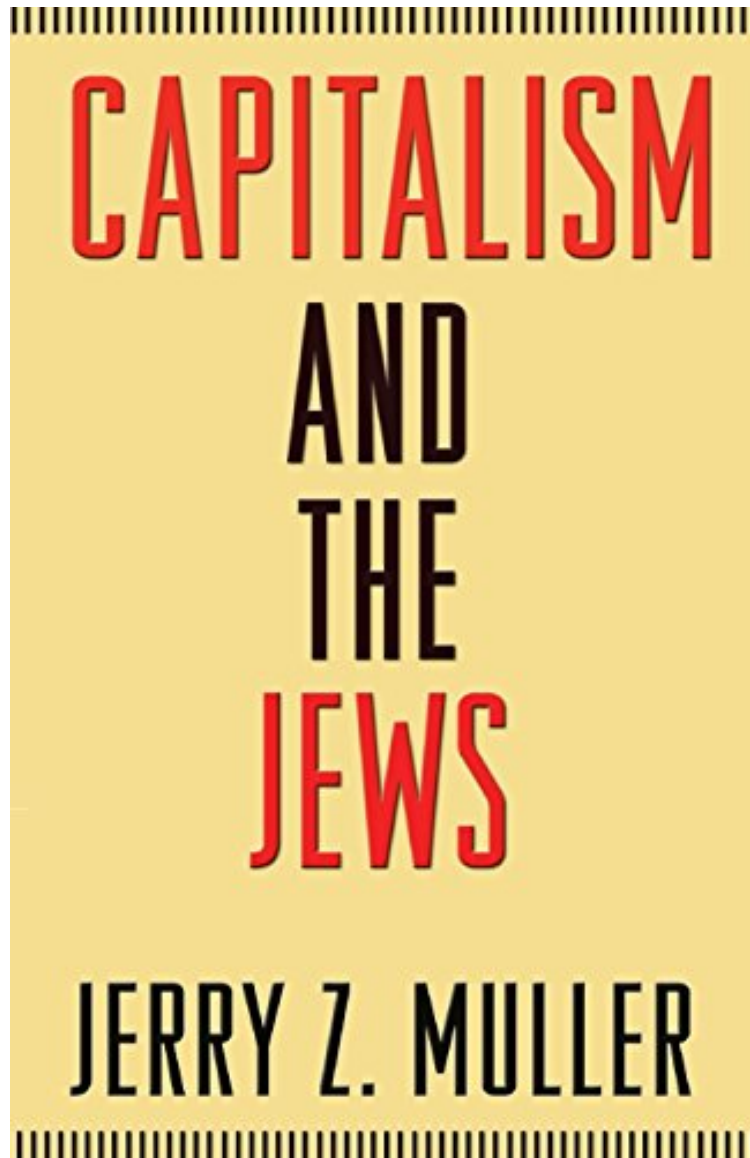


[Get free] Capitalism and the Jews

Capitalism and the Jews

Jerry Z. Muller

*ebooks | Download PDF | *ePub | DOC | audiobook*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#937440 in Books Jerry Z Muller 2011-11-27 2011-11-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 7.24 x .64 x 4.171, .66 #File Name: 069115306X280 pagesCapitalism and the Jews | File size: 73.Mb

Jerry Z. Muller : Capitalism and the Jews before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalism and the Jews:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An "In your face" title, but an OBJECTIVE historIcal endeavorBy J. JenkinsI saw this author on Book TV, and was taken with his objective writing (he is a professor, but I can't remember where or what discipline, sorry). Not being of the Jewish faith, I wanted to know more. This gives a very good objective history of the role that Jews have played in our history. In my opinion, this fact is overlooked and under

appreciated. I had to do some of my own research such going back to the Dutch settlers in NY who I was taught was the first to organize a financial system. Actually, they were refugees fleeing from religious persecution. Please correct me if I'm wrong. I am not a scholar, just a traveler through this life, trying to make some sense of it all. This book added to my understanding. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The "Why" of Jewish Persecution By Charley O Excellent book on why Jews are often targeted for persecution. I've often heard about Jewish persecution and discrimination, but didn't understand why. Muller does an excellent job of going back into history to paint the development of some people's perception of the Jews. It is more about the "why" of it than about the right or wrong of it. One of my favorite books. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History but Kindle Has Minor Issues By James Igoe Minor irritation with the Kindle formatting, but an excellent read and obviously well-researched. I found the history fascinating - I don't feel I can add significant commentary in that regard - but I do want to mention that the Kindle edition had numerous formatting and layout issues. They were many places in the text that did not display correctly, where words were hyphenated in the middle of the sentence, and where because of incorrect wrapping spaces were missing after some commas or hyphenated words.

The unique historical relationship between capitalism and the Jews is crucial to understanding modern European and Jewish history. But the subject has been addressed less often by mainstream historians than by anti-Semites or apologists. In this book Jerry Muller, a leading historian of capitalism, separates myth from reality to explain why the Jewish experience with capitalism has been so important and complex--and so ambivalent. Drawing on economic, social, political, and intellectual history from medieval Europe through contemporary America and Israel, *Capitalism and the Jews* examines the ways in which thinking about capitalism and thinking about the Jews have gone hand in hand in European thought, and why anticapitalism and anti-Semitism have frequently been linked. The book explains why Jews have tended to be disproportionately successful in capitalist societies, but also why Jews have numbered among the fiercest anticapitalists and Communists. The book shows how the ancient idea that money was unproductive led from the stigmatization of usury and the Jews to the stigmatization of finance and, ultimately, in Marxism, the stigmatization of capitalism itself. Finally, the book traces how the traditional status of the Jews as a diasporic merchant minority both encouraged their economic success and made them particularly vulnerable to the ethnic nationalism of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Providing a fresh look at an important but frequently misunderstood subject, *Capitalism and the Jews* will interest anyone who wants to understand the Jewish role in the development of capitalism, the role of capitalism in the modern fate of the Jews, or the ways in which the story of capitalism and the Jews has affected the history of Europe and beyond, from the medieval period to our own.

From Publishers Weekly In four fascinating essays, Muller (*The Mind and the Market*) sensitively examines how centuries of nomadism and diaspora have shaped Jewish financial life. Particularly intriguing is his essay *The Long Shadow of Usury*, which traces the roots of Jewish financial life to the time when Christians were banned from lending at interest, but Jews, following the law in Deuteronomy, were allowed to charge interest to gentiles (but not each other). Farmers and laborers could not understand the value economic or social of gathering and analyzing information, and Jewish usurers were cast as suspicious and parasitic figures. Muller explores why Jewish populations have been both disproportionately successful in capitalist societies and the system's loudest critics. Of paramount interest is his portrait of a people driven by exile and oppression to emphasize strong social networks, self-sufficiency, and higher education. Muller backs up his bold assertion that capitalism has been the most important force in shaping the fate of the Jews in the modern world with elegance and care. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "In his slim essay collection *Capitalism and the Jews*, Jerry Z. Muller presents a provocative and accessible survey of how Jewish culture and historical accident ripened Jews for commercial success and why that success has earned them so much misfortune. . . . While this book is ostensibly about 'the Jews,' Muller's most chilling insights are about their enemies, and the creative, almost supernatural, malleability of anti-Semitism itself. For centuries, poverty, paranoia and financial illiteracy have combined into a dangerous brew--one that has made economic virtuosity look suspiciously like social vice."--Catherine Rampell, *New York Times Book Review* "In four fascinating essays, Muller sensitively examines how centuries of nomadism and diaspora have shaped Jewish financial life. . . . Muller backs up his bold assertion--that capitalism has been the most important force in shaping the fate of the Jews in the modern world--with elegance and care."--Publishers Weekly "It's a subject rarely given its due in respectable circles. Yet an appreciation for market economics does run deep in Judaic tradition and helps explain the prominence of Jewish bankers, from Mayer Amschel Rothschild to Lloyd Blankfein. In concise prose free of academic jargon, Muller ticks off factors that gave Jews what he calls 'behavioral traits conducive to success in capitalist society.'"--Calev Ben-David, *Bloomberg* "Muller, a noted historian, takes a fascinating look at how Jews have shaped capitalism and how capitalism has shaped the Jewish experience from medieval times to today."--Fareed Zakaria *GPS* "Muller is keen to rescue from apologists, ideologues, and anti-Semites the exploration of what he describes as the Jews' 'special relationship' with capitalism. . . . This book is both scholarly and speculative, analysing the sociology and the anti-Semitic pseudo-sociology of the Jews' participation in capitalism. It will not be the last word on the

subject, but it is a genuine contribution to it."--Anthony Julius, *New Statesman*"A work of intellectual history. . . . Muller is acutely aware of the irony that Jews have been attacked sometimes for being the quintessence of capitalism and sometimes for being the quintessence of anticapitalism. The merit of his book is that it takes seriously the need to understand how historical circumstances bring this about."--Robert Solow, *Moment Magazine*"According to Jerry Z. Muller, professor of history at Catholic University, capitalism has been the most important force in shaping the fate of the Jews in the modern world. . . . Muller focuses squarely on the relation between them in four interlocking essays that explore, respectively, Western thinking about Jews and capitalism, the Jews' own responses to capitalism, Jewish involvement in Communist movements, and the rise of ethnic nationalism that came about as a response to capitalism's relentless march in the 19th century and onward."--Steven Menashi, *Commentary*"A model of clear thinking and useful information about how accurately to understand the long and complicated relationship between Jews, capitalism, and anti-Semitism. A valuable read."--Ira Stoll, *The Future of Capitalism* blog"In a 1972 lecture, 'Capitalism and the Jews,' Nobel laureate Milton Friedman presented a paradox: Jews 'owe an enormous debt to free enterprise and competitive capitalism,' he said, but 'for at least the past century the Jews have been consistently opposed to capitalism and have done much on an ideological level to undermine it.' According to historian Jerry Muller, Friedman's paradox may make for a great headline, but it cannot be substantiated. Only the first premise is true--there is little doubt that capitalism has benefited Jews. And as Muller shows, there is equally little doubt that Jews have excelled at developing capitalism in the West."--Guy Sorman, *City Journal*"Taboos can't last--and now, a real historian has broken this one. Jerry Muller, himself Jewish and a professor at the Catholic University of America in Washington, has published a book of four essays, *Capitalism and the Jews*, that sets out to explain why Jews have enjoyed such exceptional success in modern capitalist societies such as ours."--Tim Colebatch, *The Age*"Muller, a historian at Catholic University, has given us four lectures on economics aspects of Jewish life in the modern world. . . . [T]hey are thoughtful and occasionally insightful."--Peter Temin, *EH.net*"Capitalism and the Jews is a work of scholarship, but it's an especially accessible and illuminating one. It is a book that every Jewish capitalist, actual or aspiring, out to read and ponder."--Jonathan Kirsch, *Jewish Journal of Greater L.A.*"Muller (history, Catholic Univ.; Adam Smith in His Time and Ours), a well established historian of capitalism, is brave to tackle this subject, laden as much with the place of Jewish people in the markets as with the trappings and traps of anti-Semitism. . . . Stimulating."--Scott H. Silverman, *Library Journal*"A stellar work of intellectual history."--Sheldon Kirshner, *Canadian Jewish News*"A well-documented, historical investigation into an often hidden subject that the author makes easily accessible."--Abe Novick, *Baltimore Jewish Times*"If you want to understand why Jews have done phenomenally well in capitalist societies and at the same time have been some of capitalism's harshest critics, this history will help you understand."--Nick Schulz, *National "A great book."*--William Easterly, *Aid Watch* blog"Jerry Z. Muller's recent book is neither a polemic nor a setup for a bad lounge joke but is instead a compelling, sober essay about an elephant that has been sitting in the middle of Western history for the past two centuries at least: Jews have been inextricably woven into the history and evolution of capitalism. . . . A fascinating history."--Zachary Karabell, *Truthdig.com*"[T]his book introduces some basic issues and ideas about Jewish economic history and can serve as a provocative starting point for learning more about the subject."--Choice"[A] short book, which could be said to provide the economic background of the Jewish catastrophe of the 20th century. Muller's work, though focused on cultural and not environmental differences, might remind some readers of Jared Diamond's 'Guns, Germs, and Steel' (1997), which explains the basis for the gaps in material success among regions around the world. In both books, the authors, in laying bare the historical processes, help to disabuse readers of their prejudices."--Steven Silber, *Haaretz*"In the meantime, in a lean and compact volume, Muller has offered a rich and valuable history filled with insights about the character of capitalism and the sources of anti-Semitism--both of which could hardly be more timely subjects."--Yuval Levin, *Jewish of Books*"Muller provides a refreshingly frank account of the major role of Jews on both sides of capitalism's ideological barricades. His brisk and lively book is a welcome sign that historians are moving beyond a stale preoccupation with challenging stereotypes, and are now more willing to engage candidly and directly with the economic dimension of Jewish history."--Adam Sutcliffe, *Jewish Quarterly*"Although Muller examines mostly European areas, he occasionally cites examples from the United States. His book can be thus read as an attempt to deepen the mutual understanding of historical realities in Europe and North America. The strongest point of *Capitalism and the Jews* lies in Muller's multifocal perspective and interdisciplinary erudition."--Pnina M. Rubesh, *European Legacy*"[T]his small book is filled with interesting material and presents its subject in a clear and lively fashion."--Marty Roth, *Outlook on Books*"The book offers an interesting and new perspective into the economic history of the Jews, which is a by-product of their religious and cultural history."--R. Balashankar, *Organiser*"Capitalism and the Jews is an important study that affords readers a lucid and extremely accessible analysis of what is no doubt a central topic in Jewish and western history. It is a welcome addition that joins recent efforts to make us more aware of the significance of the economy for our understanding of the modern Jewish experience."--Gideon Reuveni, *Enterprise and Society*"Providing a fresh look at an important but frequently misunderstood subject, this book will interest anyone who wants to understand the Jewish role in the development of capitalism, the role of capitalism in the modern fate of the Jews, or the ways in which the story of capitalism and the Jews has affected the

history of Europe and beyond, from the medieval period to our own."--World Book Industry "Muller's book can be highly recommended. Stylistically polished, accessible, informative and provocative--it is a little gem."--Jeremy Leaman, *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies* "Capitalism and the Jews is a must book for our times."--Betty Mohr, *Le Bon Travel Culture* "[P]rovocative and inspiring essays. . . . Muller's approach is far reaching."--Franziskus von Boeselager, *Moving the Social* "From the Inside Flap" "This learned and suggestive little volume distills two centuries of wisdom concerning Jews and capitalism into four provocative essays. Drawing freely upon economic history, Jewish history, and the history of ideas, Jerry Muller moves deftly from European thinkers to Jewish traders and from Communists to nationalists. Along the way, he dispenses fresh insights, little known information, and much common sense concerning issues too often shrouded in myth, bigotry, ideology, and apologetics."--Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University "This book was hard to put down. It is a pleasure to read a work so provocative, so relevant, and so deeply informed."--Daniel Chirot, University of Washington "This is a magisterial work. It traces the relation of Jews to capitalism from the early modern period to the contemporary world, placing it in the context of the development of modernity's political institutions and culture. This book will be indispensable reading for anyone interested in Jewish history, but also for those seeking to understand the overall drama of modernity."--Peter L. Berger, professor emeritus, Boston University "This is a superb and enlightening book."--Andrei Markovits, University of Michigan "Jerry Muller has written an indispensable book correcting myriad misperceptions about capitalism, the Jews, and the affinities between them. He treats troubling subjects such as the relation of Jews to Communism and the persistence of anti-Semitism with exceptional delicacy and common sense. If clarification could bring about correction, this compressed historical account would do much to 'repair the world.'"--Ruth R. Wisse, Harvard University