

Resulting from a project that began in the 1960s, Philadelphia: A 300-Year History, which was written for the tercentenary of the city, is comprehensive and authoritative. The book well reveals patterns of urbanization in the city along the Delaware, for each chapter is written by a prominent Philadelphia scholar. Chapters of this volume are topically arranged within a chronological framework, explain the evolution of Philadelphia in light of a national and a regional context, and especially emphasize themes concerning the cultural, economic, and political activities in the city.

What seems to give unity to the book are varying facets of Daniel Boorstin's concept of boosterism. One aspect of boosterism that contributors to the text well examine concerns the cultural development of Philadelphia. The book assesses the achievements of the Quakers and other religious groups in the city and demonstrates the profound impact of ethnicity upon the city's neighborhoods. This volume superbly treats the place of science, medicine, education, and the arts in Philadelphia. There are impressive accounts of the American Philosophical Society, the Library Company, the Pennsylvania Hospital, the University of Pennsylvania and other colleges, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the great architectural legacy of the city. The book, as well, focuses on commercial and industrial activities in Philadelphia. There are vivid explanations about the leadership role of eighteenth-century merchants, about the status of the city as a seaport, about the rise and the decline of the Bank of the United States, and about the significance of the railroads to the city's industrial development. The book, too, describes how the city during the past one hundred years developed a diversified industrial base and how department stores at this time greatly changed its business and retailing patterns. In some respects, boosterism is applicable to political activities in Philadelphia. Contributors to the book cogently show how the city during the eighteenth century occupied a position of prominence in national politics. During the next two centuries, that situation, unfortunately, was not to continue. However, the book
contains extensive and stimulating accounts of political problems in Philadelphia during the Civil War, the Progressive Era, and the New Deal.

This work is a major contribution to urban scholarship. It is informative, interpretive, synthetic, and gracefully written. It is based on many primary sources, is massively documented, and illustrates the efficacy of collaborative scholarship. The book certainly supersedes the earlier histories of Philadelphia and is a paragon for future urban studies. It is intended for both general readers and scholars.

The second work, *Jewish Life in Philadelphia, 1830-1940*, also was written for the tercentenary of Philadelphia and examines the neglected field of Jewry in the city during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In sixteen topically arranged chapters, its authors have explored varying topics regarding Philadelphia Jewry. The book emphasizes numerous themes: the dissemination and impact of religious ideologies, the activities of civic and religious leaders, the development of educational and philanthropic institutions, and the significance of ethnicity within the Jewish community of the city.

There are stimulating chapters about Judaism in Philadelphia and about rabbinic leadership in the city. In his instructive chapter concerning Orthodox Judaism, Robert Tabak extensively describes doctrines and traditions connected with this movement and assesses the accomplishments of Mikveh Israel. Two impressive chapters in the book focus on the legacy of Isaac Leeser and on Philadelphia’s Reform rabbis. In his profile of Leeser, Maxwell Whiteman vividly shows that this intellectual giant wrote numerous biblical commentaries and energetically edited a national Jewish journal known as the *Occident*. Whiteman, as well, explains that Leeser assisted in the creation of the American Jewish Publication Society and favored the establishment of other institutions that would help to foster beliefs of traditional Judaism. As Malcolm Stern shows, Reform Judaism, too, became well established in Philadelphia, enlisting the support of Jews of German origin. He discusses how Congregations Rodeph Shalom and Keneseth Israel evolved into centers of Reform Judaism and how the cultural and social contributions of Joseph Krauskopf and Henry Berkowitz enabled these rabbis to acquire national prominence.

Considerable attention is devoted to significant institutions in the Philadelphia Jewish community and to its ethnic groups. The fine chapter of Diane King contains accounts about the Hebrew Education Society, about the failure of Maimonides College, and about the
evolution of Gratz and Dropsie colleges. Like education, philanthropy was meaningful to the development of the Philadelphia Jewish community and is well treated in three chapters. The essay of Edwin Wolf on this subject is especially persuasive; he demonstrates that a group of prominent German-Jewish families funded numerous Jewish charitable organizations in the city during the nineteenth century, that the need to consolidate these agencies eventually led to the formation of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Philadelphia, and that this German-Jewish elite attempted to help rather than to ignore Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe and from Russia. There also are two splendid chapters by Maxwell Whiteman about the cultural and economic activities of Jewish immigrants and an imaginative essay by Dennis Clark about Irish-Jewish relations in the city.

This book is a valuable addition to historical literature about Jewry in the American urban setting. It presents convincing theses and contains a fascinating concluding chapter that compares Jewish institutions and leadership patterns in Boston and Philadelphia. This work, which might have included essays about Philadelphia Jewish retailers and physicians, serves as a sequel to the study of Wolf and Whiteman and supports major interpretations found in histories about Jewish life in New York and Charleston. The book is based on extensive primary sources, is well written, and is intended for college and public libraries. This reviewer certainly hopes that a similar study will be written about the Pittsburgh Jewish community.

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This study documents through numerous statistics and charts the control of Appalachia by large absentee ownership. The book differs from other such studies in advocating a redistribution of the land and claims that this type of Third World solution may not be out of place in contemporary America. Charles Geisler in the introduction notes