variety of positions on how technology is influencing religious communal and cultural life There is no doubt that our interaction with technology will shape the human community up ahead These essays provide a basis for thoughtful choice and action *The Blackwell Companion to Judaism* Jacob Neusner, Alan Avery-Peck, 2008-04-15 This Companion explores the history doctrines divisions and contemporary condition of Judaism Surveys those issues most relevant to Judaic life today ethics feminism politics and constructive theology Explores the definition of Judaism and its formative history Makes sense of the diverse data of an ancient and enduring faith

Jewish Life and American Culture Sylvia Barack Fishman, 2012-02-01 Jews in the United States are uniquely American in their connections to Jewish religion and ethnicity Sylvia Barack Fishman in her groundbreaking book Jewish Life and American Culture shows that contemporary Jews have created a hybrid new form of Judaism merging American values and behaviors with those from historical Jewish traditions Fishman introduces a new concept called coalescence an adaptation technique through which Jews merge American and Jewish elements Analyzing the increasingly permeable boundaries in the ethnic identity construction of Jewish and non Jewish Americans she suggests that during the process of coalescence Jews combine the texts of American and Jewish cultures losing track of their dissonance and perceiving them as a unified Jewish whole The author generates data from diverse sources in the social sciences and humanities including the 1990 National Jewish Population Survey and other statistical studies interviews and focus groups popular and material culture literature and film to demonstrate the pervasiveness of coalescence The book pays special attention to gender issues and the relationship of women to their Jewish and American identities A blend of lively narrative and scholarly detail this book includes useful tables accessible figures and models and fascinating illustrations which present the educational occupational and behavioral patterns of American Jews organizational profiles family formation religious observance and the impact of Jewish education

White Ethnic New York Joshua M. Zeitz, 2011-09-01 Historians of postwar American politics often identify race as a driving force in the dynamically shifting political culture Joshua Zeitz instead places religion and ethnicity at the fore arguing that ethnic conflict among Irish Catholics Italian Catholics and Jews in New York City had a decisive impact on the shape of liberal politics long before black white racial identity politics entered the political lexicon Understanding ethnicity as an intersection of class national origins and religion Zeitz demonstrates that the white ethnic populations of New York had significantly diverging views on authority and dissent community and individuality secularism and spirituality and obligation and entitlement New York Jews came from Eastern European traditions that valued dissent and encouraged political agitation their Irish and Italian Catholic neighbors tended to value commitment to order deference to authority and allegiance to church and community Zeitz argues that these distinctions ultimately helped fracture the liberal coalition of the Roosevelt era as many Catholics bolted a Democratic Party increasingly focused on individual liberties and many dissent minded Jews moved on to the antiliberal New Left **Louis I. Kahn's Trenton Jewish Community**

Center Susan G. Solomon, 2000 The Building Studies series examines important buildings through original documents detailed text photography and drawings in an affordable format *The New American Judaism* Jack Wertheimer, 2020-03-31 Winner of the National Jewish Book Award in American Jewish Studies an engaging firsthand portrait of American Judaism today American Judaism has been buffeted by massive social upheavals in recent decades Like other religions in the United States it has witnessed a decline in the number of participants over the past forty years and many who remain active struggle to reconcile their hallowed traditions with new perspectives from feminism and the LGBTQ movement to do it yourself religion and personally defined spirituality Taking a fresh look at American Judaism today Jack Wertheimer a leading authority on the subject sets out to discover how Jews of various orientations practice their religion in this radically altered landscape Which observances still resonate and which ones have been given new meaning What options are available for seekers or those dissatisfied with conventional forms of Judaism And how are synagogues responding Offering new and often surprising answers to these questions Wertheimer reveals an American Jewish landscape that combines rash disruption and creative reinvention religious illiteracy and dynamic experimentation American Jewry and the Re-Invention of the East European Jewish Past Markus Krah, 2017-11-20 The postwar decades were not the golden era in which American Jews easily partook in the religious revival liberal consensus and suburban middle class comfort Rather it was a period marked by restlessness and insecurity born of the shock about the Holocaust and of the unprecedented opportunities in American society American Jews responded to loss and opportunity by obsessively engaging with the East European past The proliferation of religious texts on traditional spirituality translations of Yiddish literature historical essays photographs and documents of shtetl culture theatrical and musical events culminating in the Broadway musical Fiddler on the Roof illustrate the grip of this past on post 1945 American Jews This study shows how American Jews reimagined their East European past to make it usable for their American present By rewriting their East European history they created a repertoire of images stories and ideas that have shaped American Jewry to this day

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