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The Politics and Public Culture of American Jews (The Modern Jewish Experience)

Arthur A. Goren

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Arthur A. Goren : The Politics and Public Culture of American Jews (The Modern Jewish Experience) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics and Public

Culture of American Jews (The Modern Jewish Experience):

These strikingly lucid and accessible essays, ranging over nearly a century of Jewish communal life, examine the ways in which immigrant Jews grappled with issues of group survival in an open and accepting American society. Ten case studies focus on Jewish strategies for maintaining a collective identity while participating fully in American society and public life. Readers will find that these essays provide a fresh, provocative, and compelling look at the fundamental question facing American Jewry at the end of the 20th century, as at its start: how to assure Jewish survival in the benign conditions of American freedom.

"Goren, a leading scholar of American Jewish history, collects ten articles that appeared in scholarly journals between 1961 and 1997. The pieces are tied together, however, with the theme of how American Jews sought to maintain a sense of community and how they used politics and public culture to do so. The essays trace the manner in which four generations of American Jews managed to maintain a resilient community. Goren points to the late 1950s as the baseline that demarcated American Jewry from its earlier history. The poverty of the Jewish immigrant generations and the memory of the Depression had been replaced with an affluence that opened up new social opportunities. As American Jews became ever more aware of the excesses of the Nazi genocide against the Jews of Europe, and of the precarious status of the State of Israel, the decade of the 1960s witnessed the emergence of a functional consensus within the Jewish community, which was grounded on two public commitments that continue into the present: assuring Israel's security and striving for a liberal US (and, by extension, a liberal world order). To be read along with *On Equal Terms: Jews in America, 1881, 1981* by Lucy Dawidowicz (CH, Apr'83). Both general and academic readership." J. Fischel, *Millersville University Choice*, November 2000 (J. Fischel, *Millersville University Choice* 2000-01-00) About the Author Arthur A. Goren is Russell and Bettina Knapp Professor of American Jewish History at Columbia University. His books include *New York Jews and the Quest for Community*, *Dissent in Zion: From the Writings of Judah L. Magnes*, and *The American Jews*.