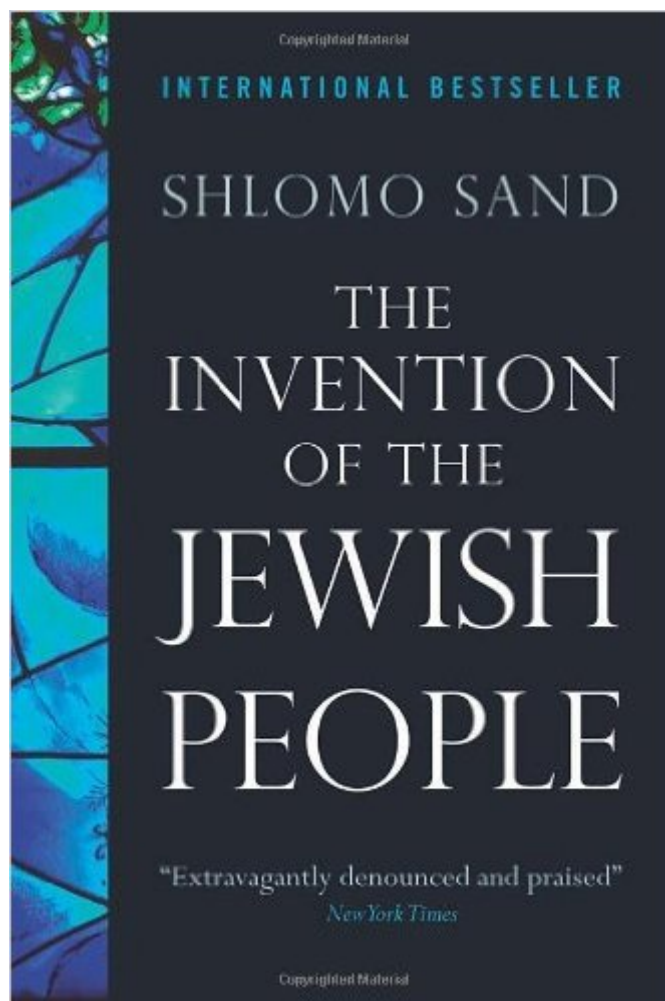


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The Invention Of The Jewish People



Synopsis

A historical tour de force, *The Invention of the Jewish People* offers a groundbreaking account of Jewish and Israeli history. Exploding the myth that there was a forced Jewish exile in the first century at the hands of the Romans, Israeli historian Shlomo Sand argues that most modern Jews descend from converts, whose native lands were scattered across the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In this iconoclastic work, which spent nineteen weeks on the Israeli bestseller list and won the coveted Aujourd'hui Award in France, Sand provides the intellectual foundations for a new vision of Israel's future.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Sand’s questions about how Israel’s democracy can be liberalized and stabilized are thought-provoking and deserve serious discussion.” —Haaretz
“Perhaps books combining passion and erudition don’t change political situations, but if they did, this one would count as a landmark.” —Eric Hobsbawm, Observer
“[Sand’s] quiet earthquake of a book is shaking historical faith in the link between Judaism and Israel.” —Rafael Behr, Observer
“Anyone interested in understanding the contemporary Middle East should read this book.” —Tony Judt
“Extravagantly denounced and praised.” —New York Times
“No discussion of the region any longer seems complete without acknowledgement of this book.” —Independent on Sunday
“Best History Books of 2009” —A radical dismantling of a national myth. —Guardian
“Almost too baseless to debunk.” —Jewish Journal

Shlomo Sand studied history at the University of Tel Aviv and at the École des hautes Études en sciences sociales, in Paris. He currently teaches contemporary history at the University of Tel Aviv. His books include *The Invention of the Jewish People*, *On the Nation and the Jewish People*, *L'illusion du politique: Georges Sorel et le débat intellectuel 1900*, *Georges Sorel en son temps*, *Le XXe siècle à l'écran* and *Les Mots et la terre: les intellectuels en Israël*.

I am not "anti-Semitic." Half the books I read are written by wonderful "Jewish" minds. But there is this horrible confusion in the world today that the people running Israel (and have been stealing from and murdering Arab people for decades) are "Jewish" by blood. They aren't. Almost all people in the Western, modern world today who are regarded as Jews are, for the most part, Russian/Khazarian. That's not a crime. That's fine. But we don't call Irish people "Catholic," simply because many practice the Catholic religion. Worse yet, the original inhabitants of the Old Testament lands were Semitic...Arab/Phoenician, etc. They are brown or black-skinned (a fact mentioned in the Bible). This very well-written book, written by a Khazarian "Jew," addresses this confusion. Israel, and America's support of it, is the fault-line of the world. These misconceptions, and the Israeli lobby in America, are going to get us all killed. But not if we understood the details of Shlomo Sand's book. I am very grateful for having read it.

Deep scholarly research. A new and challenging study of the history of the Jewish experience and the creation of Israel

I learned very much, it is very enlightening. It is based on very thorough research and a large amount of information.

well written and researched . An enlightening look at the birth of the Israeli state. I must read for scholars of Zionism.

precise footnoted well organized well written historical research in the service of truth about Israel and Judaism

A good read definitely recommended for anyone interested in studying Jewish history it dispels the age old myth that there was a major expulsion of the Jews from Palestine in yr 70AD.

When I first learned about this book I was intrigued. But since I did not read Hebrew or had a desire to learn to read Hebrew I had to wait until the English version came out. Here it is and I am enthralled and challenged in my old views and what I've been taught since I was young about who and what Jews were. Then we come to the myth of the diaspora and the Zionist claim upon the land. It was a lie, a germ intended to confuse and misinform others about the fact that the vast majority of Jews never left, the Romans never sent the bulk of them via a one-way ticket away to live in other lands. That the Jews actually stayed and many became Christian or Muslim. The reasoning behind the variance of so many Jews scattered throughout the world was one of conversion nothing else. Fascinating.

First of all, I was drawn in by the author's style of writing. I felt like I was actually there, in the scenarios he described. Second, perhaps some people will be confused and wonder about secular vs. religious Jews, and how they relate to Zionism. Not all Zionists are Jews, but some Jews are Zionists. Christians largely support Israel/Zionism. Religious Jews make out as if they generally don't, due to a belief that the time for Israel has passed and they disobeyed God. But really, there is both a secular-political and political-religious agenda, since Judaism allows for dissent (what Muslims call fitna). And according to author Marjane Satrapi (*Persepolis*), 2 things that can unite people are religion and nationalism. Israel has both. Jews don't need their version of the EDL - they have the ADL, and also leaders speaking for the EDL like Rabbi Nachum Shifren (look him up on YouTube, including "Freudian slip"). Recently, they have been wanting their own parliament in Europe. In several countries there, it is illegal to criticize or question the Holocaust or the number of people that were killed, nevermind that it wasn't a wholly Jewish massacre. Pretty powerful for less than 1% of the population. Israel does not recognize atheism as a religious category, nor marriage between Jews and Gentiles. The so-called "God's chosen people" wield a belief in intrinsic value of blood even over other Jews; sticking to matrilineal heritage and the state favoring Ashkenazim over Sephardim. Israel also does not have an official constitution, and is called a "democratic regime." Instead, it goes by "The Basic Laws of Israel." In a (true) democracy, it is the majority that wins. Not to be confused with the US, which is a republic or representative democracy. So many people confuse "democratic values" (which comprise the principles of the American government) in this way. And this is why perhaps, those that support Israel are not very aware of what is going on. Zionists are elitists, but will gladly take any and all the help they can get. I also recommend reading, "Jewish Fundamentalism in Israel," "The Holocaust Industry: The Exploitation of Jewish Suffering," Jack Bernstein's "The Life of An American Jew in Racist Marxist Israel" and "My Farewell

to Israel." The first is almost never heard of, because it's toned-down; the second I think people are too busy joining in a mass cryfest to realize. A group that is successful and smart does not exclude the possibility of having bigots and victim card-players in their midst.

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