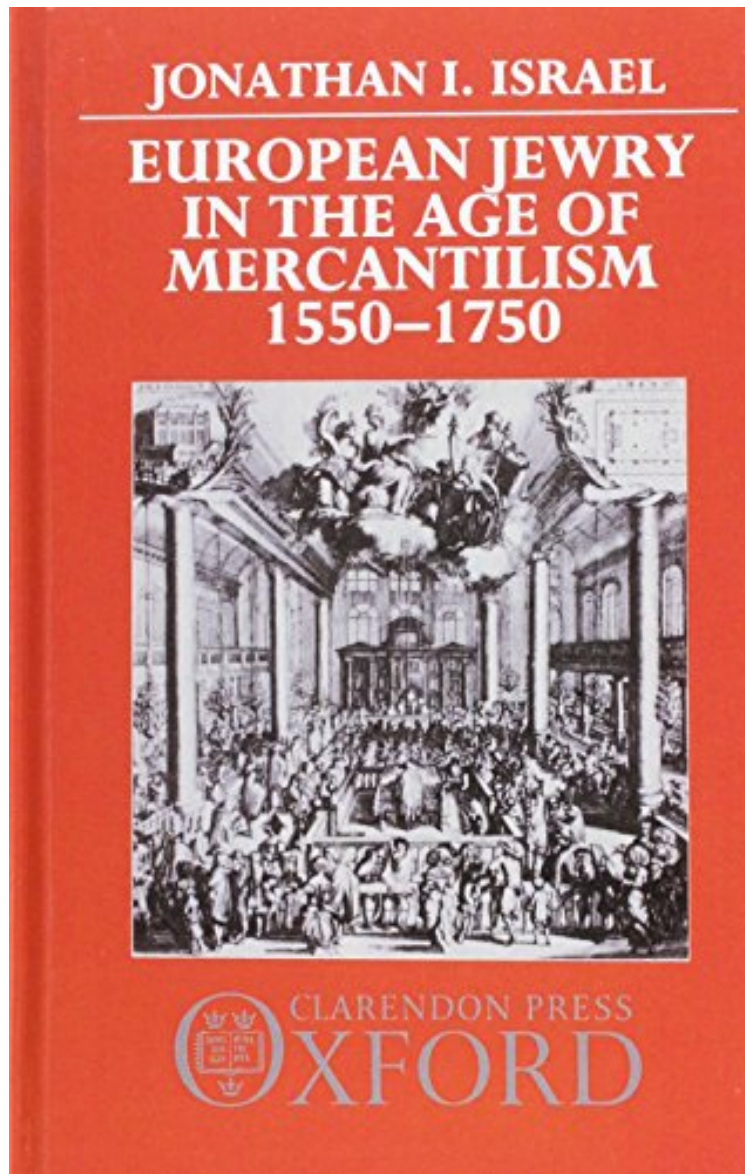


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Jonathan Israel

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were descendants of Jews persecuted by the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions, as well as less familiar but no less despicable acts of barbarity. The monograph is an economic history, first, a cultural history, second and an intellectual history, third. Well worth the read by anyone interested in a deep study of this period, focusing on Jews, Jewish culture, and Jewish merchants and bankers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book on this topic and this period. By K. Kennedy "European Jewry in the Age of Merchantilism 1550-1750" by Jonathan Israel is a fascinating book on the topic, and does a very nice job of not focusing solely on the Jews in the usual parts of Europe, but spreads his observations and research liberally over the entire continent. His writing is interesting, and he compares and contrasts the situations of Jews both over time and in different areas, which provides a good understanding of the delicate balance and dexterity needed to survive as a Jew in this period. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A worthy book. By Michael E. Abrams Very fine book that has a great grasp of historical episodes and trends. I am reading it slowly to absorb all of the good information. I realize there are other ways to interpret the Jewish history of this time, but this sets a high standard for research.

Contrary to commonly accepted belief, the 16th and 17th centuries marked a radically new phase in Jewish history. Far more than a mere extension of the Jewish Middle Ages, this was an era in which European Jewry was partially set free from the stifling restraints and restrictions of the past. This historical survey focuses on the rapidly expanding Jewish role in the political, economic, and cultural realms that began in the 1570s, when the tide of mercantilism, politique attitudes, and *raison d'Etat* political theory swept Jews back into the mainstream of western life. The book highlights the interaction between Jewry and the European states, seeing the golden age of the "Court Jews" from 1650 to 1713 as the peak period of Jewish impact on European culture and affairs, and concludes with the decline of Jewish influence on European society in the 18th century.

an important book... will be of extreme value to all students of early modern Europe. * Lionel Kochan, British Book News * About the Author Jonathan I. Israel is Professor in the School of Historical Studies, Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, and was formerly Professor of Dutch History and Institutions at the University of London. He is the author of *The Dutch Republic and the Hispanic World, 1606-1661* (1986), *Dutch Primacy in World Trade, 1585-1740* (1989), *Empires and Entrepots: The Dutch, the Spanish Monarchy, and the Jews, 1585-1713* (1990), *The Dutch Republic: Its Rise, Greatness, and Fall, 1477-1806* (1995), *Conflicts of Empires: Spain, the Low Countries, and the Struggle for World Supremacy, 1585-1713* (1997), *Radical Enlightenment: Philosophy and the Making of Modernity, 1650-1750*, and *Diasporas within a Diaspora: Jews, Crypto-Jews, and the World Maritime Empires, 1540-1740* (2002), and editor of *The Anglo-Dutch Moment: Essays on the Glorious Revolution and its World Impact* (1991). He has held visiting professorships and research fellowships in the Netherlands and France, and at the University of California at Los Angeles, and is a Fellow of the British Academy.