1. Record Nr. UNINA990008883460403321

Titolo Achademia Leonardi Vinci : journal of Leonardo studies & bibliography

of Vinciana

Pubbl/distr/stampa Firenze, : Giunti Barbera Editore

ISSN 0394-8501

Lingua di pubblicazione Molteplice

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Periodico

Record Nr. UNINA9910958262903321

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Titolo Jewish scholarship and culture in nineteenth-century Germany:

between history and faith / / Nils H. Roemer

Pubbl/distr/stampa Madison, Wis., : University of Wisconsin Press, c2005

ISBN 9786612269882

9781282269880 1282269887 9780299211738 0299211738

Edizione [1st ed.]

Descrizione fisica x, 251 p. : ill

Collana Studies in German Jewish cultural history and literature

Disciplina 907/.2/023924043

Soggetti Jews - Germany - Intellectual life - 19th century

Jews - Germany - Identity

Jews - Germany - Historiography

Jewish learning and scholarship - Germany - History - 19th century

Judaism - Germany - History - 19th century

Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese

Formato Materiale a stampa

Livello bibliografico Monografia

Note generali Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph

Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references (p. 215-244) and index.

Nota di contenuto Intro -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction -- Part I:

Historicizing Judaism -- Between Theology and History -- Returning

Judaism to History -- Recovering Jewish History in the Age of Emancipation and Reform -- Part II: Fissures and Unity -- Jewish Historiography at the Center of Debate -- "Bringing Forth Their Past Glories" -- Finding Common Ground in the Creation of a German Jewish Reading Public -- Part III: Challenges and Responses -- Wissenschaft on Trial -- History as a Shield of Judaism -- Reconciling the Hearts of the Parents with the Hearts of the Children -- Part IV: Reading Jewish History in the Fin de Siecle -- Past, Present, and Future of Jewish History: Between Hope and Despair -- The Jewish Past at the Center of Popular Culture -- Libraries with and without Walls -- Conclusion -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

German Jews were fully assimilated and secularized in the nineteenth century-or so it is commonly assumed. In Jewish Scholarship and Culture in the Nineteenth Century, Nils Roemer challenges this assumption, finding that religious sentiments, concepts, and rhetoric found expression through a newly emerging theological historicism at the center of modern German Jewish culture. Modern German Jewish identity developed during the struggle for emancipation, debates about religious and cultural renewal, and battles against anti-Semitism. A key component of this identity was historical memory, which Jewish scholars had begun to infuse with theological perspectives beginning in the 1850s. After German reunification in the early 1870s, Jewish intellectuals reevaluated their enthusiastic embrace of liberalism and secularism. Without abandoning the ideal of tolerance, they asserted a right to cultural religious difference for themselves--an ideal they held to even more tightly in the face of growing anti-Semitism. This newly re-theologized Jewish history, Roemer argues, helped German Jews fend off anti-Semitic attacks by strengthening their own sense of their culture and tradition.