

Revolutionary Jews From Spinoza To Marx: A Book Review

In his groundbreaking book, *Revolutionary Jews From Spinoza To Marx*, author Shloma Sand argues that the history of Judaism is not one of passive acceptance of oppression, but rather a history of resistance and revolution.



Revolutionary Jews from Spinoza to Marx: The Fight for a Secular World of Universal and Equal Rights (Samuel and Althea Stroum Lectures in Jewish Studies)

by Jonathan I. Israel

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 1401 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Print length : 552 pages



Sand traces the lineage of Jewish revolutionaries from the 17th-century philosopher Baruch Spinoza to the 19th-century socialist Karl Marx. He shows how these thinkers challenged the dominant religious and political ideologies of their time and articulated a vision of a more just and egalitarian society.

Spinoza, for example, was a rationalist who argued that God was not a personal being but rather the impersonal force of nature. He also believed

that religion should be based on reason and tolerance, not on dogma and superstition.

Marx, for his part, was a socialist who argued that capitalism was a system of exploitation that needed to be overthrown. He believed that the working class had the power to create a more just and egalitarian society.

Sand's book is a fascinating and important contribution to the study of Jewish history. It challenges the traditional view of Jews as a passive and powerless people and shows how they have played a vital role in the struggle for social justice.

Spinoza: The Rationalist Revolutionary

Baruch Spinoza was born in Amsterdam in 1632 to a family of Portuguese Jewish immigrants. He was a brilliant student who studied the Talmud, the Torah, and the works of the Greek philosophers. At the age of 24, he was excommunicated from the Jewish community for his heretical views.

Spinoza's philosophy was based on reason and the laws of nature. He argued that God was not a personal being but rather the impersonal force of nature. He also believed that religion should be based on reason and tolerance, not on dogma and superstition.

Spinoza's ideas were highly controversial in his time. He was accused of atheism and heresy, and his books were banned by both the Catholic Church and the Jewish community. However, his ideas continued to inspire other thinkers, including Marx.

Marx: The Socialist Revolutionary

Karl Marx was born in Trier, Germany, in 1818. He was the son of a Jewish lawyer. Marx studied law and philosophy at the University of Berlin, where he became involved in the radical student movement.

In 1843, Marx moved to Paris, where he met Friedrich Engels. Together, they developed the theory of communism, which argued that capitalism was a system of exploitation that needed to be overthrown. Marx believed that the working class had the power to create a more just and egalitarian society.

Marx's ideas were highly influential in the 19th and 20th centuries. They inspired socialist and communist movements around the world. However, Marx's ideas have also been criticized for their authoritarianism and their lack of respect for individual rights.

Revolutionary Jews From Spinoza To Marx is a fascinating and important book that challenges the traditional view of Jews as a passive and powerless people. Sand shows how Jewish thinkers have played a vital role in the struggle for social justice.

Spinoza and Marx were two of the most important Jewish revolutionaries. Their ideas continue to inspire people around the world who are fighting for a more just and egalitarian society.



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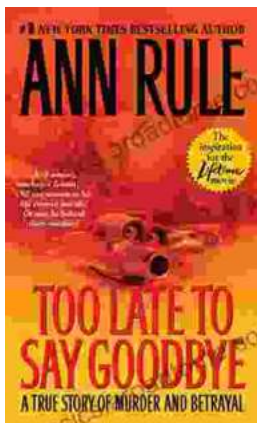
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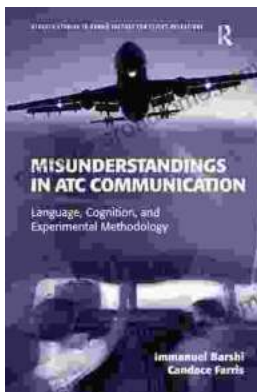
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