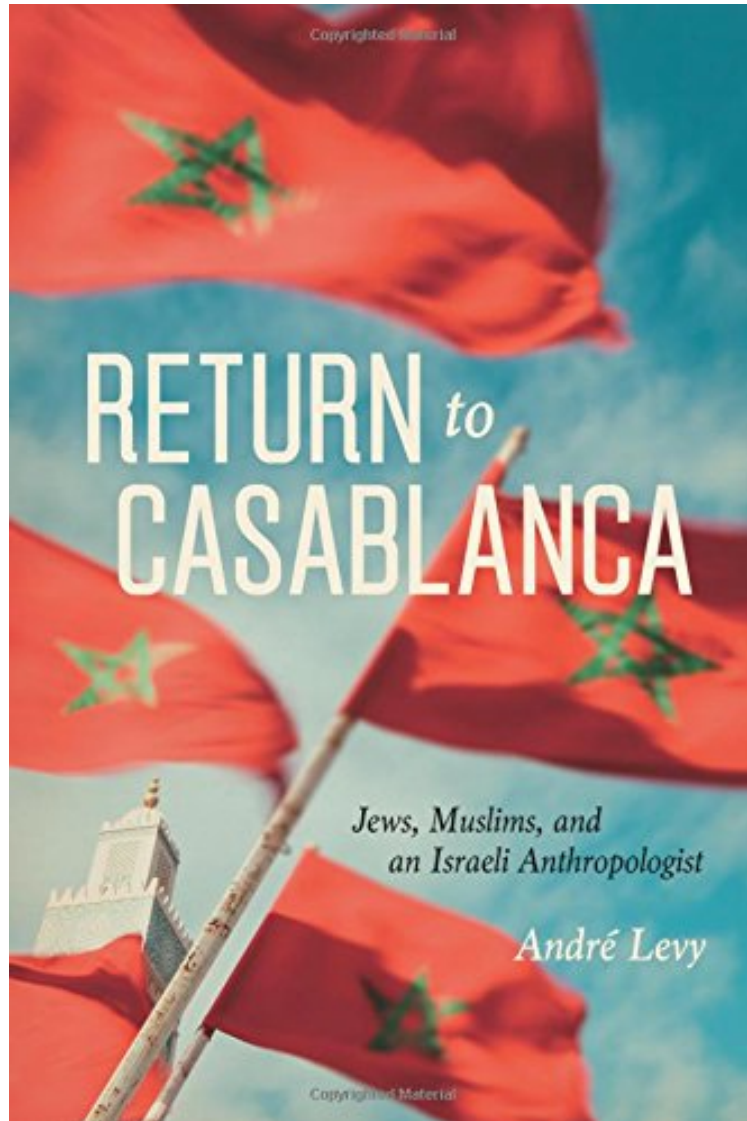


[Free pdf] Return to Casablanca: Jews, Muslims, and an Israeli Anthropologist

Return to Casablanca: Jews, Muslims, and an Israeli Anthropologist

Andr Levy

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Andr Levy : Return to Casablanca: Jews, Muslims, and an Israeli Anthropologist before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Return to Casablanca: Jews, Muslims, and an Israeli Anthropologist:

In this book, Israeli anthropologist Andr Levy returns to his birthplace in Casablanca to provide a deeply nuanced and

compelling study of the relationships between Moroccan Jews and Muslims there. Ranging over a century of history from the Jewish Enlightenment and the impending colonialism of the late nineteenth century to today's modern Arab state, Levy paints a rich portrait of two communities pressed together, of the tremendous mobility that has characterized the past century, and of the paradoxes that complicate the cultural identities of the present. Levy visits a host of sites and historical figures to assemble a compelling history of social change, while seamlessly interweaving his study with personal accounts of his returns to his homeland. Central to this story is the massive migration of Jews out of Morocco. Levy traces the institutional and social changes such migrations cause for those who choose to stay, introducing the concept of contraction to depict the way Jews deal with the ramifications of their demographic dwindling. Turning his attention outward from Morocco, he goes on to explore the greater complexities of the Jewish diaspora and the essential paradox at the heart of his adventure: leaving Israel to return home.

According to David Brooks, going back is a creative process. The events of childhood are like the Hebrew alphabet; the vowels are missing, and the older self has to make sense of them. Levy's return from Israel to the country of his birth proceeds from his first fearful encounter, through the uncertainties of the Gulf War, to the discovery of the deeply ambivalent approach of the Moroccan Muslims to their Jewish neighbors. Analytic yet engaged, wary yet appreciative, Levy offers a realistic and thoughtful example of the ways in which stereotypes need to be confronted directly, and how emotion can be harnessed to comprehension and mutual understanding.