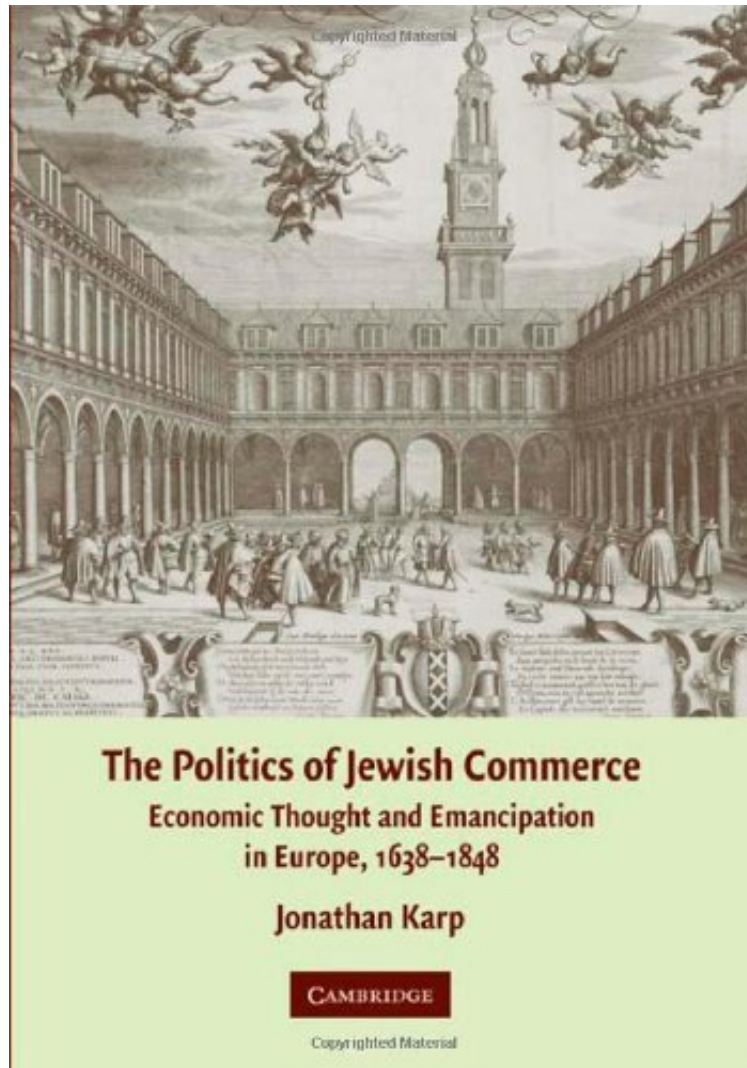


(Library ebook) The Politics of Jewish Commerce: Economic Thought and Emancipation in Europe, 1638ndash;1848

The Politics of Jewish Commerce: Economic Thought and Emancipation in Europe, 1638ndash;1848

Jonathan Karp

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Jonathan Karp : The Politics of Jewish Commerce: Economic Thought and Emancipation in Europe, 1638ndash;1848 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Politics of Jewish Commerce: Economic Thought and Emancipation in Europe, 1638ndash;1848:

This study demonstrates the centrality of economic rationales to debates on Jews' status in Italy, Britain, France and

Germany during the course of two centuries. It delineates the common themes that informed these debates - the ideal republic and the 'ancient constitution', the conflict between virtue and commerce, and the notion of useful and productive labor. It thus provides an overview of the political-economic dimensions of Jewish emancipation literature of this period. This overview is viewed against the backdrop of broader controversies within European society over the effects of commerce on inherited political values and institutions. By focusing on economic attitudes toward Jews, the book also illuminates European intellectual approaches toward economic modernity. By elucidating these general debates, it renders more contemporary Jewish economic self-conceptions - and the enormous impetus that Jewish reformist movements placed on the Jews' economic and occupational transformation - fully explicable.

"Magisterial..." -The Leo Baeck Institute Newsletter "Rarely have scholars undertaken, as Jonathan Karp does in this new book, to position the ongoing debates on Jewish emancipation within larger debates over trade, commerce, and political economy within European intellectual history. And no scholar to date has done so in such a wide-ranging and thorough manner as Karp, looking at so many different national contexts and at such a broad field of early-modern history. This is...a major book that should be required reading for scholars and graduate students in Jewish history, in early-modern history more generally, and in the history of Western economic thought." --The International History
"The Politics of Jewish Commerce is an important and stimulating contribution to at least three areas of study-Jewish history, modern economic thought, and the Enlightenment. Its value lies in the originality of its perspectives, which flow from the author's excellent decision to adopt an intellectual-historical approach to European economic thought in the period 1650 to 1850 insofar as it relates to the political debate about the place of Jews in modern society." --
Journal of Interdisciplinary History "This original and thoroughly researched book carefully analyzes debates surrounding the place and role of 'the Jews' in the economy of early modern Western Europe. The end result is a convincing, fresh and careful analysis of three related but potentially explosive topics that are rarely dealt with appropriately in academia and beyond: Jews, money and modernity. This is a convincing, learned and path-breaking analysis of several different, yet related, fields that add significantly to the study of early modern Europe, the birth of modern economic and political thought, and the place and role of "the Jews" in all three of these discourses." --
Religious Studies About the Author Jonathan Karp is Associate Professor in the Judaic Studies and History Departments at Binghamton University, SUNY. He is co-editor of *The Art of Being Jewish in Modern Times* (with Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, 2007). His current book projects are *The Rise and Demise of the Black-Jewish Alliance: A Class-Cultural Analysis and Philosemitism in History* (with Adam Sutcliffe; Cambridge University Press, 2008).