


Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews


By Jack Salzman, Gretchen S Sorin, Irving Howe Comp, Marlene Park



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While no single volume can fully explain this issue, Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews provides us with a means to challenge, and perhaps even to verify, our sense of the past - and in so doing to better understand the present. Fifteen critical essays by leading historians, scholars, and political and religious figures of this century provide historical overviews of the relationships between African Americans and American Jews. They also represent the diverse attitudes within the two groups, and reflect the multiple voices that have themselves shaped these attitudes. A visual essay that follows links texts and images of more than one hundred works of art and artifacts, first seen in an exhibit at The Jewish Museum, to explore the historical "places" at which the paths of African Americans and American Jews have crossed in meaningful ways during this century.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

With contributions by black and Jewish scholars, journalists and leaders, this illustrated companion volume to a traveling exhibition is a Milquetoast of a work. It busies itself with glorifying a black-Jewish common history of suffering, persecution and dedication to civil rights and with generally bemoaning the present rift between the two communities, but on the whole it pussyfoots around recent thornier displays of black-Jewish animosity. In linked 1964 articles, Abraham Joshua Heschel and Martin Luther King Jr. commit themselves to the dual causes of civil rights and Soviet Jewry; David Levering Lewis's 1984 piece focuses on the assimilationist strategies of black and Jewish elites from 1910 to the early 1930s; in a 1963 essay, then-liberal Norman Podhoretz exudes guilt over his hatred and fear of blacks; and a 1984 piece by Barbara Smith reveals how uncomfortable black feminists are with opposing anti-Semitism. Taylor Branch's sharp 1989 dissection of black-Jewish tensions in Chicago is an anomaly here; more telling is the absence of analyses of the 1991 murder of Yankel Rosenbaum in Brooklyn's Crown Heights and City College professor Leonard Jeffries's anti-Semitic remarks, also that year. Salzman directs Columbia University's Center for American Culture Studies.

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From Library Journal

Over the last 25 years there has been a widening schism in relations between the African American and American Jewish communities. This volume, a collaborative effort between the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and New York's Jewish Museum that accompanies an exhibit, examines the prominent question of how and why the strong alliance for social justice among blacks and Jews in the United States began to disintegrate in the 1960s. A related issue is whether that alliance actually existed. Fifteen essays, authored by noted political and religious leaders, historians, and scholars, open with a historical overview and then continue with dialogs from African Americans and American Jews discussing current group attitudes and how these attitudes developed. Over 100 historically significant visual images link the text to the common experience of both groups. A valuable purchase for race relations collections in academic and public libraries alike.

- *Michael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Lib., Ind.*

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From the Back Cover

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Users Review

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Linda Musselwhite:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent these people free time just watching TV, or

playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity that is look different you can read some sort of book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spent the entire day to reading a guide. The book Bridges and Boundaries: African Americans and American Jews it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. When you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy often the e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from the smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book features high quality.

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