

---

# RELIGION OR ETHNICITY?

---

*Jewish Identities in Evolution*

---

EDITED BY ZVI GITELMAN

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY PRESS  
*New Brunswick, New Jersey, and London*

# Contents

Introduction: Jewish Religion, Jewish Ethnicity—The  
Evolution of Jewish Identities

ZVI GITELMAN I

## Part I Jewishness and Judaism in the Premodern Era 5

- 1 Secularism, Hellenism, and Rabbis in Antiquity  
YARON Z. ELIAV 7
- 2 What Is a Judaism? Perspectives from Second  
Temple Jewish Studies  
GABRIELE BOCCACCINI 24
- 3 Crypto-Jewish Criticism of Tradition and Its Echoes  
in Jewish Communities  
MIRIAM BODIAN 38
- 4 Spinoza and the Origins of Jewish Secularism  
STEVEN NADLER 59

## Part II Challenges of Secular Jewishness in Modern Times 67

- 5 Yiddish Schools in America and the Problem of  
Secular Jewish Identity  
DAVID E. FISHMAN 69
- 6 Beyond Assimilation: Introducing Subjectivity  
to German-Jewish History  
SCOTT SPECTOR 90
- 7 Jewish Self-Identification and West European  
Categories of Belonging: From the Enlightenment  
to World War II  
TODD ENDELMAN 104
- 8 People of the (Secular) Book: Literary Anthologies  
and the Making of Jewish Identity in Postwar America  
JULIAN LEVINSON 131

**Part III Secular Jewishness in Israel Today 147**

- 9 Secular-Jewish Identity and the Condition of  
Secular Judaism in Israel  
CHARLES S. LIEBMAN AND YAACOV YADGAR 149
- 10 Beyond the Religious-Secular Dichotomy:  
Masortim in Israel  
YAACOV YADGAR AND CHARLES S. LIEBMAN 171
- 11 What Kind of Jewish State Do Israelis Want? Israeli and  
Arab Attitudes toward Religion and Politics  
MARK TESSLER 193
- 12 The Construction of Secular and Religious in Modern  
Hebrew Literature  
SHACHAR PINSKER 221

**Part IV Secular Jewishness in the Diaspora Today 239**

- 13 Jewish Identity and Secularism in Post-Soviet  
Russia and Ukraine  
ZVI GITELMAN 241
- 14 Judaism, Community, and Jewish Culture in American Life:  
Continuities and Transformations  
CALVIN GOLDSCHIEDER 267
- 15 Beyond *Apikorsut*: A Judaism for Secular Jews  
ADAM CHALOM 286
- Conclusion: The Nature and Viability of Jewish  
Religious and Secular Identities  
ZVI GITELMAN 303
- Contributors 323
- Index 325