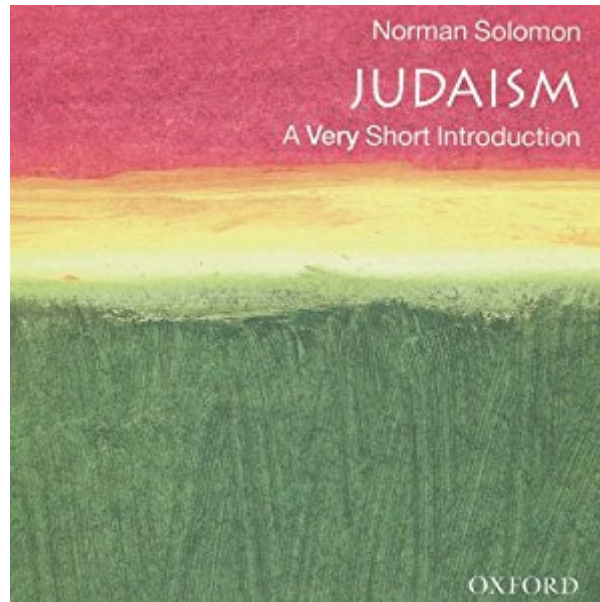




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Judaism: A Very Short Introduction



Synopsis

Norman Solomon's succinct audiobook is an ideal introduction to Judaism as a religion and way of life. In addition to surveying the nature and development of Judaism, this Very Short Introduction outlines the basics of practical Judaism - its festivals, prayers, customs, and various sects. Modern concerns and debates of the Jewish people are also addressed, such as the impact of the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel, the status of women, and medical and commercial ethics.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 4 hours 56 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Audible Studios

Audible.com Release Date: November 19, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

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#2284 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism

Customer Reviews

Pretty good. It focused quite a bit on comparisons to Christianity which I could have done without. I was more interested in Judaism itself.

Wonderful positioning of Jewish Ethics and spirituality through the generations. From the earliest recordings of theology religion and rational religion th Jewish thoughts are beautifully documented.

This is a great introduction to Judaism, covering history, beliefs, practices, personalities, and modern issues. It only takes 2 or 3 hours to read and acquire great knowledge of Judaism!

The PBS series The Jewish Americans happened to be showing, while I was reading this book, and the two complemented each other very well. I wholeheartedly recommend both. World Jewry numbers around 13 million, maybe as many as 18 million, depending on whom and how you count.

More than 6 million live in the US, more even than in Israel itself. Being British, Solomon presents a somewhat Eurocentric view, but not to the extent that it is a problem, and I don't think American readers are for the most part troubled by the occasional British spelling or usage. It must be a daunting prospect for a scholar, having to condense a vast store of knowledge into one of these little books, deciding what to include and what must go, but Solomon judges this well. He emphasizes the diversity and continuing evolution of Judaism, correcting common misconceptions about how ancient or orthodox certain aspects of Judaism are. He also lays special stress on the importance of the Holocaust and of modern Israel in shaping contemporary Jewish thought. There are plenty of basic facts - descriptions of festivals, etc - included here, as you would expect. It also raises a great many issues and cites a number of authors, making this an excellent place to begin a more detailed study, if you wished. Solomon writes well, with a light, sometimes even humorous touch, where appropriate. He was a lecturer at Oxford when this book was first published in 1996, but is now retired, I believe. A revised edition wouldn't go amiss. Perhaps he is too busy working on his Penguin Classics Talmud, which is due out soon and should be worth reading. He is not to be confused with the American activist of the same name, although [he](#) does exactly that, so that if you click on either author, you get a list of books by both of them. Take it from me, they are very different!

Excellent Introduction. Very much enjoyed this book.

The 411 on the faith of my birth for those who need an introduction.

Great Txn

Great read, very informative, and just as seller had listed its condition (great!). Overall great experience

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