

The Radical American Judaism Of Mordecai M Kaplan The Modern Jewish Experience

[The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan](#) [The American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan](#) The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion [Dynamic Judaism](#) Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community Communings of the Spirit, Volume II Judaism as a Civilization Judaism as a Civilization Communings of the Spirit A Year with Mordecai Kaplan [Mordecai M. Kaplan](#) The Shengold Jewish Encyclopedia [Understanding Judaism](#) Communings of the Spirit: 1934-1941 Questions Jews Ask [Mordecai Kaplan's Thought in a Postmodern Age](#) Mordecai Would Not Bow Down [Judaism Without Supernaturalism](#) American Post-Judaism Mordecai M. Kaplan Yakar Le'Mordecai The Future of the American Jew Jewish History and Divine Providence [Tradition and Change](#) Complete Story of Purim The Greater Judaism in the Making Gateway to Judaism Judaism's Encounter with American Sports Saving the Jews All is in the Hands of Heaven Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora Relations (paperback) [Jacksonian Jew](#) The Religion of Ethical Nationhood Mordecai M. Noah's Discourse on the Restoration of the Jews This Year In Jerusalem All is in the Hands of Heaven [The Americanization of the Jews](#) Zionism and the Roads Not Taken [Communings of the Spirit: 1913-1934](#)

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Communings of the Spirit, Volume II Apr 23 2022 Selections from the diary of Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism in America, detailing a provocative firsthand account of Jewish life in America and of the mind of a very challenging thinker.

Zionism and the Roads Not Taken Jul 22 2019 Today, Zionism is understood as a national movement whose primary historical goal was the establishment of a Jewish state. However, Zionism's association with national sovereignty was not foreordained. Zionism and the Roads Not Taken uncovers the thought of three key interwar Jewish intellectuals who defined Zionism's central mission as challenging the model of a sovereign nation-state: historian Simon Rawidowicz, religious thinker Mordecai Kaplan, and political theorist Hans Kohn. Although their models differed, each of these three thinkers conceived of a more practical and ethical paradigm of national cohesion that was not tied to a sovereign state. Recovering these roads not taken helps us to reimagine Jewish identity and collectivity, past, present, and future.

Saving the Jews Apr 30 2020 During the Holocaust's long nights there were gentiles in every corner of Europe who saved Jews. This is their story.

Jewish History and Divine Providence Nov 06 2020 Jewish history and the Holocaust present all who examine with a cloudy dark crystal that appears impenetrable. However, Judaism has a very sophisticated mystical system, called Kabbalah, or "tradition" which provides all the answers needed to make light illuminate the darkness noted above. The Kabbalah brings home the point that Jewish history, indeed all human history, begins and ends with human beings as the hands and eyes of God.

[Mordecai M. Kaplan](#) Nov 18 2021

[The Americanization of the Jews](#) Aug 23 2019 How did Judaism, a religion so often defined by its minority status, attain equal footing in the trinity of Catholicism, Protestantism, and Judaism that now dominates modern American religious life? THE AMERICANIZATION OF THE JEWS seeks out the effects of this evolution on both Jews in America and an America with Jews. Although English, French, and Dutch Jewries are usually considered the principal forerunners of modern Jewry, Jews have lived as long in North America as they have in post-medieval Britain and France and only sixty years less than in Amsterdam. As one of the four especially creative Jewish communities that has helped reshape and re-formulate modern Judaism, American Judaism is the most complex and least understood. German Jewry is recognized for its contribution to modern Jewish theology and philosophy, Russian and Polish Jewry is known for its secular influence in literature, and Israel clearly offers Judaism a new stance as a homeland. But how does one capture the interplay between America and Judaism? Immigration to America meant that much of Judaism was discarded, and much was retained. Acculturation did not always lead to assimilation: Jewishness was honed as an independent variable in the motivations of many of its American adherents- and has remained so, even though Jewish institutions, ideologies, and even Jewish values have been reshaped by America to such an degree that many Jews of the past might not recognize as Jewish some of what constitutes American Jewishness. This collection of essays explores the paradoxes that abound in the America/Judaism relationship, focusing on such specific issues as Jews and American politics in the twentieth century, the adaptation of Jewish religious life to the American environment, the contributions and impact of the women's movement, and commentaries on the Jewish future in America.

[Tradition and Change](#) Oct 05 2020 Originally published in 1958, this volume has been reprinted in a paperback edition with a new preface. Contains an extended introduction by the editor followed by classic statements by the founders and leading spokesmen of the Conservative Movement. Included among the authors are: Cyrus Adler, Morris Adler, Jacob Agus, Louis Finkelstein, Zacharias Frankel, Israel Friedlander, Louis Ginzberg, Robert Gordis, Simon Greenberg, Mordecai Kaplan, Solomon Schechter, Milton Steinberg, and Henrietta Szold.

The Future of the American Jew Dec 07 2020 Plan for the reconstruction of Judaism.

This Year In Jerusalem Oct 25 2019 "In 1944, I was aware of three youth groups committed to the compelling idea of an independent Jewish state: Hashomer Hatzair (The Young Guard), Young Judaea, and Habonim (The Builders). Hashomer Hatzair was resolutely Marxist.

According to intriguing reports I had heard, it was the custom, on their kibbutzim already established in Palestine, for boys and girls under the age of eighteen to shower together. Hashomer Hatzair members in Montreal included a boy I shall call Shloime Schneiderman, a high-school classmate of mine. In 1944, when we were still in eighth grade, Shloime enjoyed a brief celebrity after his photo appeared on the front page of the Montreal Herald. Following a two-cent rise in the price of chocolate bars, he had been a leader in a demonstration, holding high a

placard that read: down with the 7cents chocolate bar. Hashomer Hatzair members wore uniforms at their meetings: blue shirts and neckerchiefs. "They had real court martials," wrote Marion Magid in a memoir about her days in Habonim in the Bronx in the early fifties, "group analysis, the girls were not allowed to wear lipstick." Whereas, in my experience, the sweetly scented girls who belonged to Young Judaea favored pearls and cashmere twinsets. They lived on leafy streets in the suburb of Outremont, in detached cottages that had heated towel racks, basement playrooms, and a plaque hanging on the wall behind the wet bar testifying to the number of trees their parents had paid to have planted in Eretz Yisrael, the land of Israel. I joined Habonim -- the youth group of a Zionist political party, rooted in socialist doctrine -- shortly after my bar mitzvah, during my first year at Baron Byng High School. I had been recruited by a Room 41 classmate whom I shall call Jerry Greenfeld..."

Judaism as a Civilization Feb 21 2022

Mordecai M. Noah's Discourse on the Restoration of the Jews Nov 25 2019

American Post-Judaism Mar 10 2021 Articulates a new, post-ethnic American Jewishness

A Modern Heretic and a Traditional Community May 24 2022 The highly publicized obscenity trial of Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) is generally recognized as the crystallizing moment in the construction of a visible modern English lesbian culture, marking a great divide between innocence and deviance, private and public, New Woman and Modern Lesbian. Yet despite unreserved agreement on the importance of this cultural moment, previous studies often reductively distort our reading of the formation of early twentieth-century lesbian identity, either by neglecting to examine in detail the developments leading up to the ban or by framing events in too broad a context against other cultural phenomena. Fashioning Sapphism locates the novelist Radclyffe Hall and other prominent lesbians -- including the pioneer in women's policing, Mary Allen, the artist Gluck, and the writer Bryher -- within English modernity through the multiple sites of law, sexology, fashion, and literary and visual representation, thus tracing the emergence of a modern English lesbian subculture in the first two decades of the twentieth century. Drawing on extensive new archival research, the book interrogates anew a range of myths long accepted without question (and still in circulation) concerning, to cite only a few, the extent of homophobia in the 1920s, the strategic deployment of sexology against sexual minorities, and the rigidity of certain cultural codes to denote lesbianism in public culture.

The Religion of Ethical Nationhood Dec 27 2019

Dynamic Judaism Jul 26 2022 Mordecai M. Kaplan began his life's journey with the confines of a small Lithuanian town on the outskirts of Vilna. He was born on a Friday evening in June of 1881. Kaplan's submergence in a total Jewish atmosphere is illustrated by the fact that he knew his day of birth only by the Jewish calendar until he went to the New York Public Library as a young man to look up the corresponding date. Kaplan's family was a traditional one in every aspect, and his father, Israel Kaplan, was a learned man.

Gateway to Judaism Jul 02 2020 Gateway to Judaism is an insider's engaging look at the mindset, values, and practices of Judaism in the 21st century. As a senior lecturer and outreach expert with Gateways Seminars, Rabbi Mordechai Becher has helped thousands of people reconnect with the beauty, wisdom and relevance of their Jewish heritage. Often asked to recommend "just one book" that would explain the essentials of Jewish life and thought, he decided to write it himself! Delving beneath common perceptions of Jewish tradition, Rabbi Becher presents fresh and meaningful perspectives that will educate and inspire you. Among the many intriguing topics he addresses are: Is there spirituality in Judaism? In our age of labor-saving devices, do we still need a Sabbath? What is Judaism's view on death and the afterlife? Why is Judaism so full of laws? Why should I pray? Does God really want to hear my complaints? Can Judaism enhance my marriage? Isn't circumcision just an ancient rite of initiation? Is it still relevant? Why is Israel so central to Judaism? Does a religion need a land? Why does a mourner say Kaddish? Wasn't keeping kosher a health measure? Does it still have a purpose today? How can I add meaning to my Passover Seder? Gateway to Judaism reveals Judaism's power to elevate your life. Whether you are new to Jewish tradition, familiar with its practice, or simply curious, you will find this book an illuminating guide to a joyous and fulfilling lifestyle. -- from dust cover.

Communings of the Spirit: 1913-1934 Jun 20 2019 Selections from the diary of Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionism in America.

Complete Story of Purim Sep 04 2020

All is in the Hands of Heaven Sep 23 2019 Mordecai Joseph Leiner of Izbica was a unique thinker in the history of Hasidism with a highly personal vision of Judaism. His teachings, partially derived from the Przysucha-Kotzk school, adopted the concept of absolute divine providence as a cornerstone.

The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion Aug 27 2022 In this book, Kaplan enlarges on his notion of functional reinterpretation and then actually applies it to the entire ritual cycle of the Jewish year--a rarity in modern Jewish thought. This work continues to function as a central text for the Reconstructionist movement, whose influence continues to grow in American Jewry.

Judaism as a Civilization Mar 22 2022 In a book originally published in 1934, the author introduces a different way of looking at Judaism--as a changing religious civilization that requires new ideas in liturgy and ritual, the elimination of obsolete customs and an adjustment based on social, political and cultural conditions. Reprint.

Communings of the Spirit: 1934-1941 Aug 15 2021

Mordecai Kaplan's Thought in a Postmodern Age Jun 13 2021 To find more information about Rowman & Littlefield titles please visit us at www.rowmanlittlefield.com.

The Radical American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan Oct 29 2022 Mordecai M. Kaplan, founder of the Jewish Reconstructionist movement, is the only rabbi to have been excommunicated by the Orthodox rabbinical establishment in America. Kaplan was indeed a radical, rejecting such fundamental Jewish beliefs as the concept of the chosen people and a supernatural God. Although he valued the Jewish community and was a committed Zionist, his primary concern was the spiritual fulfillment of the individual. Drawing on Kaplan's 27-volume diary, Mel Scult describes the development of Kaplan's radical theology in dialogue with the thinkers and writers who mattered to him most, from Spinoza to Emerson and from Ahad Ha-Am and Matthew Arnold to Felix Adler, John Dewey, and Abraham Joshua Heschel. This gracefully argued book, with its sensitive insights into the beliefs of a revolutionary Jewish thinker, makes a powerful contribution to modern Judaism and to contemporary American religious thought.

Judaism Without Supernaturalism Apr 11 2021

The American Judaism of Mordecai M. Kaplan Sep 28 2022 The life, thought, work, and contemporaries of the renowned Judaicist (1881-1983) are explored in 23 contributed essays by authors who approach Kaplan from a broad range of perspectives. Includes a complete bibliography of Kaplan's writings, beginning with his first publication in 1907 and ending with his posthumous works. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

Questions Jews Ask Jul 14 2021 Mordecai Kaplan, the co-founder of the Reconstructionist movement, defines that movement for the reader in this classic volume, which can serve as a contemporary account of the beginning of the Reconstructionist movement. Mordecai Kaplan (1881-1983) was a rabbi and philosopher whose ideology, centering around the concept of Judaism as a civilization, led him to found the

Reconstructionist movement. He was a prolific writer whose other books include *The Meaning of God in Modern Jewish Religion* (1937), *The Future of the American Jew* (1948), and *The Purpose and Meaning of Jewish Existence* (1964).

Reconsidering Israel-Diaspora Relations (paperback) Feb 27 2020 Jewry today is marked by transnational competing movements and local influences, meanwhile worldwide Judeophobia and sympathy for the Palestinian cause make Israel the "Jew among nations". This volume asks: how much is the Jewish Commonwealth still pertinent to Jewry?

Mordecai M. Kaplan Feb 09 2021

All is in the Hands of Heaven Mar 30 2020 Mordecai Joseph Leiner of Izbica was a unique thinker in the history of Hasidism with a highly personal vision of Judaism. His teachings, partially derived from the Przysucha-Kotsk school, adopted the concept of absolute divine providence as a cornerstone.

Mordecai Would Not Bow Down May 12 2021 "Never again!" In the years following the Holocaust, the phrase came to signify a general determination never again to permit systemic anti-Semitism and genocidal violence. Yet anti-Semitism endures, and its underlying causes persist. The resilience of anti-Semitism casts the Holocaust not as inexplicable or singular, but as an event shaped by identifiable--and universal--human prejudices. Despite the intense attention focused on the Holocaust, we consistently misrepresent it. By describing it as a purely irrational phenomenon, we risk minimizing the threat that anti-Semitism continues to pose. Instead, we must identify and acknowledge its causes, which are not only political, economic, and pseudoscientific but ideological as well. Taking its title from the Book of Esther, *Mordecai Would Not Bow Down* investigates these ideological causes. Timothy P. Jackson argues that the Jewish victims of the Holocaust were persecuted for their belief in one God who is the sole Creator of a moral order centered in selflessness and love. Judaic teachings about the importance of caring for the weak and vulnerable overtly contradicted the Nazis' "natural" lust for power and enjoyment of cruelty, which further fueled their anti-Semitism. By analyzing the ideological clash between Nazism and Judaism, Jackson reveals the ways in which Christianity was complicit in the Holocaust--specifically, the role of Christian supersessionism: the belief that the New Covenant supplants or erases the Old Covenant, making Christians and not Jews God's elect. Supersessionism has historically enabled Christian anti-Semitic violence. Yet Judaism and Christianity are ultimately complementary in their shared origins and analogous aims: the Law that saves the Jews and the Gospel that saves the Gentiles are of a piece. God's choosing the Jewish people to embody collectively a message of fellowship and moral responsibility is parallel to God's calling on Jesus to save humanity individually. Moreover, both divine vocations often engender demonic resentment. Recognizing that Auschwitz and Calvary are but two sites of the same murderous despair is an important step toward eliminating the pervasive menace of anti-Semitism.

The Greater Judaism in the Making Aug 03 2020

Yakar Le'Mordecai Jan 08 2021 *Yakar Le'Mordecai* commemorates forty years of Rabbi Waxman's service to Temple Israel of Great Neck; it was initiated by his grateful congregants and carried through by his colleagues and friends. It mirrors his interests in and contributions to Jewish scholarship and thought, and is divided into four sections, each pertaining to an area in which Rabbi Waxman has been involved. Part I is a retrospective of Rabbi Waxman's career in the rabbinate and in Jewish scholarship; Part II, on Jewish thought, contains articles which reflect the honoree's broad knowledge of the topic, from Biblical studies to contemporary theology. Part III deals with Jewish-Christian relations, as well as the position of Jews in various parts of the world in their relations with the surrounding cultures, and Part IV with American Judaism. Along with the many other contributions, this volume contains articles by Rabbi Waxman's later father and wife and one by his son, Rabbi Jonathan Waxman.

A Year with Mordecai Kaplan Dec 19 2021 You are invited to spend a year with the inspirational words, ideas, and counsel of the great twentieth-century thinker Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan, through his meditations on the fifty-four weekly Torah portions and eleven Jewish holidays. A pioneer of ideas and action--teaching that "Judaism is a civilization" encompassing Jewish culture, art, and peoplehood; demonstrating how synagogues can be full centers for Jewish living (building one of the first "shuls with a pool"); and creating the first-ever bat mitzvah ceremony (for his daughter Judith)--Kaplan transformed the landscape of American Jewry. Yet much of Kaplan's rich treasury of ethical and spiritual thought is largely unknown. Rabbi Steven Carr Reuben, who studied closely with Kaplan, offers unique insight into Kaplan's teachings about ethical relationships and spiritual fulfillment, including how to embrace godliness in everyday experience, our mandate to become agents of justice in the world, and the human ability to evolve personally and collectively. Quoting from the week's Torah portion, Reuben presents Torah commentary, a related quotation from Kaplan, a reflective commentary integrating Kaplan's understanding of the Torah text, and an intimate story about his family or community's struggles and triumphs--guiding twenty-first-century spiritual seekers of all backgrounds on how to live reflectively and purposefully every day.

Communings of the Spirit Jan 20 2022 Selections from the diary of the founder of Reconstructionism in America, covering Kaplan's early years as a rabbi, teacher of rabbis, and community leader.

Judaism's Encounter with American Sports Jun 01 2020 *Judaism's Encounter with American Sports* examines how sports entered the lives of American Jewish men and women and how the secular values of sports threatened religious identification and observance. What do Jews do when a society -- in this case, a team -- "chooses them in," but demands commitments that clash with ancestral ties and practices? Jeffrey S. Gurock uses the experience of sports to illuminate an important mode of modern Jewish religious conflict and accommodation to America. He considers the defensive strategies American Jewish leaders have employed in response to sports' challenges to identity, such as using temple and synagogue centers, complete with gymnasiums and swimming pools, to attract the athletically inclined to Jewish life. Within the suburban frontiers of post--World War II America, sports-minded modern Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform rabbis competed against one another for the allegiances of Jewish athletes and all other Americanized Jews. In the present day, tensions among Jewish movements are still played out in the sports arena. Today, in a mostly accepting American society, it is easy for sports-minded Jews to assimilate completely, losing all regard for Jewish ties. At the same time, a very tolerant America has enabled Jews to succeed in the sports world, while keeping faith with Jewish traditions. Gurock foregrounds his engaging book against his own experiences as a basketball player, coach, and marathon runner. By using the metaphor of sports, *Judaism's Encounter with American Sports* underscores the basic religious dilemmas of our day.

Understanding Judaism Sep 16 2021 What does the Torah say that makes it relevant to today? How can we understand the mitzvot? Why should I believe? Why be Jewish? What does a Jew have to do? Is science an enemy of Judaism? JEP has answers. For decades, the Jewish Education Prog

Jacksonian Jew Jan 28 2020

Judaism Faces the Twentieth Century Jun 25 2022 Kaplan, who died in 1983 at the age of 102, arrived in America as a boy, and, as he grew, sought to find ways of making Judaism compatible with the American experience and the modern temper. He founded the Jewish Center and the Society for the Advancement of Judaism, establishing the prototypes for the modern expanded synagogue. This biography reappraises the significance of his contributions and offers an intimate look at the man and his thinking. Annotation copyright by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

The Shengold Jewish Encyclopedia Oct 17 2021 First published in 1957, this one-volume source for everything Jewish has delighted and

instructed several generations in the English-speaking Jewish world. Fully updated through 2007, it provides snapshots and in-depth entries on every important Jewish personality, place, concept, event and value in Israel, the United States, and all other parts of the world.

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