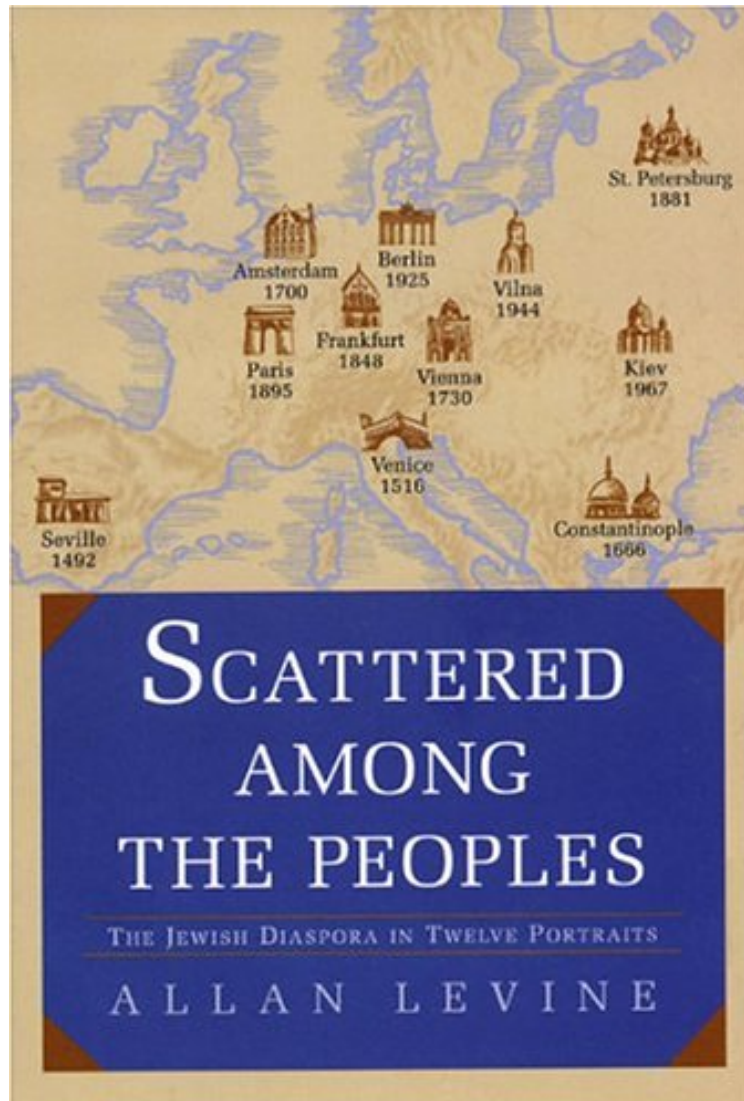


(Ebook free) Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Twelve Portraits

Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Twelve Portraits

Allan Levine

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Allan Levine : Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Twelve Portraits before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Twelve Portraits:

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completion.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. book reviewBy artistThis was an interesting book following the history of the Jewish Diaspora. it was an easy read and well written. the different areas of movement were well recorded and seemed researched. I would recommend it for someone interested in that kind of history.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Peter D. SpringbergA wonderful book

In "Scattered Among the Peoples, historian Allan Levine presents a vivid and distinctly human perspective on how the Jewish people survived eight hundred years of persecution and forced migration, building and rebuilding their lives and communities. Structured as a chronological series of moment-in-time portraits, focusing on individuals and their interaction with their families and society, the narrative carries readers through the economic, political, social, and intellectual climates of some of the world's most famous and fascinating cosmopolitan centers. Levine has written an impressive and immensely readable book, one that is an important contribution to the literature of Jewish history.

From Publishers WeeklyThis sprawling, highly readable historical survey seeks to answer the question of Jewish survival: "What mysterious power had permitted this remarkable ancient people to withstand centuries of persecution and tragedy?" Rather than weave a massive tapestry of 5,000 years of Jewish chronology, historian Levine (*Fugitives of the Forest*) focuses on 12 Jews who, between the years 1492 and 1967, were forced into exile. This focus on individuals—mostly noted historical figures although not necessarily popularly known—provides the book with a firm organizational spine, and allows the author to paint vivid, emblematic portraits. Samuel Oppenheimer, for instance, embodies the European "court Jew"; Abraham Pereira epitomizes Sephardic Jews who fled Portugal and settled in the Netherlands; and Boris Kochubiyevsky is emblematic of Jews who fought in the 1960s to leave the Soviet Union and emigrate to Israel. At its best, Levine's account is insightful, informative and great popular history. He has an easy style and can pack a wealth of information into a brief essay—in discussing Judah Leib Gordon, mid-19th-century poet, Levine deftly explicates the politics of prerevolutionary Russia, the cultural meaning of "the pale of settlement," the *Haskalah* and the Jewish anti-Zionist movement. The downside is that at times the book sacrifices scholarly detail for popular impact. Levine is more eager to find similarities than differences among the Diaspora experiences, and as wide-ranging as his study is, it reflects a degree of homogenization of the Jewish experience. In spite of this, he has produced an entertaining and useful book for readers new to the subject. 36 bw illus. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From BooklistThis is not a definitive history of the Diaspora, Levine explains in his introduction, but a selection of 12 key periods and places, beginning with the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. The book's first four chapters trace the circumstances of the expulsion and follow the journey of the Sephardic Jews to other countries. Other chapters depict such periods of history as the upheaval against German Jews in 1848, Russian Jews in the Pale of Settlement in 1881, the Dreyfus Affair in France in the 1890s, the mass immigration to America in the early twentieth century, and the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel after the Six Day War in 1967. With 36 black-and-white illustrations, this book, richly documented and thoroughly researched, is what Levine describes as a "chronicle of perseverance in the face of overwhelming odds and an uncanny ability to do what is necessary so that each successive generation will endure." George CohenCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

"Immensely informative and accessible....Levine does a remarkably fine job describing the many aspects of Jewish life in the Diaspora...and has masterfully described the Jew's complicated ties to the West, and endurance in the face of extreme adversity."