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Rules?; Secularization and Globalization: Local Unfolding; Explaining Secularization: An Alternative Model; 2 Israel: From Status Quo to Crisis; Nationality, Sovereignty, and the Status Quo; Statehood and the Status Quo; Secularism and the Status Quo: Demands for Religious Freedom; Secularism: The Limits of an Ideology; Secularization: New Challenges to the Status Quo; Globalization, Neoliberalism, and Consumer Society; FSU Immigrants and the Changing Demography; Jewish but Not Orthodox: Cultural Alternatives
Religion in the Private and the Public Spheres: Counter-Secularization Born-Again Jews; SHAS: Religious and Political Revival; Zionist Revival: The Jewish Way; Religious and/or Secular - The Numbers; Religion and Politics: From Status Quo to Crisis; Secular Entrepreneurs: Agents of Change; Taking It to the Courts; Subpolitics and Secularization; Conclusions: Between Secularization and Secularism; 3 The State of Marriage: Regulating and De-Regulating Love; Israel: Rules of the Game; Status Quo: Undermined; Secular Entrepreneurs: Creating Choices; What Do Israelis Want?; The Political Realm
Course of Action: The Courts Secular Ceremonies: Bottom-Up Changes; Marriage Abroad; Cohabitation and Common-Law Marriage; The Orthodox Reaction - Change from within?; Conclusions: Marriage and the Decline of Religious Authority; 4 Burial: A Matter of Lifestyle; Israel - Rules of the Game; Immigration as a Force for Change; Secular Funerals: Aesthetic Preference and Postmaterialist Values; Secular Burial - Conservatism, Needs, and Demands; Secular Entrepreneurs; The Political Realm; The Courts; Civil Cemeteries - The Public Alternative; Planning Funerals: Taking Charge
Private Services: Ideology and Lifestyle Civil Burial - Public vs. Private; Orthodox Reactions; Conclusions; 5 Pig on the Plate: From "White Steak" to Pork; Food: Beyond Eating; Rules of the Game: Politics of Pork; Politicized Pigs: An Age of Strife; De-Politicized Pigs - Demography and Economics; Israelis and the Pig: New Perceptions?; The Legal Sphere; From Struggle to Growth; The Economy of Pork: Secular Identities and Business Strategies; Religious Authority and Consumer Choice: Beyond Pork; Re-Politicized Pork? Minority Rights and Local Struggles; Conclusion
6 Live and Let Buy: Bargaining for the Sabbath

Sommario/riassunto

A thriving, yet small, liberal component in Israeli society has frequently taken issue with the constraints imposed by religious orthodoxy, largely with limited success. However, Guy Ben-Porat suggests, in recent years, in part because of demographic changes and in part because of the influence of an increasingly consumer-oriented society, dramatic changes have occurred in secularization of significant parts of public and private lives. Even though these fissures often have more to do with lifestyle choices and economics than with political or religious ideology, the demands and choices of a secular public and a burgeoning religious presence in the government are becoming ever more difficult to reconcile. The evidence, which the author has accrued from numerous interviews and a detailed survey, is nowhere more telling than in areas that demand religious sanction such as marriage, burial, the sale of pork, and the operation of businesses on the Sabbath.
