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Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land

By Shalom L. Goldman



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The standard histories of Zionism have depicted it almost exclusively as a Jewish political movement, one in which Christians do not appear except as antagonists. In the highly original *Zeal for Zion*, Shalom Goldman makes the case for a wider and more inclusive history, one that brings the substantial Christian involvement with Zionism--most recently by American evangelical Protestants--into the light.

Goldman offers a fresh perspective on the history of Zionism, deftly weaving together the stories of poets and diplomats, Christian scholars and Jewish leaders, the Vatican and the State of Israel, and modern literary masters such as Jorge Luis Borges, Robert Graves, and Vladimir Nabokov. Goldman argues that Jewish Zionism was influenced by--and cannot be understood in isolation from--Christian culture generally and Christian Zionist culture specifically. Shedding light on the deep and interrelated roots of Christian-Jewish relations, fraught with tension and ambivalence, he finds that Christian support for the Jewish Zionist cause has been essential to the success of the movement.

Christian Zionism has a long history and has been embraced at various times by Catholics and Protestants, liberals and conservatives, reformers and traditionalists. *Zeal for Zion* places this vital movement within the larger history of Zionism, making the story of Zionism all the more rich and complex.



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Editorial Review

Review

A fresh look at the movement that spawned the Jewish homeland.--*Jewish Book World*

The material that has been drawn on and the way in which new light has been shed on a diverse group of Christian supporters of Zionism is a most welcome and important addition to the literature.--*Church History*

All told, the value of *Zeal for Zion* lies in bringing together the overlooked Christian Zionists into a single volume.--*Haaretz*

Engaging. . . . There is much in this book that is new and important. *Zeal for Zion* will undoubtedly stand as an important source of information and insight.--*American Historical Review*

Important if sometimes unsettling readings of history that could point to a reshaping of the traditional Zionist story. . . . A very useful and comprehensive review of the Protestant role in the establishment of Israel. . . . [A] necessary piece of historical housecleaning.--*Jewish Review of Books*

Compelling. . . . A welcome addition to the growing body of literature on the very important subject of 'Israel in the eyes of the Gentiles.'--*American Jewish History*

Shalom Goldman has succeeded in dealing with [Zionism] in a remarkably fair, clear, and informative way."--*Times Literary Supplement*

A fascinating story. . . . Highly recommended to Jewish as well as Christian readers, and especially to Israelis.--*Israel Studies Review*

A smartly conceived and original approach to the history of Zionism. . . . Concludes with a fascinating examination of the relationships between evangelicals, the Bush presidency and Israel.--*Christian Century*

A useful and exciting new departure for the scholarly study of political and theological Zionism, and the complex of personal and institutional relationships between secular and religious Jews and Christians that has so often undergirded it." --*Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*

For those who think Christians are either far right, pro-Israel/anti-Arab Evangelicals or far left, pro-Arab/anti-Israel 'mainline' Protestants and Catholics, Shalom Goldman's *Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land* should come as good news.--*The Jerusalem Post*

Review

Who could have guessed that the Jewish people would attract such interesting friends? Some of the best were Christian champions of Zionism, and their lives and ideas are the subject of Shalom Goldman's absorbing, learned, elegant, and often surprising book.--Stephen J. Whitfield, Brandeis University

Zeal for Zion provides a historical context for Christian Zionism and uncovers a great deal of information that scholars of the history of Zionism have never mentioned before. This is a superb book on a topic of much contemporary interest and concern. Creative, imaginative, and full of intellectual gems and surprises.--Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College, author of *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany*

This is a fascinating book, imaginatively written, that tells the story of Jews and philo-Semites who supported the movement to create and sustain a Jewish state. In Goldman's retelling, religion cannot be separated from secular nationalism. The book is full of startling ironies, and should prove to be an important corrective to the existing story of Zionism.--Gerald R. McDermott, Jordan-Trexler Professor of Religion, Roanoke College

Zeal for Zion is a highly important study of the role of Christians in the rise of the modern Zionist movement. The book unearths overlooked yet fascinating episodes of Christian-Jewish encounters. Shalom Goldman skillfully shows how Christians inspired and supported Jews in their attempts to build a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. This groundbreaking research should be read by every student of the modern Middle East as well as by anyone interested in the history of Christian-Jewish relations.--Yaakov Ariel, author of *Evangelizing the Chosen People: Missions to the Jews in America, 1880–2000*

About the Author

Shalom Goldman is professor of religion and Middle Eastern studies at Duke University. He is author or editor of four books, including *God's Sacred Tongue: Hebrew and the American Imagination* (UNC Press).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alejandro Jones:

Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land nevertheless doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource information that maybe you can be certainly one of it. This great information can drawn you into new stage of crucial thinking.

Lola Taylor:

The book untitled Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy means. The language is very clear to see all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the item. The book was compiled by famous author. The author gives you in the new period of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

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