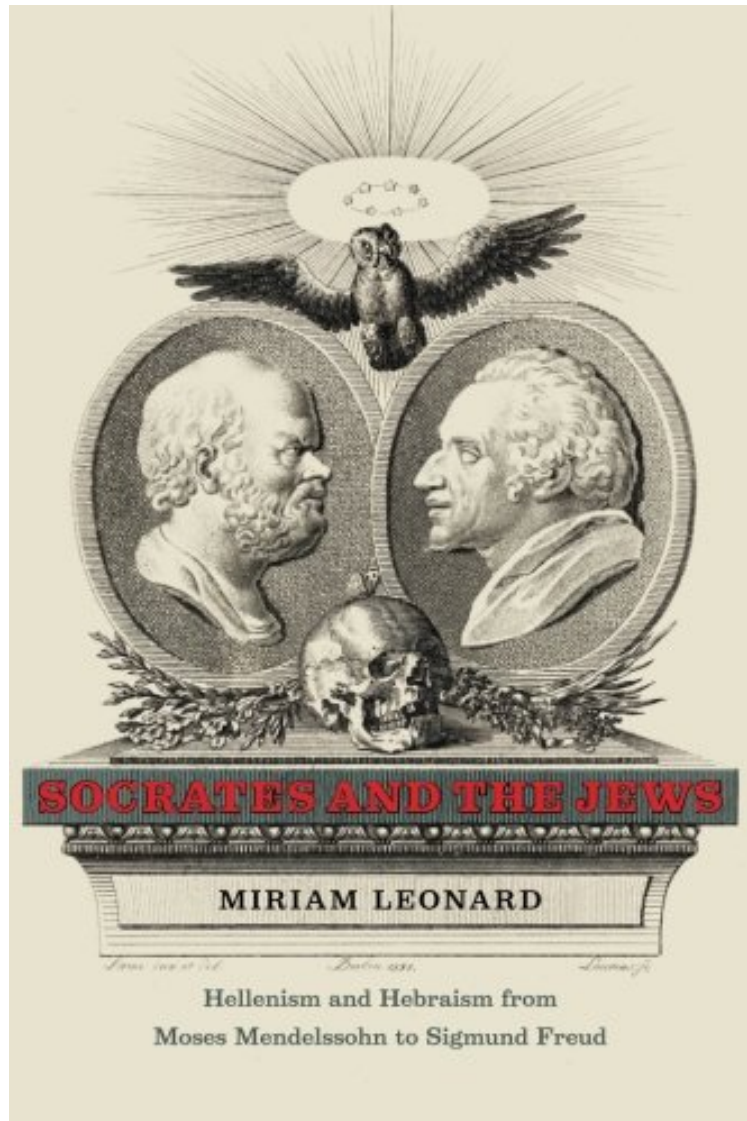


Socrates and the Jews: Hellenism and Hebraism from Moses Mendelssohn to Sigmund Freud

Miriam Leonard

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#1658822 in Books Leonard Miriam 2014-10-24 2012-06-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x .80 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 022621334X264 pages Socrates and the Jews Hellenism and Hebraism from Moses Mendelssohn to Sigmund Freud | File size: 66.Mb

Miriam Leonard : Socrates and the Jews: Hellenism and Hebraism from Moses Mendelssohn to Sigmund Freud before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Socrates and the Jews: Hellenism and Hebraism from Moses Mendelssohn to Sigmund Freud:

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. The best account of Biblical-Classical tug of war By Harriet

Nethery This is a learned, but highly readable--and fascinating--account of the great tug-of-war in modern intellectual history between pagan, classical knowledge, and the Bible. In other words, how to reconcile classical learning and philosophy--the Greek way--with Hebraic teaching? (Especially hard if you were German) That was a gigantic problem starting in the Enlightenment, and it carried through well into the 20th century. Leonard is a wonderful writer, and she explores the stakes of this struggle in clean, vivid prose. Who would have thought intellectual history could be such a pleasure to read?

"What has Athens to do with Jerusalem? Asked by the early Christian Tertullian, the question was vigorously debated in the nineteenth century. While classics dominated the intellectual life of Europe, Christianity still prevailed and conflicts raged between the religious and the secular. Taking on the question of how the glories of the classical world could be reconciled with the Bible, Socrates and the Jews explains how Judaism played a vital role in defining modern philhellenism. Exploring the tension between Hebraism and Hellenism, Miriam Leonard gracefully probes the philosophical tradition behind the development of classical philology and considers how the conflict became a preoccupation for the leading thinkers of modernity, including Matthew Arnold, Moses Mendelssohn, Kant, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud. For each, she shows how the contrast between classical and biblical traditions is central to writings about rationalism, political subjectivity, and progress. Illustrating how the encounter between Athens and Jerusalem became a lightning rod for intellectual concerns, this book is a sophisticated addition to the history of ideas.

Socrates and the Jews is a triumph of critical scholarship. With this book, Leonard throws new light on the troubled inheritance of the Enlightenment, which bequeathed to modernity a series of ways of working through its own contorted rupture from the past. No one who reads this study will ever again be able to think of the category Greek that prototype and anti-type of modernity without simultaneously calling to mind its inextricable but neglected congener, Jew. Leonard convincingly demonstrates how these notions, paired together, have served as problematic and contested sites, both imaginary and real, in the emerging and evolving conceptions of race, nation, culture, and modernity in European thought, from Moses Mendelsohn, the Jewish Socrates, to Sigmund Freud, who could recast Moses as either quasi-Greek or Egyptian. The intervening chapters on Kant, Hegel, Arnold, and Marx are as illuminating as they are disturbing to read.