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Autore Johnson Hannah R. <1974->

Titolo Blood libel: the ritual murder accusation at the limit of Jewish history /

/ Hannah R. Johnson

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Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index.

Nota di contenuto The ethical dimensions of historical interpretation; the blood libel as

limit case -- Thomas of Monmouth and the juridical discourse of ritual murder -- Moralization and method in Gavin Langmuir's history of antisemitism -- On being implicated: Israel Yuval and the new history of medieval Jewish-Christian relations -- Beyond implication: the Ariel

Toaff affair and the question of complicity.

Sommario/riassunto The ritual murder accusation is one of a series of myths that fall under

the label blood libel, and describes the medieval legend that Jews require Christian blood for obscure religious purposes and are capable of committing murder to obtain it. This malicious myth continues to have an explosive afterlife in the public sphere, where Sarah Palin's

2011 gaffe is only the latest reminder of its power to excite

controversy. Blood Libel is the first book-length study to analyze the

recent historiography of the ritual murder accusation and to consider these debates in the context of intellectual and cultural history as well as methodology. Hannah R. Johnson articulates how ethics shapes methodological decisions in the study of the accusation and how questions about methodology, in turn, pose ethical problems of interpretation and understanding.