



Over the course of the past half century, many different histories of American Jewry have been published. What makes this book different is the perspective of the author, Richard Rubin. Born during the era when Jews were just becoming integrated into American society, Rubin is able to speak to the transition of Jews from outsiders to an integral part of American society. He discusses the “relief from external hostility, which freed American Jews to a great extent from extreme self-consciousness,” which allowed Jews to integrate into general society. Rubin also observes how there are two unique characteristics that allowed Jews to become productive members of American society: the particular governmental structure in the United States and political actions of its leaders, and the enormous scale and diversity of the immigrant population.

*Jewish in America: Living George Washington's Promise* is clearly well researched, and discusses the Jewish experience from the time of George Washington until the modern day. Each chapter is preceded by an introduction relating the particular topic to Rubin's life. Despite this personal approach, the book has an academic apparatus such as an introduction, appendix, detailed notes, a postscript, and index, which lends it certain credibility. This book is recommended for academic, public and school libraries, but it may not be appropriate for a synagogue library as it advocates a more secular life-style.

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