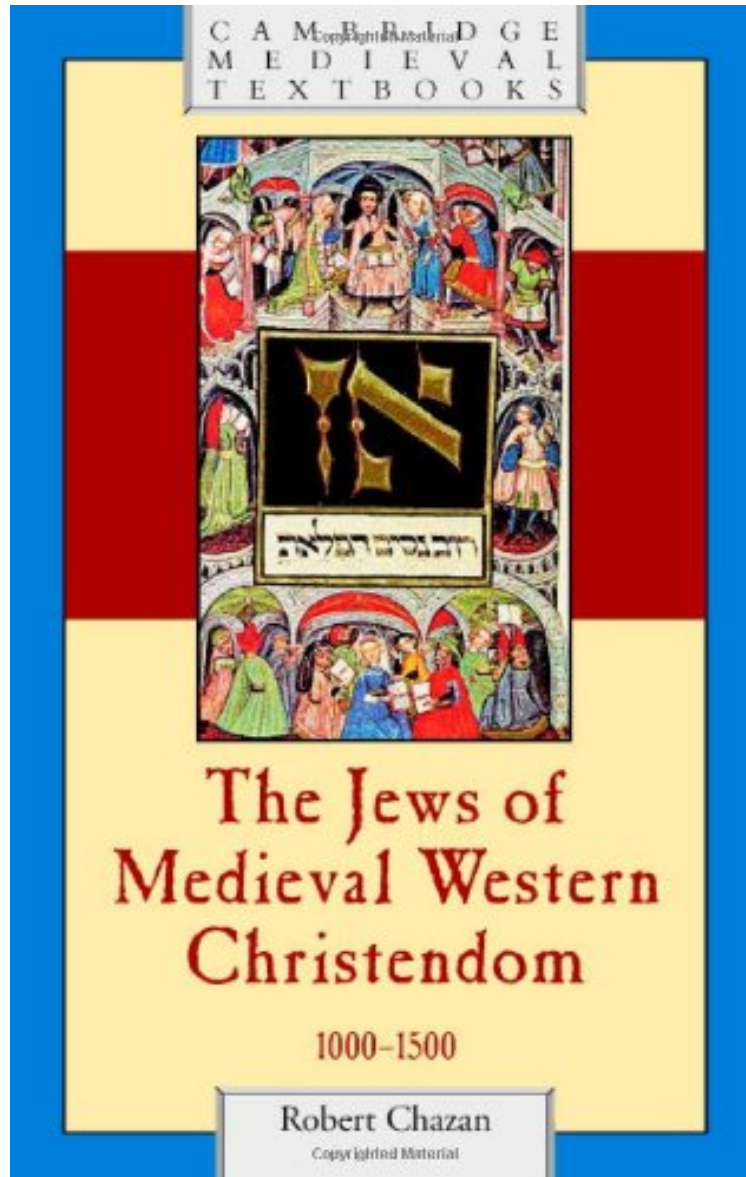


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Robert Chazan : The Jews of Medieval Western Christendom, 1000-1500 (Cambridge Medieval Textbooks) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of Medieval Western Christendom, 1000-1500 (Cambridge Medieval Textbooks):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. fascinating overview of Jewish culture and role in medieval history
By westwind
The great Jewish historian Salo Baron criticized the prevalent "lachrymose conception of Jewish history," which depicts Jews primarily as victims. Chazan is an excellent example of what Baron hoped for: he writes Jewish history not as a martyrology, but as an objective historian, interested in who the Jews were, what they created, what was important to them, how they flourished and adapted as well as survived. It makes for a fresh and very interesting look at the medieval period for all readers.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The book was somewhat helpful. It does have a ...
By Lisa M
The book was somewhat helpful . It does have a lot of facts in it.
3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Interesting, but a bit repetitive
By K. Howe
There is plenty of useful and interesting information in this book, and on the whole, it's presented well. Much of the information is repeated in several places, but the author's structure makes it difficult to avoid this problem, and his structure seems adequate compared to other possible structures he might have followed.
I did constantly find myself wondering, while reading this book, what the author meant by "creativity" with reference to the Jews. He never gives anything like a definition of the term as he intends it, which makes me suspect that the author himself doesn't quite know what he means by it.
All in all, an interesting overview of exactly the subject the title suggests.

Between the years AD 1000 and 1500, western Christendom absorbed by conquest and attracted through immigration a growing number of Jews. This community was to make a valuable contribution to rapidly developing European civilisation but was also to suffer some terrible setbacks, culminating in a series of expulsions from the more advanced westerly areas of Europe. At the same time, vigorous new branches of world Jewry emerged and a rich new Jewish cultural legacy was created. In this important historical synthesis, Robert Chazan discusses the Jewish experience over a 500 year period across the entire continent of Europe. As well as being the story of medieval Jewry, the book simultaneously illuminates important aspects of majority life in Europe during this period. This book is essential reading for all students of medieval Jewish history and an important reference for any scholar of medieval Europe.

"...this book is highly readable and well conceived." -Dean Phillip Bell, H-HRE"
Robert Chazan has presented a clear, concise, yet complex synthetic history of medieval European Jewish communities from 1000-1500. There is much here of use for a variety of readers..." - Dana Wessell Lightfoot, Canadian Journal of History"
"...well rounded and highly informed presentation..." -Michael Toch, The Medieval
"As a survey of Jewish-Christian relations, this is certainly a good starting point for students." -R. N. Swanson, Sixteenth Century Journal
About the Author
Dr Robert Chazan is currently S. H. and Helen R. Scheur Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.