

The religious communities of early modern Eastern Europe—particularly those with a mystical bent—are typically studied in isolation. Yet the heavy Slavic imprint on Jewish popular mysticism and pervasive Judaizing tendencies among Christian dissenters call into question the presumed binary quality of Jewish-Christian interactions. In *Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe*, editor Glenn Dynner presents twelve essays that chart contacts, parallels, and mutual influences between Jewish and Christian mystics. With cutting-edge research on folk healers, messianists, Hasidim, and Christian sectarians, this volume presents instances of rich cultural interchange and bold border transgression.

Holy Dissent is divided into two sections: “Jewish Mystics in a Christian World” and “Christianizing Jews, Judaizing Christians.” In these essays, readers learn that Jewish and Christian folk healers consulted each other and learned from common sources; that the founder of Hasidism, Rabbi Israel Ba‘al Shem Tov, likely drew inspiration from Christian ascetics; that Christian peasants sought and obtained audience with

Hasidic masters; that Jewish mystics openly Christianized; and that Christian mystics openly Judaized. In contrast to prevailing models that present Jewish and Christian cultures as either rigidly autonomous or ambiguously hybrid, *Holy Dissent* charts specific types of religious-cultural exchange and broadens our conception of how cultures interact.

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HOLY DISSENT

“This very interesting collection of essays opens the door wide to considering Eastern European Jewry and Judaism in a broad historical context. Dynner and the participants have made a solid contribution to our understanding. I learned much from reading it.” —**ARTHUR GREEN**, rector in the Rabbinical School at Hebrew College

“I cannot think of a recent collection that has so much novel and significant material in it. Some of these essays are first publications and very significant ones. Many of the contributors use newly available sources and ask fresh questions.”

—**SHAUL STAMPFER**, Rabbi Edward Sandrow Professor of Soviet and East European Jewry and chairman of the Department of Jewish History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem