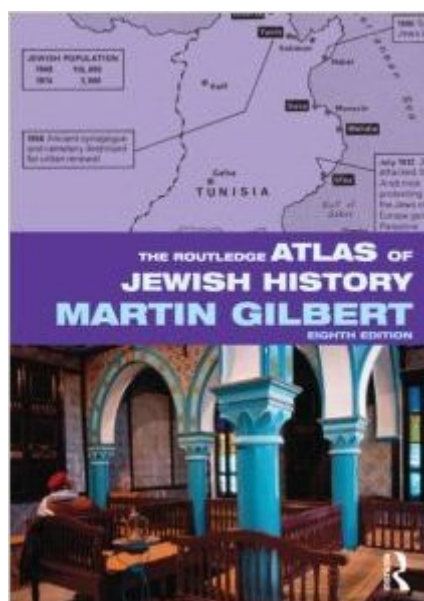


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The Routledge Atlas Of Jewish History (Routledge Historical Atlases)



Synopsis

'An unusual and compelling insight into Jewish history... sheer detail and breadth of scale' BBC History Magazine This newly revised and updated edition of Martin Gilbert's Atlas of Jewish History spans over four thousand years of history in 154 maps, presenting a vivid picture of a fascinating people and the trials and tribulations which have haunted their story. The themes covered include: Prejudice and Violence- from the destruction of Jewish independence between 722 and 586 BC to the flight from German persecution in the 1930s. Also covers the incidence of anti-semitic attacks in the Americas and Europe. Migrations and Movements- from the entry into the promised land to Jewish migration in the twenty-first century, including new maps on recent emigration to Israel from Europe and worldwide. Society, Trade and Culture- from Jewish trade routes between 800 and 900 to the situation of world Jewry in the opening years of the twenty-first century. Politics, Government and War- from the Court Jews of the fifteenth century to the founding and growth of the modern State of Israel. This new edition is also updated to include maps showing Jewish museums in the United States and Canada, and Europe, as well as American conservation efforts abroad. Other topics covered in this revised edition include Jewish educational outreach projects in various parts of the world, and Jews living under Muslim rule. Forty years on from its first publication, this book is still an indispensable guide to Jewish history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This fascinating Atlas traces the history of the Jewish people, from the early Jewish migration from

Ur to Canaan, in about 2000 BC, up to developments in the modern State of Israel. He traces the migration of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt back to the Promised Land, and the conquest of the Promised Land by the Israelites, the whereabouts of the Twelve Tribes of Ancient Israel, the kingdoms of David and Solomon 1000 to 925 BC, as well as the destruction of Jewish independence by the Assyrians and Babylonians and the subsequent deportations and dispersions of the Israelites. The book shows us maps revealing the Hasmonean Kingdom and the Jewish revolts against Roman Rule. Gilbert outlines the development of ancient Jewish communities in Iraq, Persia, India and China, as well as Europe, the persecutions, pogroms, expulsions and different places of settlements of the Jews throughout the world. The book deals with some lesser known facts such as the whereabouts of the Karaite Jews, 10 000 of whom were murdered by the Nazis in Crimea, in 1943, the fact that in 1805 Napoleon formed a Jewish battalion that fought at Waterloo, while in 1799 the Jews of Jerusalem joined the Turks in preparing to defend the city, and in 1812, the Jews of Russia, supported their Russian overlords against Napoleon, as they feared that Napoleon's liberalization would be a threat to their orthodoxy. A fascinating map shows the possible whereabouts of the ten lost Tribes of Israel, and the intriguing possibility that their descendants could include the Ibos of Nigeria, the Masai Tribe of East Africa, the Berbers of North Africa, the Khazars, the Bnei Menashe of Eastern India, the Karens of Burma, and the Shinadai Tribe of Japan. Other maps show the development of Jewish life in the Americas, Jewish military activity from 1794 to 1967, the return of the Jews to the Land of Israel, the numbers of Jews in Europe at the outbreak of World War II, and those that perished in the Holocaust, the numbers of Jews who fled Europe for Palestine, during the Holocaust, Jewish resistance against Nazis persecution in Europe, and against Arab pogroms in Palestine, and Israel's War of Independence in 1948, the Suez War of 1956 and the Six Day war of 1967, describing the balance on the eve of that war of Arab and Israeli forces: The total Arab strength was 547 000 troops, 2 504 tanks and 957 combat aircrafts, while Israel's strength consisted of 264 000 troops, 800 tanks and 300 Combat aircrafts. While the author is correct about persecution in Europe, of the Jews, by Christians, he underestimates and does not fully describe the many massacres and pogroms against Jews in Moslem-ruled lands, as well as the severe dhimmni status under which they lived. Nevertheless Gilbert succeeds, in illustrating the vast panorama of the Jewish people, through the ages. He makes obscure periods in Jewish history better known, if only in outline, leaving the reader the task of embarking on deeper research. Finally the book leaves the reader amazed at the endurance of a people who survived thousands of years of hostility and attempts to destroy it, and were gathered together once again in their ancient homeland, having to defend their homeland against 100 million

Arabs, and a very large chunk of hostile world opinion.

This book gave me a visual perspective on the movement, persecution and historical events of Jewish history that I had struggled to gain from pure text sources. It brought names and places to light and enhanced my understanding of events. It is a worthwhile addition to the collection on this subject.

I now own all of the Martin Gilbert Routledge Atlases. If you love history and prefer to understand history in context than these are all for you. They are not a low cost item but they are a high quality item. What sets these apart is the typeset and the quality of the paper and ink. If you are a fan of the Atlas genre you know full well that all maps are not created equally. Sure these are in so called black and white. They are however of such a quality that the ink shines. Each note from the Key is in a different shade of black so they really show up well. These are not like what you would find in a History Text. History texts books require either looking at footnotes and thumbing to the back of the book or looking at a half page map that is overdone in color format etc.....rendering study of the map difficult and disjointed. If you want to know about Jewish History then get this Atlas. I use these along with books on my iPad to gain insight. I find myself looking at a map and then going to Wikipedia or even buying or borrowing a book from my library collection to learn more. History can be interesting.

Martin Gilbert's death is a great loss to historians of the Jewish people. Now that Jews are yet again under world wide attack...most distressingly by racist-fascist student groups on American college campuses...his contribution to the recording of Jewish history is more important than ever. For the Jewish kids who believe as even a presidential candidate that only one side in the conflict is worthy of humanitarian care and dignity, let them read the maps here with its record of persecution, humiliation and degradation of Jewish communities in the Muslim Middle East pre-dating modern Zionism.

These excellently done maps when taken together provide an excellent overview of Jewish history. They provide a tremendous amount of information and food for thought. Moving from one to another new perspectives open up on Jewish history. Maps of course can be no substitute for the story and the text, but this is truly a wonderful tool for helping one understand Jewish history more deeply.

Whether you would look at a map here and there for reference, read through it time and again, or read it as a beginner for the "where" in Jewish history, this is the best Jewish atlas out there. The history of the Jews, from ancient times to the diaspora, the "enlightenment" period, the Holocaust, Israel, etc. are all portrayed here in one small volume containing volumes of information. Whether for reference or for a better understanding of Jewish history, this book belongs in every Jewish history library. 2 minor setbacks: the maps, though clear and consistent within themselves, are not well organised (i.e. one section of medieval history, one for modern history, one for Israel, etc. etc.), but there is still a list of the maps in the beginning. Also, there is no index, which would be extremely difficult to compile, but also very helpful. In spite of these cons, the book definitely deserves 5 stars.

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