

# Contents

Acknowledgements ix

List of Contributors x

Robert M. Seltzer: Scholar and Teacher 1

*Brian M. Smollett*

Introduction: Jewish Identities in the Modern Period 5

*Christian Wiese*

## PART I

### Jewish Life and Modern Questions in Russia and Eastern Europe

Language Acquisition as a Criterion of Modernization among East Central European Jews: The Case of Dov Ber Birkenthal of Bolechów 13

*Gershon David Hundert*

Mikhael Yosef Berdichevsky and Shimon Dubnow: A Distant Regard and Appreciation 29

*William Cutter*

Saul Borovoi's Survival: An Odessa Tale about a Jewish Historian in Soviet Times 46

*Brian Horowitz*

Defying Authority in the Pale: The Making of Soviet Jewish Rituals and the Emergence of Folk Legitimacy 62

*Elissa Bemporad*

## PART 2

**Jewish Thought and Questions of Identity****Pride and Pedigree: The Development of the Myth of Sephardic****Aristocratic Lineage** 85*Jane S. Gerber***Joshua Hezekiah Decordova and a Rabbinic Counter-Enlightenment from  
Colonial Jamaica** 104*Stanley Mirvis***Merchant Colonies: Resettlement in Italy, France, Holland, and England,  
1550–1700** 123*David Sorkin***From Combat to Convergence: The Relationship between Heinrich Graetz  
and Abraham Geiger** 145*Michael A. Meyer***Kaplan and Personality** 162*Mel Scult***How Much Eastern Europe in American Jewish Thought? The Case of Jacob  
B. Agus** 180*Zach Mann***Diaspora, Jewishness, and Difference in Isaiah Berlin's Thought** 207*Arie M. Dubnov***Martin Buber and the Impact of World War I on the Prague Zionists Shmuel  
H. Bergman, Robert Weltsch, and Hans Kohn** 235*Christian Wiese***The Rise and Fall of a Jewish Vision in the Life and Thought of  
Hans Kohn** 268*Brian M. Smollett*

PART 3

Jewish Religion and Politics in America

How the Bible Expelled Religion from the American Schoolroom: The Causes and Consequences of Bible Wars in Nineteenth-Century American Schools	289
<i>Stephan F. Brumberg</i>	
Lay and Rabbinic Conflict in Mid-Nineteenth Century American Jewry	304
<i>Bruce L. Ruben</i>	
An International Solution for an International Problem: The JDC and the AJC in the 1930s	328
<i>Naomi W. Cohen</i>	
Stephen S. Wise and Golda Meir: Zionism, Israel, and American Power in the Twentieth Century	356
<i>Mark A. Raider</i>	
“We Must Build Anew”: Ideological Perspectives of the First Generation of Students to Attend Stephen S. Wise’s Jewish Institute of Religion	388
<i>Shirley Idelson</i>	
A Judaism for Moderns: Reflections on Contemporary Challenges	412
<i>Sanford Ragins</i>	
Writings of Robert M. Seltzer	427
<i>Roberta S. Newman</i>	
Index	434