

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910956686703321
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Titolo	Jews at the crossroads : tradition and accommodation during the golden age of the Hungarian nobility, 1729-1878 // Howard N. Lupovitch
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Budapest ; ; New York, : Central European University Press, 2007
ISBN	1-003-72033-1 978-615-5211-31-7 978-6-15521-131-7 9786155211317 615-5211-31-0 1-281-37669-8 9786611376697 1-4294-5846-1
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (331 p.)
Disciplina	943.9/9
Soggetti	Jews - Hungary - Miskolc - History - 18th century Jews - Hungary - Miskolc - History - 19th century Jews - Hungary - Miskolc - Politics and government - 18th century Jews - Hungary - Miskolc - Politics and government - 19th century Jews - Emancipation - Hungary - Miskolc Jewish leadership - Hungary - Miskolc - History Miskolc (Hungary) Ethnic relations
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 and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- A Note on Sources -- List of Abbreviations -- List of Tables -- Preface -- Introduction. Rethinking the Rhythms of Emancipation and Enlightenment -- Chapter 1 Eighteenth Century Pastoral: The Allures and Uncertainties of the Hungarian Frontier -- Chapter 2 Crown, Town, Magnate, and Jew: Corporate Politics in Borsod County -- Chapter 3 The Hevra Kadisha and the Rise of the Family Syndicate -- Chapter 4 Jews in the Time of Cholera: The Epidemic of 1831 and Its Aftermath -- Chapter 5 The Kehilla and the Business of

Religion -- Chapter 6 Educational Reform and Religious Identity -- Chapter 7 Széchenyi's Soup at Szemere's Table: Miskolc Jewry and the Era of Reform, 1836–1848 -- Chapter 8 Revolution by Proxy: Jews in the Hinterland -- Chapter 9 Coming of Age, 1851–1878 -- Conclusion 1878 and Beyond: Two Chambers of One Heart -- Appendix "Words of Peace and Truth": A Call for Unity by Moses Ezekiel Fischmann -- Bibliography -- Index

Sommario/riassunto

Examines the social and political history of the Jews of Miskolc—the third largest Jewish community in Hungary—and presents the wider transformation of Jewish identity during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It explores the emergence of a moderate, accommodating form of traditional Judaism that combined elements of tradition and innovation, thereby creating an alternative to Orthodox and Neolog Judaism. This form of traditional Judaism reconciled the demands of religious tradition with the expectations of Magyarization and citizenship, thus allowing traditional Jews to be patriotic Magyars. By focusing on Hungary, this book seeks to correct a trend in modern Jewish historiography that views Habsburg Jewish History as an extension of German Jewish History, most notably with regard to emancipation and enlightenment. Rather than trying to fit Hungarian Jewry into a conventional Germano-centric taxonomy, this work places Hungarian Jews in the distinct contexts of the Habsburg Monarchy and the Danube Basin, positing a more seamless nexus between the eighteenth and nineteenth century. This nexus was rooted in a series of political experiments by Habsburg sovereigns and Hungarian noblemen that culminated in civic equality, and in the gradual expansion of traditional Judaism to meet the challenges of the age.
