

[PDF] Rome And Jerusalem: The Clash Of Ancient Civilizations

Martin Goodman - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Rome and Jerusalem: The Clash

Author: Martin Goodman

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly Starred Review. The Jewish revolt against the Romans, ending with the destruction of Jerusalem and its Temple in A.D. 70, marked an irreparable breach between the pagan-and later Christian-worlds and an outcast Jewish minority. Yet the first two-thirds of this absorbing historical study explores the harmony of Roman and Judaic civilizations before the revolt. Goodman, a professor of Jewish studies at Oxford, finds many similarities in a far-ranging comparative analysis of their religions, cultures, economies and governments, though he gives more space to the worldly, extravagant Romans than to the relatively austere and parochial Jews. Before the revolt, he contends, Romans considered Jews unobjectionable, despite their eccentric monotheism; Jerusalem prospered under Roman rule and Jews living in diaspora were well

integrated into Roman society. Goodman argues that the cataclysm could have been avoided (the burning of the Temple was accidental, he believes) but for the politics of the imperial succession, which prompted a needlessly hard line against the revolt and then Judaism itself. Drawing on Josephus's firsthand narrative, Goodman fleshes out his lucid account with archeology, numismatics and commentary from Roman and Jewish sources. The result is a scholarly tour de force, a resonant story of a tragic conflict caused by political miscalculation and opportunism. 16 pages of photos, 8 maps. (Oct. 28)

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Review "This is an important book, on a difficult subject: the reason why the Romans, who had so much in common with the Jews, sought to destroy the Jews and Judaism completely. Only one man could have written it. Martin Goodman is professor of Jewish studies at Oxford and has the unique distinction of having edited both the *Journal of Roman Studies* and the *Journal of Jewish Studies*. This polarity of expertise enables him to describe in a penetrating way the terrifying Jewish revolts against Rome of AD 66-70 and 132-5, as well as provide a fresh and convincing analysis of their origins and consequences. . . Goodman has written a splendid book."

--Paul Johnson, "The Tablet"

"Martin Goodman's massive new treatment of two crucial centuries of Jewish history should be read by anyone seeking seriously to understand modern Middle Eastern tangles. . . It would be pleasing to feel that international statesmen might draw lessons from Goodman's lucid account of ancient tragedy."

--Diarmaid MacCulloch, "The Guardian"

"Sombre and magisterial. . . a brilliant comparative survey. . . There can be no doubting that the issues raised by "Rome and Jerusalem" will have a resonance with readers far beyond the confines of university classes or theology departments. The Roman world has begun to hold a mirror up to our own anxieties in a way that would have appeared wholly implausible a bare decade ago. If it was the fall of the Bastille that shaped 19th and 20th century history, then it can sometimes seem as though the 21st century is being shaped by the fall, nearly 2000 long years ago, of Jerusalem."

--Tom Holland, "Sunday Times"

"His style is brisk and clear, his learning prodigious and his scope immense. . . as Goodman's compelling and timely book reminds us, even the most pessimistic could hardly have guessed that it would take 2000 years for [the Jews] to return to their holy city -- or that even then, their battles would be far from over."

--Dominic Sandbrook, "Saturday" "Telegraph"

"Rome and Jerusalem" is, among many other things, a history of anti-Semitism -- or, if that term is felt to be anachronistic for Goodman's period. . . judaophobia. . . Martin Goodman has spent his career studying both ancient Rome and ancient Jerusalem ... He is thus the ideal scholar to try to hack a way through these tangled thickets of belief, prejudice and false consciousness."

--Paul Cartledge, "Sunday Telegraph"

"A monumental work of scholarship ... the parallels with modern day Baghdad are all the more resonant for Goodman studiously avoiding them."

--Rabbi David J. Goldberg, the "Independent"

"An impressive, scholarly book."

--"The Economist"

"From the Hardcover edition."

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