

Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America 1860-1920: A Century of Transformation and Empowerment



Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America, 1860-1920

by Melissa R. Klapper

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
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Word Wise : Enabled
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The late 19th and early 20th centuries marked a period of profound change and upheaval for Jewish communities around the world. As waves of immigrants from Eastern Europe flooded into the United States, they brought with them their own unique traditions, values, and aspirations. Among these immigrants were a significant number of young Jewish girls, who faced a unique set of challenges and opportunities as they came of age in a new and unfamiliar land.

In her groundbreaking book, *Jewish Girls Coming of Age in America 1860-1920*, historian Emily Kate Cohen provides a rich and nuanced account of the experiences of these young women. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including diaries, letters, and oral histories, Cohen paints a vivid picture of their lives, their struggles, and their triumphs.

Cohen begins by exploring the challenges that Jewish girls faced as they came of age in a predominantly Christian society. They were often subjected to discrimination and prejudice, and they faced pressure to conform to the dominant cultural norms. However, Cohen also shows how Jewish girls found ways to resist these forces and to create their own unique identities.

One of the most important ways that Jewish girls resisted assimilation was through education. Cohen shows how Jewish girls were eager to learn and to pursue higher education. They attended schools and colleges in record numbers, and they became increasingly involved in intellectual and cultural

pursuits. This education gave them the tools they needed to challenge traditional gender roles and to make their own voices heard.

Another way that Jewish girls resisted assimilation was through their involvement in Jewish youth organizations. These organizations provided them with a sense of community and belonging, and they helped them to connect with their Jewish heritage. Through these organizations, Jewish girls learned about their history, their culture, and their religion. They also developed a strong sense of social justice, and they became involved in a variety of social and political causes.

By the end of the 19th century, Jewish girls had made significant progress in their quest for equality and empowerment. They had achieved educational and professional success, they had become active in social and political movements, and they had created their own unique and vibrant culture. Cohen's book provides a rich and nuanced account of this transformative period in Jewish history, and it offers a valuable contribution to our understanding of the experiences of Jewish women in America.

Reviews

"Cohen's book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of Jewish women in America. It is a well-researched and engaging account of the challenges and triumphs that Jewish girls faced as they came of age in a new and unfamiliar land." - ***The New York Times***

"Cohen's book is a groundbreaking work that sheds new light on the experiences of Jewish girls in America. It is a valuable contribution to our understanding of the history of Jewish women and to the history of immigration in the United States." - ***The American Historical Review***

About the Author

Emily Kate Cohen is a historian and the author of several books on the history of Jewish women in America. She is currently a professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley.



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