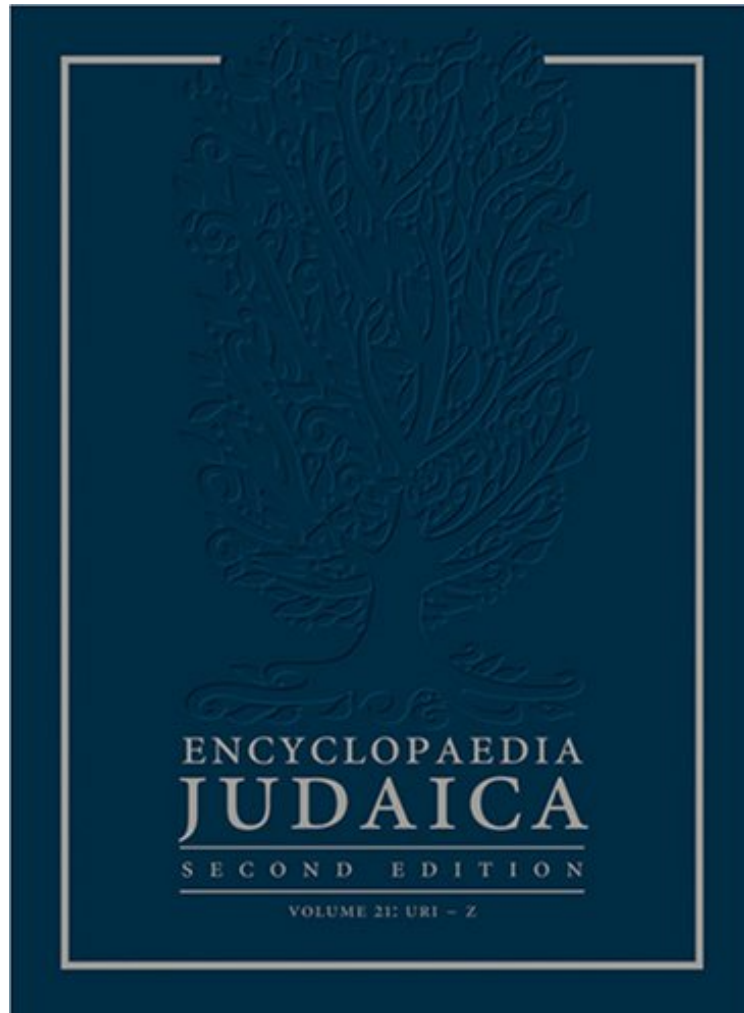


[Download] Encyclopedia Judaica 22 Volume Set

## Encyclopedia Judaica 22 Volume Set

*From Macmillan Reference USA*  
*audiobook / \*ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



 Download

 Read Online

#1392169 in Books 2006-12-12 2006-12-12 Original language: English PDF # 22 20.25 x 18.00 x 14.00l, 101.00 #File Name: 002865928717000 pages | File size: 64.Mb

**From Macmillan Reference USA : Encyclopedia Judaica 22 Volume Set** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Encyclopedia Judaica 22 Volume Set:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. major disappointmentBy avrabaKeep your old edition of the Judaica- It's far better. Though there is new material here, it's not an enjoyable experience to trace or find this- You would be unlikely to find important new comments or analysis and you will not wish to browse/generally read through the entries as you might in a good encyclopaedia, such as the old Jewish encyclopedia (16 vols) of the early 1900's (Funk Wagnells) or the 12 Vol. (American) Jewish encyclopaedia- I do not understand how anyone could contemplate in this way a second edition of the 1970's Judaica decide to remove virtually all the illustrations !! The editors took on too ambitious a project for their skills and simply failed. One of the reviewers mentioned that this "update" (of more than 30 years) "was done in 2 years, yet it could have taken 20 years": Well, this shows exactly the problem- a proper

work of this scale needed more time; this update was simply rushed and its lack of depth and poor finish, aesthetically otherwise, is all too apparent. 48 of 48 people found the following review helpful. A Series of Disappointments By Werner Cohn

My first disappointment: The wealth of illustration of the first edition is virtually gone. You can still find a treatment of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, of course, but you will not see the great picture of him with his wife Hemdah, taken in 1912. Nor will you find the many other similar pictorial treasures of the first edition. If you must buy this edition, be sure to find a place on your shelves for the old one as well.

My second disappointment: The shoddy treatment of bibliographies. There are, to be sure, lists of books that are appended to the various articles. But there is no annotation. A bibliography without annotation, as it has been said so well, is like a body without a soul. These lists of books will not make it easy for anyone in search of knowledge to find the more helpful sources. But here the new editors have an excuse, if that is what you would call it: the first edition was just as bad in this regard.

My third disappointment: The new knowledge of the last 35 years, insofar as it finds its way into this new work, is often just appended as additions to the old articles. Even where new knowledge revolutionizes the old, the old is still accorded honor of precedent. What was obviously called for is a complete reworking, but this is not what the editors have done.

My fourth disappointment: At least some of the newer material is so superficial that it is useless for any scholarly purpose. I looked up "Exodus," hoping to find what archaeologists and historians have to say about the Biblical account. The article says, flatly, that it is the scholarly consensus that the Biblical Exodus is "unhistorical," meaning, I suppose, that it never happened. The article gives no reference to any archaeologist or historian, nor to any book or other article that would throw light on the subject. What can a student make of this? Simply take on faith the word of the EJ II? This is no way to write a work of reference. The writer of this article would receive a failing grade, easily, if he presented it for credit at a university. There are of course many good things in this new work, and I am sure that with more time and perhaps more inclination I could have found many more than I did.

One good set of articles is about the Ethiopian Jews, even though it is not easy to find it unless you happen to know that the group is now called Beta Israel. The articles are by Steven Kaplan and his associates. Kaplan undoubtedly knows more about the subject than almost anyone else. But even here the EJ II's sloppy method of documentation gets in the way. As it happens, there is a small number of other scholars who have made seminal contributions to this subject, notably Kay Shelemay and James Quirin. Neither of these is mentioned by EJ II.

This work is serious enough - just - to constitute a required purchase for any general research library. If it was the aim of the editors to achieve this minimum, they have succeeded. But it does not seem that they will win any warm admiration of scholars. That, in my book, makes the work a failure, a squandered opportunity.

15 of 16 people found the following review helpful. A preliminary report on a vital reference work for all those who take interest in the Jewish world By Shalom Freedman

I am writing this preliminary review of 'Judaica' in the hope that it can be of some help to potential purchasers and future readers of the work. No one asked me to write this review but the readers of it should know that I wrote five relatively small entries for the Encyclopedia, and am not thus a wholly unbiased reviewer. Primarily though I do not so much intend to present my opinion but rather to report on one of the Encyclopedia's principal editors, Michael Berenbaum has to say about the Encyclopedia. I will I hope accurately paraphrase remarks he made about the 'Encyclopedia' in a talk given at the 'Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs' on February 19, 2007.

Michael Berenbaum says that the editors aimed to preserve the quality of the original Judaica while accurately reflecting the major changes that have taken place in the past thirty-five years in the Jewish world. In this regard one full-volume of the Encyclopedia is dedicated solely to dynamic and rapidly developing Israel. Berenbaum stressed that the Encyclopedia strongly reflects the changes that Feminism have brought in the past thirty-five years. There are three hundred new entries devoted to Jewish women. Many major entries such as the Gershom Scholem entry on 'Jewish Mysticism' were republished but augmented by a report on the work that has occurred since. In the 'Jewish Mysticism' area Scholem's work was complemented by the work of a leading figure in the field. Prof. Moshe Idel.

Berenbaum said that the world of Jewish learning has vastly expanded in the past thirty-five years. In 1972 there were only a few universities which had Jewish Studies programs. Now there are hundreds of scholars in the area. This means new work is being done in many different areas. Berenbaum stresses the vastness of the world of Jewish learning, the impossibility of any single scholar comprehending it. He is however filled with admiration for the creativity in all areas of life displayed by the Jewish people and believes this is reflected within the 'Encyclopedia' itself.

Berenbaum compliments the chief-editor of the work Fred Skolnik who he calls a Renaissance Man of Jewish studies. He notes that this update was done in two years but that it could have taken twenty. The relative speed is in part attributable to the new technologies (Internet, E-mail, Fax) which did not exist thirty-five years ago.

I cannot at this point honestly vouch for the quality of the work which has been done. I expect however that in months and years ahead I will be turning to the New Judaica. As one interested in the 'Jewish world' I cannot count the number of times the 1972 Edition provided vital information for my own work. I expect the new Judaica will do the same for many thousands of researchers, and readers.

This landmark work on Judaism has been extensively revised and expanded for this long-awaited new edition. Included in this new work are more than 22,000 signed entries on Jewish life, culture, history and religion written by by Israeli, American and European subject specialists. Expanding the scope and relevance of this invaluable set are

more than 2,500 brand-new entries, many focusing on gender issues and New World geographic areas of the United States, Canada and Latin America. In addition there are 20 eight-page color inserts that illustrate and enrich this unique resource on Judaism.

From School Library Journal  
Grade 10 Up  
This long-awaited revision of the premier reference source on Jewish life, culture, and history updates the 1972 edition by either adding to the original information or creating a completely new entry. New to this publication are a charted summary of transliteration rules; a list of abbreviations; and entries discussing aspects of Holocaust study, the development and impact of the State of Israel on Jewish life, and the evolution of Reform, Conservative, Orthodox, Hasidic, and Reconstructionist branches of the faith. Entries on Judaism in all 50 U.S. states and major U.S. cities have been updated. Others are unchanged although updating may have been warranted: for example, information on the biblical character Noah is unaltered, despite a great deal of related research, both textual and archaeological, since 1972. However, many entries related to religious law (halakhah) have been totally rewritten to reflect its impact on the Israeli legal system. This edition consists of 22 volumes compared to the original 16. It boasts all new illustrations: more than 600 maps, charts, archaeological plans, and chronologies (for example, family trees and an 8-page chart of Hasidic dynasties) and a few color photographs of paintings, drawings, and artifacts in each volume. The glossary is unchanged. The last volume contains a detailed 270-page thematic outline and a superb 632-page index that make the information in each volume accessible. Libraries that own the first edition will want to replace it with this one.  
Jack Forman, Mesa College Library, San Diego  
Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.  
From Booklist  
\*Starred \*  
The new edition of Encyclopaedia Judaica brings a monumental reference work into the twenty-first century. In 1928 Nahum Goldman, head of Eshkol Publishing, in Berlin, began work on a comprehensive reference work about the history and culture of the Jewish people. That work was never completed, and the 10 finished volumes remain as both a witness to European Jewish scholarship and a reminder of Hitler's destruction of that tradition. Goldman survived the Holocaust, and in 1966, he used his reparation money to revive work on the encyclopedia at Keter Publishing House, in Jerusalem. In 1972, more than 45 years after the work began, the first edition was completed. Keter Publishing House and Macmillan Reference USA, its American partner, released Hebrew and English-language versions of the work. Like the original work, it was a thorough, organized overview of Jewish life and knowledge. Updating a large resource is difficult. The publishers issued yearbooks and two supplements cumulating the 1973-1982 and 1983-1992 volumes as well as an updated CD-ROM version in 1997, but the Jewish world has changed a great deal since then. The second edition is also a collaboration of Keter Publishing House and Macmillan Reference, which is now a Thomson Gale imprint. Editors Berenbaum and Skolnik gathered an international team of more than 50 divisional editors and 1,200 scholars to produce the work. They have created 22 volumes with approximately 22,000 entries. Some 2,600 entries are new, and 12,000 have been substantially revised. As they did in Encyclopedia of Religion (2004), the publishers left the original articles intact and added updated material in an appended article that follows. This edition has 150 pages of color inserts appearing as centerfolds in each volume as well as 600 maps, tables, and illustrations. There are also 30,000 new biographical entries. Why is this edition different? Building on the scholarship of the first edition, the editors have added material that documents today's Jewish communities. Since the publication of the first edition, Israel has been through two wars and two intifadas, the role of women in Jewish life has greatly expanded, and the Soviet Union has disappeared. The most rapidly growing Jewish communities in the U.S. are in Las Vegas and Phoenix, but the actual number of Jews in the country is declining due to low birth rates. A whole new generation of scholarship has emerged, with new information about everything from the Bible and the Talmud to women's studies and the Holocaust. The contributors to this edition used the material of the great scholars such as Salo Baron, Cecil Roth, and Gershom Scholem as a foundation for their new insights, giving users greater depth and a modern perspective. Volume 1 has a list of the editors and contributors. They include Yehuda Bauer (Hebrew University), David Ellenson (Hebrew Union College), Deborah E. Lipstadt (University of California, Los Angeles), and Xun Zhou (University of London). The encyclopedia features entries such as an article on Jewish law (Mishpat Ivri) written by Justice Menachem Elon, deputy president of the Supreme Court of Israel. He examines ancient religious law as reflected in the courts of a modern, sovereign Jewish state. Entries about the Bible include both the great medieval commentators such as Rashi and Maimonides and modern critical literary studies of the Bible as an integrated work. Contributors examine the sources of the Bible, its composition, and its authors. The Talmud receives similar treatment, with more than 100 biographies of the greater and lesser rabbinic figures and more accessible material, reflecting the increased participation of the public in Talmudic study. The women's perspective appears throughout the encyclopedia, with articles about biblical stereotypes, their views about the mikveh (ritual bath), and biographies of women both ancient and modern (Beruryah, a second-century Talmud scholar; Bella Abzug). Agunah (Orthodox women who cannot remarry because their husbands refuse to grant them religious divorces) and coverage of the bat mitzvah and the Women of the Wall case are other examples of the increased emphasis on women's issues in this edition. Extensive articles document the contributions of Jews to the arts, sciences, sports, politics, and entertainment. Albert Einstein, Rita Levi-Montalcini, Amos Oz, and Philip Roth appear along with Victor Borge, Jascha Heifetz, and

Sandy Koufax. Each of the 50 states and the countries of the world, as well as major cities, have entries, as do museums, cultural institutions, and organizations. The Holocaust and Israel occupy the major part of volumes 9 and 10, respectively, reflecting their important roles in Jewish history and culture. Several thematic outlines (for articles on history, religion, language and literature, Jews in world culture, and women) and a detailed index help users pinpoint specific information. The e-book version uses the standard Gale interface and is available as part of the Gale Virtual Reference Center. One nice feature for users who print or download is the option of getting the text in PDF format if desired. The second edition of Encyclopaedia Judaica is a welcome addition to reference collections. By documenting the modern Jewish experience while retaining links with its rich past, it provides users with information about all aspects of Jewish religion and culture. This work received the 2006 Dartmouth Medal, a well-deserved award. Bibel, Barbara Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved