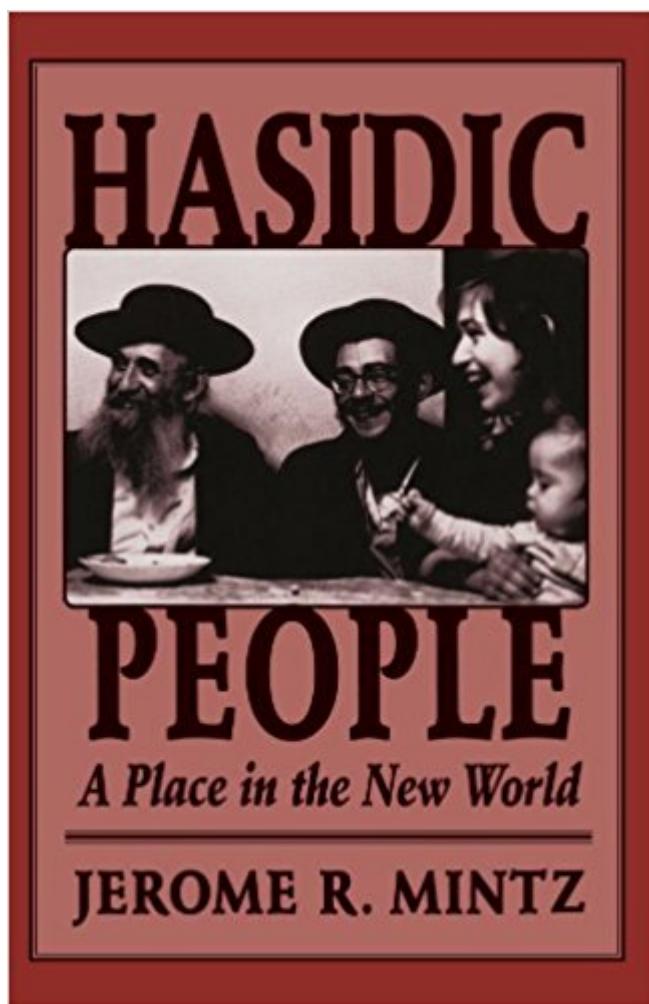


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Hasidic People: A Place In The New World



Synopsis

In this engrossing social history of the New York Hasidic community based on extensive interviews, observation, newspaper files, and court records, Jerome Mintz combines historical study with tenacious investigation to provide a vivid account of social and religious dynamics. *Hasidic People* takes the reader from the various neighborhood settlements through years of growth to today's tragic incidents and conflicts. In an engaging style, rich with personal insight, Mintz invites us into this old world within the new, a way of life at once foreign and yet intrinsic to the American experience.

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Customer Reviews

By letting [his] subject speak for itself, Mintz [allows his] readers to encounter religious belief in all its unwieldy complexity...[His] work reveals a degree of immersion in his subject that few, if any, outsiders have ever achieved. (Alan Edelstein Moment)A wonderful study...At every opportunity Mintz presents verbatim quotations from Hasidim to allow their point of view to permeate the volume. (Rabbi Norman Mark Klein Journal of Church and State)Readers are escorted through New York's Hasidic community...They not only meet the residents but also learn why they are there, how they live and work and pray, and discover something of their internal politics...This rich ethnography offers detailed insights into a dynamic movement and a volatile community, and its charismatic and demanding leadership. (Choice)

Extreme piety, joyous intensity, and a unique social organization have distinguished the Hasidim from other Orthodox Jews since the latter half of the eighteenth century. After the Second World War, survivors of the once thriving Hasidic communities of Eastern Europe began to settle in New York City. *Hasidic People* is an engrossing social history of the New York community based on extensive interviews, observation, newspaper files, and court records. Jerome Mintz, an anthropologist, combines historical study with tenacious investigation to provide a vivid account of social and religious dynamics. In an objective and thoughtful framework he allows events to unfold through the reports and commentaries of the Hasidim and those in close association with them. Their voices fill the book with vibrant life and meaning. Mintz's work offers new insights into family life, succession in Hasidic dynasties, social change, and conflicts concerning proselytizing, the State of Israel, and Messianic expectations. From Brooklyn enclaves to settlements in the suburbs, we see a people set apart and yet living in close proximity with other ethnic groups, including blacks and Latinos, and facing competition for housing, economic development, and political representation. *Hasidic People* takes the reader from the various neighborhood settlements through years of growth to the tragic riots in Crown Heights at the close of the summer of 1991. With engaging style, rich in personal insight, the book invites us into this old world within the new, a way of life at once foreign and yet intrinsic to the American experience.

excellent book in an easy-to-read (non-academic) narrative form, with extensive quotations from primary sources, of several of the principal Hasidic sects in 1980's America, including Boyan, Satmar and Stolin. He covers Hasidic Williamsburg particularly well, talking about housing there, politics, and more. A classic on Hasidism in America.

Kind of a long read but very informative

Well rounded viewpoint.

As a Hasid i initially liked that he gives voice to us the Hasidic People. That is why i paid over 40 dollars for the book in kindle edition. But i am so sorry to deem this book a a one star review, even though the late author put in tremendous effort, as he he has done a major disservice by changing the names of Moshe Friedman aka Moshe Gabba the most powerful man by the Satmar Hasidim. Also of the most powerful family who Moshe Gabba fought which they attacked him back, when one of their kids drove him over with his car. I understand he could not get entry and access to all those

sources, the hasidim and their leaders, if he would give away their real names, but as an anthropologist he should know better, that the truth counts, now he only told us the half story, that means the narrative without the names involved he helped those people further act and behave without the power of transparency to hold them accountable to the truth of history. As a Hasidic insider, I am very disheartened that an outsider, never mind an authority so high as an anthropologist like this author, Jerome Mintz, should embolden those leaders with his work in this book, that their acts can be hidden and not bear the responsibility to be attached to their names for history to judge. If he changes the details of such an integral story by the Hasidim, a major turning point, no question, the most biggest monumental one in the whole book, as this is the first defiance and a even an attempt at "murder" on our leader, - then what less minor stories has he lied to us about, which i didn't catch? The whole book lost its trust, its reliability, its professionalism, - for me as an insider, more importantly for the outside world and history. This book should not be sold. Nor Bought. Nor Read. Period. I am happy to report to you all that there is a new book just out, on the same subject matter, the Hasidim, that does indeed name the leaders who are the players, even when its negative, it is called "Who Will Lead us? by Samuel Heilman". Run and buy it!

Jerome R. Mintz is a Hasidic scholar that speaks of the real life experiences that the Hasidic community has encountered since arriving in the United States. While he focuses mostly on the positive traits and achievements of the Hasidic community, he also challenges their identity and exposes the dark clouds that have plagued the community and have made it so insular - a world of its own. It is uplifting and inspiring, a researcher's guide to the ethnography of the Hasidic community. Mintz makes clear distinctions between the different Hasidic dynasties and describes their place in "the New World." Although the subject matter of "Hasidic People" is comparable to several other books outlining Hasidic life in the United States, notably Robert Eisenberg's "Boychicks in the Hood; Travels to the Hasidic Underground", it is written in a more scholarly tone and from an insider's perspective. This allows for a deeper understanding and appreciation of the life of the Hasidim.

This was a very informative, readable book. Wishes I have though are for pictures and descriptions of philosophical/theological differences between the different Hasidic courts. I think there was too much about various conflicts between the rival groups.

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