

(Get free) Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History)

Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History)

Marni Davis

*ePub | *DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#1076137 in eBooks 2012-01-01 2012-01-01 File Name: B006L2BXUW | File size: 35.Mb

Marni Davis : Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jews and Booze: Becoming American in the Age of Prohibition (Goldstein-Goren Series in American Jewish History):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Not Just an Academic BookBy Lionel S. TaylorAs the other reviews

have pointed out *Jews and Booze* is an academic book. But that does not mean that only those with an academic interest in the topic should read it. More than a history about Prohibition this is a story about an ethnic groups efforts to integrate into the larger American society and how the groups relationship with alcohol served as both help and a hindrance in this effort. What makes this interesting is that while all ethnicities had to find a way to integrate into the American mainstream (a process that is still ongoing today) each does it in a slightly different way. Davis argues that in the case of a large number of immigrant Jews in the 19th century this was through the alcohol trade. This becomes an especially difficult as the forces of prohibition gain strength and the source of income and integration into the larger society begins to be denounced as an evil and evidence of the Jewish liquor merchant's unwillingness to integrate into society. The book begins with a history of the involvement of Jews in the alcohol trade and then how their detractors used this involvement as a way to alienate Jews. The part of the book about the efforts of Henry Ford to attack Jews as amoral liquor peddlers was especially interesting. It concludes with a very good explanation of the how Jewish involvement in the alcohol trade was attacked during Prohibition and how Jews tried to cope with the challenges that this new era presented. While *Jews and Booze* is not a personal interest story that follows one particular person or group of people during the challenging part of history, what it does do is give some valuable insight into the debate going on in the Jewish community during Prohibition on how to deal with the situation as well as the efforts to stay true to Jewish customs and traditions while at the same time not coming under suspicion on not being "100% American". Yes, it is an academic book but it is still a good read and would be of use to anyone intrested in prohibition, Jewish-American history or trying gain insights into the challenges that different ethnic groups faced to integrate into the larger American society and becomeing American.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.
Loved it. By Joseph L. Maple Jr. Very revealing about Jewish interpretation of the time period and the whole concept of prohibition. Read very quickly. Missing part of American history.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.
montgomer schickelgruber burns By Montgomery Schickelgruber Burns A sold seriously scholarly treatment of the subject. Those looking for entertainment with tales of Jewish prohibition gangsters are well advised to look elsewhere.

At the turn of the century, American Jews and prohibitionists viewed one another with growing suspicion. Jews believed that all Americans had the right to sell and consume alcohol, while prohibitionists insisted that alcohol commerce and consumption posed a threat to the nation's morality and security. The two groups possessed incompatible visions of what it meant to be a productive and patriotic American--and in 1920, when the Eighteenth Amendment to the Constitution made alcohol commerce illegal, Jews discovered that anti-Semitic sentiments had mixed with anti-alcohol ideology, threatening their reputation and their standing in American society. In *Jews and Booze*, Marni Davis examines American Jews' long and complicated relationship to alcohol during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the years of the national prohibition movement's rise and fall. Bringing to bear an extensive range of archival materials, Davis offers a novel perspective on a previously unstudied area of American Jewish economic activity--the making and selling of liquor, wine, and beer--and reveals that alcohol commerce played a crucial role in Jewish immigrant acculturation and the growth of Jewish communities in the United States. But prohibition's triumph cast a pall on American Jews' history in the alcohol trade, forcing them to revise, clarify, and defend their communal and civic identities, both to their fellow Americans and to themselves.

"[This reviewer] has always been amazed at the ability of academics to take inherently interesting subjects, like TV and sex, and make them incredibly boring. Davis manages to avoid this, producing an account which is at once both highly readable and yet still approaches the subject in a sophisticated manner."-Heeb Magazine

Jews and Booze touches on a most important topic--what can happen when the challenge of maintaining tradition, on the one hand, fostering entrepreneurship, on the other hand, is greatly heightened. . . this [is a] fascinating work."-David Geffen, International Jerusalem Post

"Engrossing and well-written."-Jewish Book Council

"This book is an important addition to the literature of cultural conflict in American history."-K. Austin Kerr, American Jewish Archives Journal

"This fascinating, academically sophisticated, and superbly written exposition of the intricate, often precarious, role that Jews played in every aspect of the American alcohol industry--from production in industrial stills to retail sale in bars and speakeasies across the land, and finally to bootlegging, a crime that created the fortunes of some of North America's most prominent Jewish philanthropic families--turns out to be a wonderful historical companion to HBO's most explosive series since *The Sopranos* and to the recent PBS airing of Ken Burns' documentary *Prohibition*."