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| Sommario/riassunto      | The postwar decades were not the "golden era" in which American Jews<br>easily partook in the religious revival, liberal consensus, and suburban<br>middle-class comfort. Rather it was a period marked by restlessness<br>and insecurity born of the shock about the Holocaust and of the<br>unprecedented opportunities in American society. American Jews<br>responded to loss and opportunity by obsessively engaging with the<br>East European past. The proliferation of religious texts on traditional<br>spirituality, translations of Yiddish literature, historical essays ,<br>photographs and documents of shtetl culture, theatrical and musical<br>events, culminating in the Broadway musical Fiddler on the Roof,   |

illustrate the grip of this past on post-1945 American Jews. This study shows how American Jews reimagined their East European past to make it usable for their American present. By rewriting their East European history, they created a repertoire of images, stories, and ideas that have shaped American Jewry to this day.

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