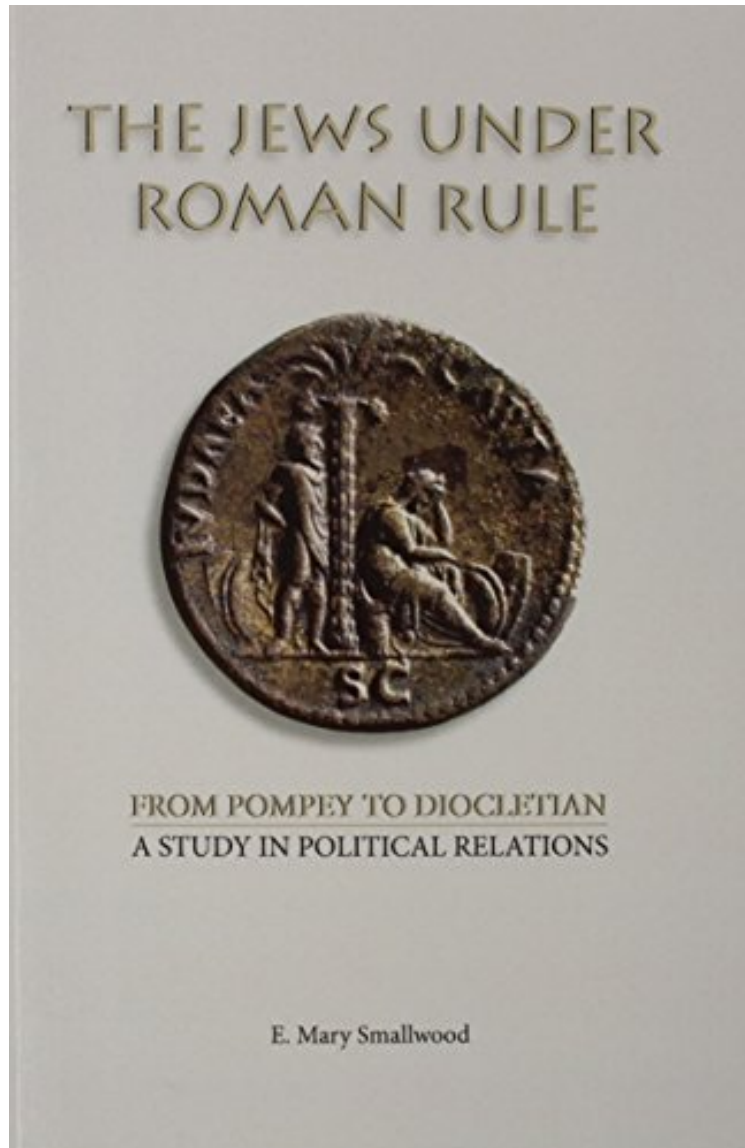


The Jews under Roman Rule: From Pompey to Diocletian: A Study in Political Relations

E. Mary Smallwood

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E. Mary Smallwood : The Jews under Roman Rule: From Pompey to Diocletian: A Study in Political Relations before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews under Roman Rule: From Pompey to Diocletian: A Study in Political Relations:

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book.0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. good reasarch documentBy Margaret Halveya very good research text I am enjoying the read. A fair amount of background in the field Is a help3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Classic - Still of the Utmost ImportanceBy David E. BlairIt is nice to see that the Society of Biblical Literature has seen fit to put this classic back into print. Over the many years since it was first published by E. J. Brill in 1976 it was reprinted many times. Brill finally terminated its printing of this work in 2000. However, the importance of this work has not diminished with time. Admittedly, it was in most every major seminary and university library by the time Brill abandoned it. However, for those without access to such institutions, this reissue by the SBL is of great service to any reader deeply interested in the Roman rule of "Israel" from circa 67 BCE to 308 or so CE. While religious matters are of importance, the strength of this work is in the meticulous chronological rendition of the political relationship between the Roman Empire and "Israel" as a subject nation as well as under direct provincial Roman rule. The material herein covered is almost always presented as lucid narrative history and is encyclopedic to say the least in its attention to almost every ancient source available. At the time this book was written, Smallwood was a reader in the Classics at Queens University of Belfast. The importance of this is that she had a staggering command of the original languages of the documents pertaining to this history. The author mines the ancient sources to paint a vivid picture of this most important historical topic. All later scholarly work in this area of study reference back to this book. I would be remiss if I did not mention the problems with the publication of this work. Originally ready for publication 1973, it waited until 1976 to finally be issued by E. J. Briil. This massive work with a plethora of footnotes was an expensive production. To save money and to the detriment of scholars and interested laymen alike, Brill left out the bibliography, an index of modern authors, and an index of ancient authors. A cursory subject interest is included. This makes using this book a nuisance as a source of material for further study. Normally, I would deduct a star for this failure. However, the history here presented is so well done and useful that I have let that slide.To Be Continued:P.S. - I do apologize for the delay in finishing this review. Other matters have intervened. It should be done before the end of the year.

A classic resource on Jewish history now in paperback Smallwood traces Judaism's constantly shifting political, religious, and geographical boundaries under Roman rule from Pompey to Diocletian. Smallwood illustrates how the shift from Roman pagan rule to Christian Roman rule affected Judaism's position, pushing it from being a long-standing nationalistic tradition that was tolerated to one that was viewed as something that needed to be repressed and confined. Features: Coverage of Jewish history in Palestine and the diaspora Maps and charts Paperback edition of the Brill hardcover

About the AuthorE. Mary Smallwood was professor of Romano-Jewish history at Queen's University, Belfast.