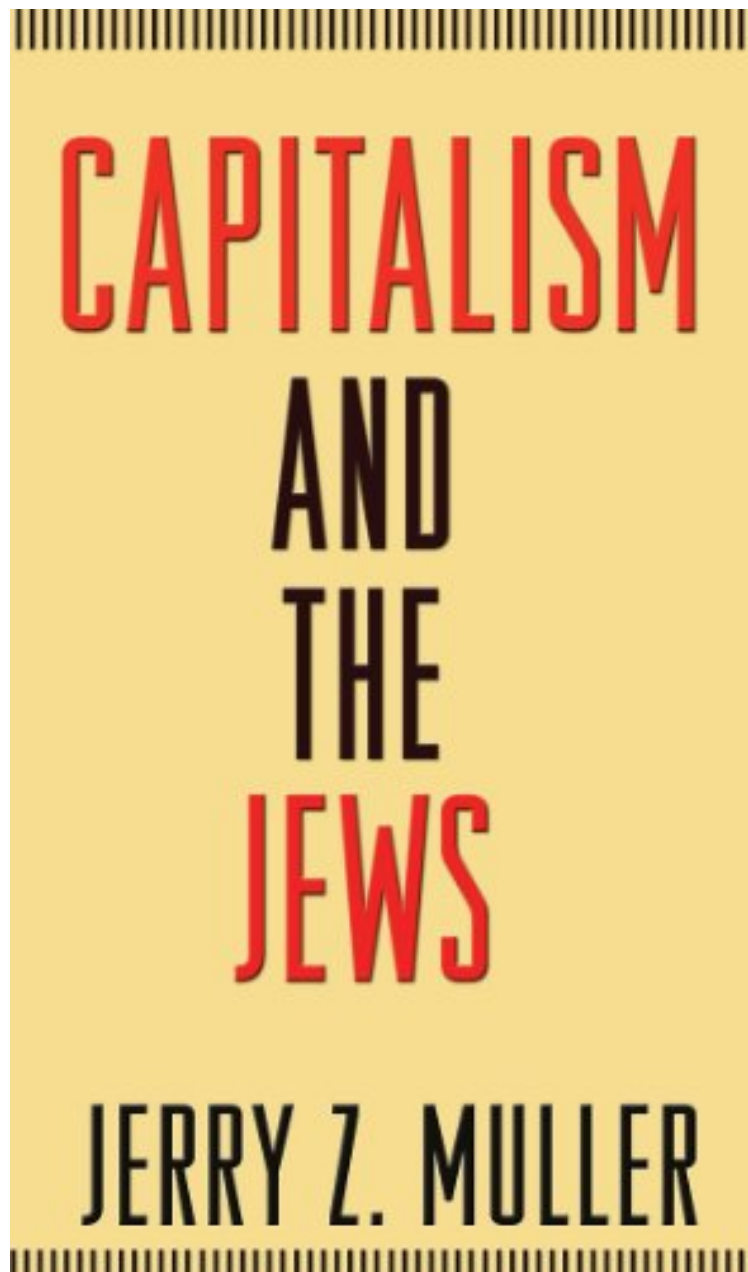


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## Capitalism and the Jews

*Jerry Z. Muller*

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**Jerry Z. Muller : Capitalism and the Jews** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Capitalism and the Jews:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An "In your face" title, but an OBJECTIVE historIcal endeavorBy J.

JenkinsI saw this author on Book TV, and was taken with his objective writing (he is a professor, but I can't remember where or what discipline, sorry). Not being of the Jewish faith, I wanted to know more. This gives a very good objective history of the role that Jews have played in our history. In my opinion, this fact is overlooked and under appreciated. I had to do some of my own research such going back to the Dutch settlers in NY who I was taught was the first to organize a financial system. Actually, they were refugees fleeing from religious persecution. Please correct me if I'm wrong. I am not a scholar, just a traveler through this life, trying to make some sense of it all. This book added to my understanding.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The "Why" of Jewish PersecutionBy Charley OExcellent book on why Jews are often targeted for persecution. I've often heard about Jewish persecution and discrimination, but didn't understand why. Muller does an excellent job of going back into history to paint the development of some people's perception of the Jews. It is more about the "why" of it than about the right or wrong of it. One of my favorite books.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent History but Kindle Has Minor IssuesBy James IgoeMinor irritation with the Kindle formatting, but an excellent read and obviously well-researched.I found the history fascinating - I don't feel I can add significant commentary in that regard - but I do want to mention that the Kindle edition had numerous formatting and layout issues. They were many places in the text that did not display correctly, where words were hyphenated in the middle of the sentence, and where because of incorrect wrapping spaces were missing after some commas or hyphenated words.

The unique historical relationship between capitalism and the Jews is crucial to understanding modern European and Jewish history. But the subject has been addressed less often by mainstream historians than by anti-Semites or apologists. In this book Jerry Muller, a leading historian of capitalism, separates myth from reality to explain why the Jewish experience with capitalism has been so important and complex--and so ambivalent. Drawing on economic, social, political, and intellectual history from medieval Europe through contemporary America and Israel, *Capitalism and the Jews* examines the ways in which thinking about capitalism and thinking about the Jews have gone hand in hand in European thought, and why anticapitalism and anti-Semitism have frequently been linked. The book explains why Jews have tended to be disproportionately successful in capitalist societies, but also why Jews have numbered among the fiercest anticapitalists and Communists. The book shows how the ancient idea that money was unproductive led from the stigmatization of usury and the Jews to the stigmatization of finance and, ultimately, in Marxism, the stigmatization of capitalism itself. Finally, the book traces how the traditional status of the Jews as a diasporic merchant minority both encouraged their economic success and made them particularly vulnerable to the ethnic nationalism of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Providing a fresh look at an important but frequently misunderstood subject, *Capitalism and the Jews* will interest anyone who wants to understand the Jewish role in the development of capitalism, the role of capitalism in the modern fate of the Jews, or the ways in which the story of capitalism and the Jews has affected the history of Europe and beyond, from the medieval period to our own.