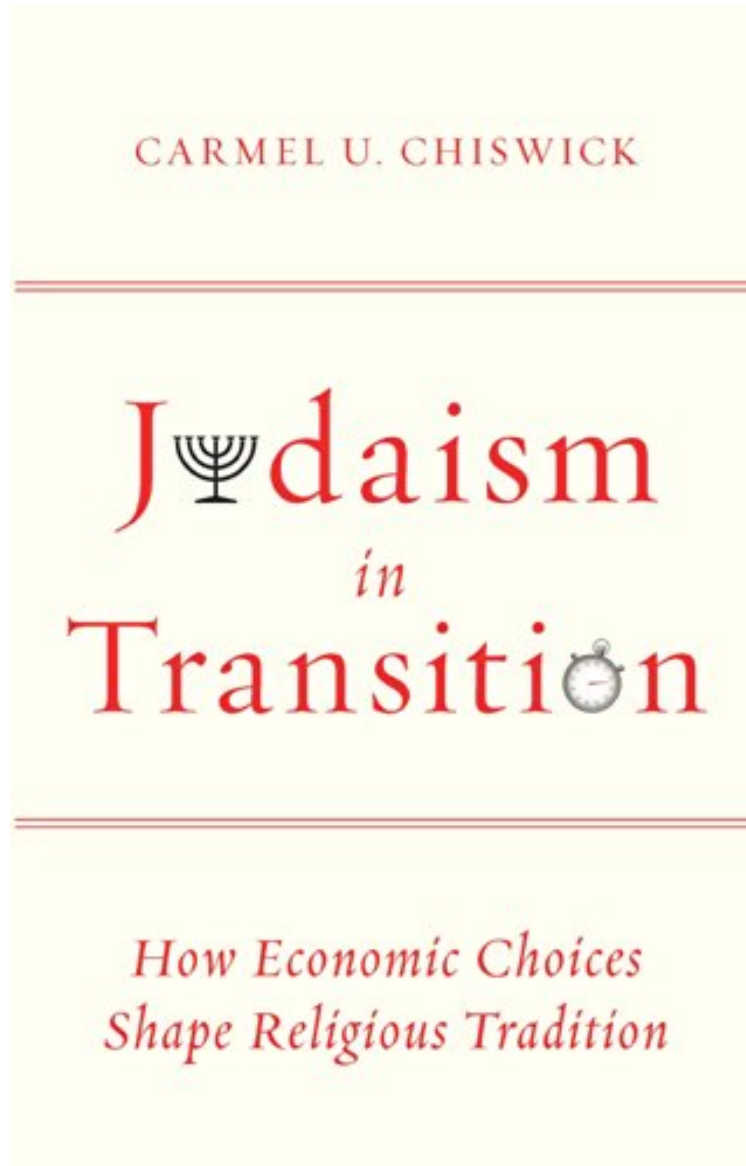


(Download pdf) Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition

Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition

Carmel U. Chiswick

*ebooks / Download PDF / *ePub / DOC / audiobook*



 Download

 Read Online

#1757632 in eBooks 2014-06-04 2014-06-04 File Name: B00KNPNLB2 | File size: 34.Mb

Carmel U. Chiswick : Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Judaism in Transition: How Economic Choices Shape Religious Tradition:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of the feedback between religion and religious practiceBy Alan A. FisherI ordered a copy of this book for our synagogue library, and at my suggestion the library

committee has invited Dr. Chiswick to speak about her book at our synagogue in January. Otherwise, the other reviews give good details on what to expect. Disclosure: Dr. Chiswick's husband was my undergraduate and master's degree professor at UCLA when I was an undergraduate -- but I did not meet Dr. Carmel Chiswick until 2014.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended!By Reader in New YorkI didn't think it could be done, but the author has written an excellent analysis of the American Jewish community using the language of economic analysis -- and she's done it in language which she's phrased so clearly that even complete non-economists (like me) can understand it. There is much here that is valuable for understanding how we've gotten to where we are, and -- more importantly -- the probabilities about where we're going. But it's important to understand that -- as she states explicitly more than once -- this book is about the 90% or so of American Jews who aren't Orthodox! Much of what she writes doesn't apply to the Orthodox today at all. Some of the same tools could be used to analyze the Orthodox, but (with occasional exceptions) that's not in this book. There are some things, however, which should be noted by readers and corrected in the next edition. For example: "Jewish religious law views anyone born of a Jewish mother to be Jewish... [Page 28] OR WHO HAS CONVERTED TO JUDAISM. The Hebrew word for your child's in-laws is "m'chutanim", not "m'chatanim". [Page 112 and Glossary]"The Bat Mitzvah for girls was extremely rare until late in the twentieth century." [Page 147]. This is simply not true. Note #1 for Chapter 5 has to be rewritten. This is the only paragraph in the book that makes no sense to me, even after I reread it several times. "When Jewish parents ensure that their children get this kind of knowledge we say they are raising them to be 'good Jews'". [Page 72] That phrase ("good Jews") might have been used one or two generations ago, but I don't think it's contemporary at all. Otherwise, highly recommended!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating insights from a world-class scholarBy Laurence IannacconeA great addition to courses in Jewish studies, American religious history, and the sociology and economics of religion. Interesting, illuminating, and wonderfully written. The author's mastery of the facts and feel for the issues are apparent throughout. Chiswick makes excellent use of her own family history to illustrate the ways in which American Jews have creatively embraced both change and continuity throughout the past century. She likewise draws upon her years of path-breaking research in the economics of marriage, family, and Judaism. Rarely has an author so successfully combined personal experience and scholarly expertise.

At the core of Judaism stands a body of traditions that have remained consistent over millennia. Yet, the practice of these rituals has varied widely across historical and cultural contexts. In *Judaism in Transition*, Carmel U. Chiswick draws on her Jewish upbringing, her journey as a Jewish parent, and her perspective as an economist to consider how incentives affect the ways that mainstream American Jews have navigated and continue to manage the conflicting demands of everyday life and religious observance. Arguing that economics is a blind spot in our understanding of religion, Chiswick blends her personal experiences with economic analysis to illustrate the cost of Jewish participation—financially and, more importantly, in terms of time and effort. The history of American Jews is almost always told as a success story in the secular world. Chiswick recasts this story as one of innovation in order to maintain a distinctive Jewish culture while keeping pace with the steady march of American life. She shows how tradeoffs, often made on an individual and deeply personal level, produce the brand of Judaism which predominates in America today. Along the way, Chiswick explores salient and controversial topics—from intermarriage to immigration and from egalitarianism to connections with Israel. At once a portrait of American Jewish culture and a work that outlines how economic decisions affect religion, *Judaism in Transition* shows how changes in our economic environment will affect the Jewish community for decades to come.

"The book is clearly written for the scholar and the general reader." (David Tesler Association of Jewish Libraries Newsletter)"Carmel Chiswick's new book offers a refreshing and innovative reading of the contemporary Jewish experience at a time of great confusion about its changing nature. Her original and rigorous method as an economist combines with the broad horizons of a humanist concerned with resilience and destiny of the Jewish people." (Sergio DellaPergola The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)"In appealing and accessible language, Carmel Chiswick explains the economic drivers that influence our religious observance. While she writes from a Jewish perspective, adherents of all faiths will find much in this book that elucidates the impact economics has, and will continue to have, on our American faith communities." (Emily Soloff, National Associate Director, Department of Interreligious and Intergroup Relations American Jewish Committee)"Combining her perspective as economist with her lifelong involvement in the American Jewish community, Professor Chiswick offers a singular analysis of the impact of economic forces on American Jewish life. This book is an important read for Jewish professionals, those concerned with the future of American Jewry, and readers seeking an introduction to the American Jewish community at the beginning of the 21st Century." (Rabbi Allan Kensky Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah and former Dean of the Jewish Theological Seminary)"Prof. Carmel Chiswick . . . uses the lens of economics . . . to reveal the various constraints facing a religious minority in the United States and how this affects Jewish culture . . . [S]ome personal reflection on her own life growing up Jewish [gives] this academic topic a much more personal touch . . . [H]ighly readable book." (Research on Religion)"With an open mind that presents a fresh look at the familiar, Carmel Chiswick analyzes the impact of the

American economic context on Judaism in the 20th and 21st centuries. Her application of the concepts and methodology of economics to the study of religion will be startling and enlightening to social scientists and other students of religion." (Rele Mintz Geffen, Professor of Sociology Gratz College and President Emerita of the Baltimore Hebrew University)"Writing clearly, [Chiswick] divides her presentation into four parts: economic circumstances of American Jews; usefulness of economic concepts; economic decisions affecting American Jewish behavior; economic analysis and the American Jewish future . . . She offers other intriguing forecasts about American Judaism, concluding that we can be optimistic about its future. Her singular approach as an economist can be usefully applied to other American religious groups." (Publisher's Weekly)"Drawing on personal experience and scientific data, Chiswick suggests that the contemporary brand of American Judaism?to achieve the standard of American success?is molded by economic decisions that are often personal and deeply seated . . . This is an innovative and reader-friendly book . . . Recommended." (Z. Garber CHOICE)"Nobody but Carmel Chiswick could write this book. It has the mark of maturity and was obviously written by someone who has spent a lifetime thinking about economics and religion, and who has witnessed firsthand the changes that have taken place in the Jewish community over the years." (Larry Iannacone, Director, Center for the Economic Study of Religion Chapman University)"Judaism in Transition is a richly informed and cogently written narrative of the American Jewish experience, focusing on the compromises that are necessary for life in modern society. The analysis is deeply informed by the author's professional identity as an economist and personal identity as a Jew." (R. Stephen Warner University of Illinois at Chicago)"Carmel Chiswick does an excellent job in making accessible to a broad audience the concepts of household decision making on education, time allocation, occupational choice, and marriage to explain the observed patterns of economic behavior of Jewish families . . . [T]he book does an excellent job in using the lens of economic theory to shed light on the main educational, occupational, migration, and marital patterns among American Jews in the past and nowadays." (Zvi Eckstein Journal of Economic Literature)About the AuthorCarmel U. Chiswick is Research Professor of Economics at George Washington University. A founding member of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture and a former officer of the Association for the Social-Scientific Study of Jewry, she has written extensively on the economics of religion and has been a consultant to organizations in the United States and Israel.