Contents

Note on Transliteration  xiv

Introduction: Writing Jewish History in the Postmodern Climate  1

1. Some a priori Issues in Jewish Historiography  19

2. The Postmodern Period in Jewish History  56

3. Hybrid with What? The Relationship between Jewish Culture and Other People’s Cultures  82

4. The Jewish Contribution to (Multicultural) Civilization  111

5. Prolegomenon to the Study of Jewish Cultural History  131

6. Methodological Hybridity: The Art of Jewish Historiography and the Methods of Folklore  154

7. Jewish Women’s History: First Steps and a False Start—The Case of Jacob Katz  168

Conclusion: Jewish History and Postmodernity—Challenge and Rapprochement  182

Bibliography  187

Index  217
Key Issues in Modern Jewish History. How emancipation, nationalism, capitalism and liberalism affected the Jews. Israel History. Israel’s War of Independence. Establishing a new nation and defending it. Jewish History. False Messiahs in Judaism. Many have claimed to be the Jewish Messiah, and the results have often been disastrous. American Jews. Black Wedding: Marrying the Spanish Flu Away. This Jewish response to a devastating epidemic in the early 20th century drew on a mixture of Eastern European customs and inspired both fierce proponents and harsh critics. Ladino. The 11 Best Ladino Expr Once we asked, “Who is a Jew?” Now the big question is, “What is Jewish History?” Both questions are largely academic and typical of a particular mindset that desires to know exactly how to characterize human affairs and where other human beings fit it. It is a product of Western philosophical culture, modern nationalism, and indeed scientific categorization. I don’t for the life of me understand why it has taken me so long to read Moshe Rosman’s excellent How Jewish is Jewish History? (Littman Library of Jewish Civilization). I must have been sleepwalking, for it is a most important and esse