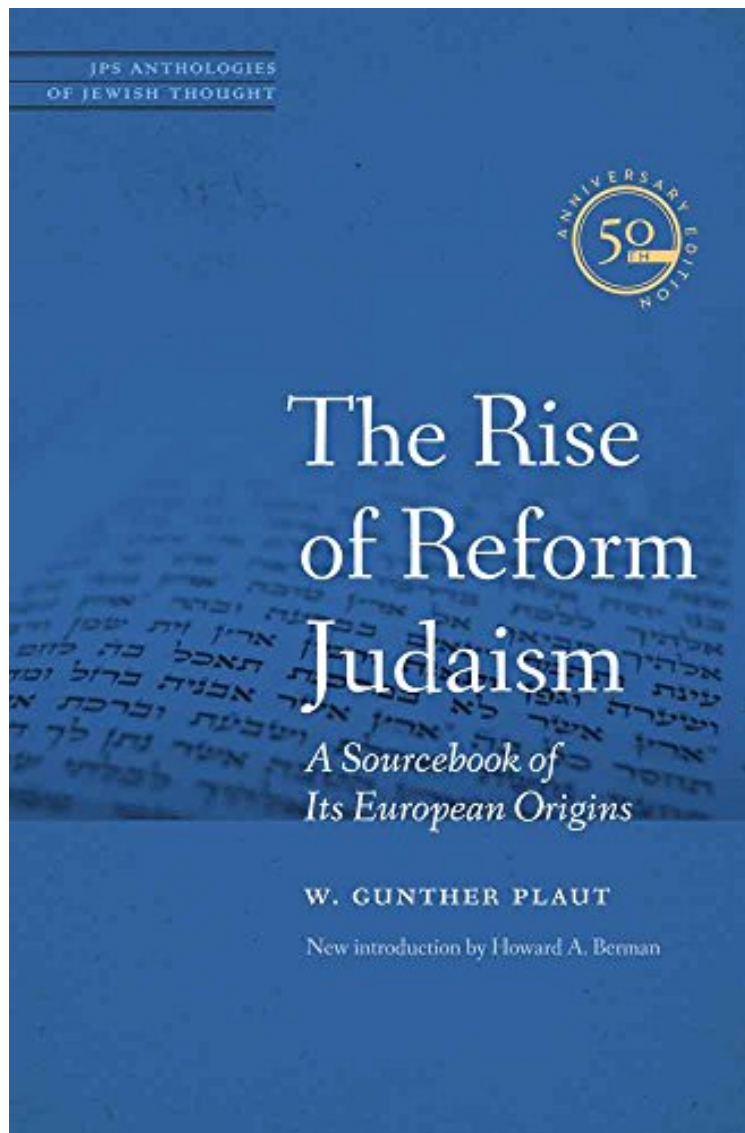


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The Rise of Reform Judaism: A Sourcebook of Its European Origins (JPS Anthologies of Jewish Thought)

Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut

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all praised *The Rise of Reform Judaism: A Sourcebook of Its European Origins* (JPS Anthologies of Jewish Thought):

This fiftieth anniversary edition of W. Gunther Plaut's classic volume on the beginnings of the Jewish Reform Movement is updated with a new introduction by Howard A. Berman. *The Rise of Reform Judaism* covers the first one hundred years of the movement, from the time of the eighteenth-century Jewish Enlightenment leader Moses Mendelssohn to the conclusion of the Augsburg synod in 1871. In these pages the founders who established liberal Judaism speak for themselves through their journals and pamphlets, books and sermons, petitions and resolutions, and public arguments and disputations. Each selection includes Plaut's brief introduction and sketch of the reformer. Important topics within Judaism are addressed in these writings: philosophy and theology, religious practice, synagogue services, and personal life, as well as controversies on the permissibility of organ music, the introduction of the sermon, the nature of circumcision, the observance of the Sabbath, the rights of women, and the authenticity of the Bible.

The characteristic diversity within Reform Judaism is underscored on virtually every page of Plaut's volumes. Rabbi Howard A. Berman, executive director of the Society for Classical Reform Judaism