



Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land

By Shalom L. Goldman



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The standard histories of Zionism have depicted it almost exclusively as a Jewish political movement, one in which Christians do not appear except as antagonists. In the highly original *Zeal for Zion*, Shalom Goldman makes the case for a wider and more inclusive history, one that brings the substantial Christian involvement with Zionism--most recently by American evangelical Protestants--into the light.

Goldman offers a fresh perspective on the history of Zionism, deftly weaving together the stories of poets and diplomats, Christian scholars and Jewish leaders, the Vatican and the State of Israel, and modern literary masters such as Jorge Luis Borges, Robert Graves, and Vladimir Nabokov. Goldman argues that Jewish Zionism was influenced by--and cannot be understood in isolation from--Christian culture generally and Christian Zionist culture specifically. Shedding light on the deep and interrelated roots of Christian-Jewish relations, fraught with tension and ambivalence, he finds that Christian support for the Jewish Zionist cause has been essential to the success of the movement.

Christian Zionism has a long history and has been embraced at various times by Catholics and Protestants, liberals and conservatives, reformers and traditionalists. *Zeal for Zion* places this vital movement within the larger history of Zionism, making the story of Zionism all the more rich and complex.

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Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land By Shalom L. Goldman Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

A fresh look at the movement that spawned the Jewish homeland.--*Jewish Book World*

The material that has been drawn on and the way in which new light has been shed on a diverse group of Christian supporters of Zionism is a most welcome and important addition to the literature.--*Church History*

All told, the value of *Zeal for Zion* lies in bringing together the overlooked Christian Zionists into a single volume.--*Haaretz*

Engaging. . . . There is much in this book that is new and important. *Zeal for Zion* will undoubtedly stand as an important source of information and insight.--*American Historical Review*

Important if sometimes unsettling readings of history that could point to a reshaping of the traditional Zionist story. . . . A very useful and comprehensive review of the Protestant role in the establishment of Israel. . . . [A] necessary piece of historical housecleaning.--*Jewish Review of Books*

Compelling. . . . A welcome addition to the growing body of literature on the very important subject of 'Israel in the eyes of the Gentiles.'--*American Jewish History*

Shalom Goldman has succeeded in dealing with [Zionism] in a remarkably fair, clear, and informative way."--*Times Literary Supplement*

A fascinating story. . . . Highly recommended to Jewish as well as Christian readers, and especially to Israelis.--*Israel Studies Review*

A smartly conceived and original approach to the history of Zionism. . . . Concludes with a fascinating examination of the relationships between evangelicals, the Bush presidency and Israel.--*Christian Century*

A useful and exciting new departure for the scholarly study of political and theological Zionism, and the complex of personal and institutional relationships between secular and religious Jews and Christians that has so often undergirded it." --*Relegere: Studies in Religion and Reception*

For those who think Christians are either far right, pro-Israel/anti-Arab Evangelicals or far left, pro-Arab/anti-Israel 'mainline' Protestants and Catholics, Shalom Goldman's *Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land* should come as good news.--*The Jerusalem Post*

Review

Who could have guessed that the Jewish people would attract such interesting friends? Some of the best were Christian champions of Zionism, and their lives and ideas are the subject of Shalom Goldman's absorbing, learned, elegant, and often surprising book.--Stephen J. Whitfield, Brandeis University

Zeal for Zion provides a historical context for Christian Zionism and uncovers a great deal of information that scholars of the history of Zionism have never mentioned before. This is a superb book on a topic of much contemporary interest and concern. Creative, imaginative, and full of intellectual gems and surprises.--Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College, author of *The Aryan Jesus: Christian Theologians and the Bible in Nazi Germany*

This is a fascinating book, imaginatively written, that tells the story of Jews and philo-Semites who supported the movement to create and sustain a Jewish state. In Goldman's retelling, religion cannot be separated from secular nationalism. The book is full of startling ironies, and should prove to be an important corrective to the existing story of Zionism.--Gerald R. McDermott, Jordan-Trexler Professor of Religion, Roanoke College

Zeal for Zion is a highly important study of the role of Christians in the rise of the modern Zionist movement. The book unearths overlooked yet fascinating episodes of Christian-Jewish encounters. Shalom Goldman skillfully shows how Christians inspired and supported Jews in their attempts to build a Jewish commonwealth in Palestine. This groundbreaking research should be read by every student of the modern Middle East as well as by anyone interested in the history of Christian-Jewish relations.--Yaakov Ariel, author of *Evangelizing the Chosen People: Missions to the Jews in America, 1880–2000*

About the Author

Shalom Goldman is professor of religion and Middle Eastern studies at Duke University. He is author or editor of four books, including *God's Sacred Tongue: Hebrew and the American Imagination* (UNC Press).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Warren Damron:

As people who live in the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or details even knowledge to make these keep up with the era which can be always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will certainly update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Patricia Gross:

This book untitled Zeal for Zion: Christians, Jews, and the Idea of the Promised Land to be one of several books that best seller in this year, that is because when you read this publication you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retail store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher in this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, since you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to your account to past this reserve from your list.

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