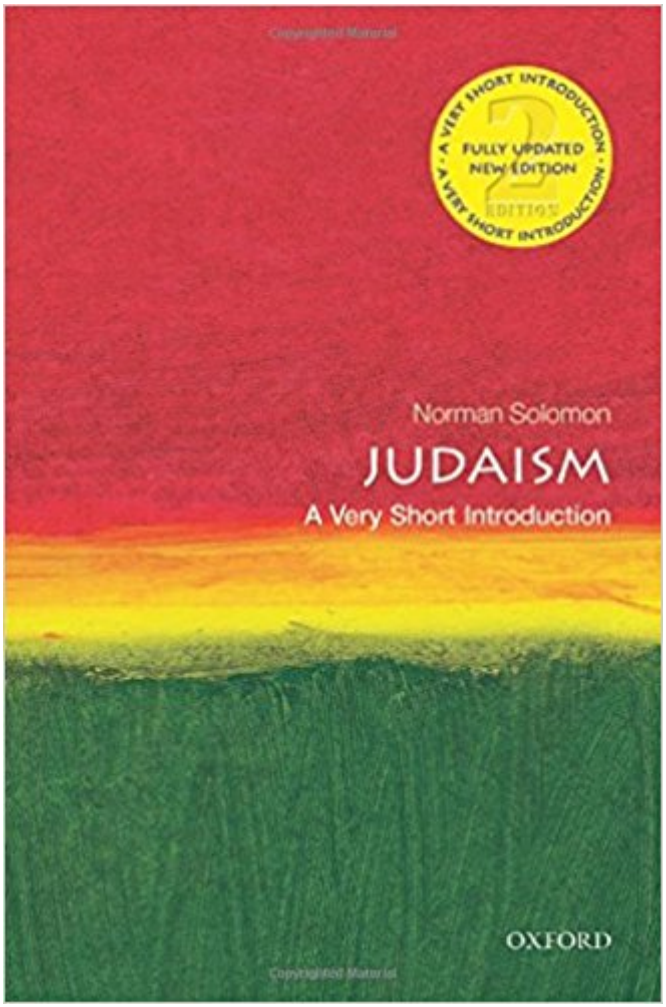
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# Judaism: A Very Short Introduction (Very Short Introductions)




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## Synopsis

Normon Solomon’s succinct book is an ideal introduction to Judaism as a religion and way of life. Demonstrating the diverse nature and ethnic origin of Jewish people, Solomon explores how the religion has developed in the 2,000 years since the days of the Bible. This Very Short Introduction starts by outlining the basics of practical Judaism, including: festivals, prayers, customs, and various sects - and goes on to consider how Judaism has responded to, and dealt with, a number of key issues and debates, including the impact of the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel. In this new edition, Solomon considers issues of contemporary Judaism in the 21st century, incorporating new material on the relationship between the Muslim faith and Judaism, the rise of Zohar and Kabala, and considers how the faith deals with issues such as homosexuality and gay marriage.ABOUT THE SERIES: The Very Short Introductions series from Oxford University Press contains hundreds of titles in almost every subject area. These pocket-sized books are the perfect way to get ahead in a new subject quickly. Our expert authors combine facts, analysis, perspective, new ideas, and enthusiasm to make interesting and challenging topics highly readable.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Throughout Solomon’s Judaism there is a freshness of approach which will make it interesting to those who already know something about Judaism. The conversational style will also make it valuable for beginners." --Marcus Braybrooke, Church Times 21/01/1997"Just as its name implies, this series features concise works that aim to give a crisp insight into otherwise complicated topics

... complicated subjects are condensed and made simple, to whet the appetite or provide just enough material for those with a casual interest." --Bournemouth Evening Echo 11/03/1997"Norman Solomon has achieved the near impossible with his enlightened Very Short Introduction to Judaism. He manages to keep the reader engaged, never patronizes, assumes little knowledge but a keen mind, and takes us through Jewish life and history with such gusto that one feels enlived, rather than exhausted, at the end." --Rabbi Julia Neuberger"A magnificent achievement. Dr Solomon's treatment, fresh, very readable, witty and stimulating, will delight everyone interested in religion in the modern world." --Louis Jacobs, University of Lancaster"This book will serve a very useful purpose indeed. I'll use it myself to discuss, to teach, agree with, and disagree with, in the Jewish manner!" --Rabbi Lionel Blue

Norman Solomon is now retired, but was a Fellow in Modern Jewish Thought at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and is affiliated to the Faculty of Oriental Studies at Oxford University. He is the author of Historical Dictionary of Judaism, 2nd edition (Scarecrow Press Inc, 2006).

Pretty good. It focused quite a bit on comparisons to Christianity which I could have done without. I was more interested in Judaism itself.

Wonderful positioning of Jewish Ethics and spirituality through the generations. From the earliest recordings of tbeology religion and rational religion thJewish thoughts are beautifully documented.

This is a great introduction to Judaism, covering history, beliefs, practices, personalities, and modern issues. It only takes 2 or 3 hours to read and acquire great knowledge of Judaism!

The PBS series The Jewish Americans happened to be showing, while I was reading this book, and the two complemented each other very well. I wholeheartedly recommend both. World Jewry numbers around 13 million, maybe as many as 18 million, depending on whom and how you count. More than 6 million live in the US, more even than in Israel itself.Being British, Solomon presents a somewhat Eurocentric view, but not to the extent that it is a problem, and I don't think American readers are for the most part troubled by the occasional British spelling or usage.It must be a daunting prospect for a scholar, having to condense a vast store of knowledge into one of these little books, deciding what to include and what must go, but Solomon judges this well. He emphasizes

the diversity and continuing evolution of Judaism, correcting common misconceptions about how ancient or orthodox certain aspects of Judaism are. He also lays special stress on the importance of the Holocaust and of modern Israel in shaping contemporary Jewish thought.There are plenty of basic facts - descriptions of festivals, etc - included here, as you would expect. It also raises a great many issues and cites a number of authors, making this an excellent place to begin a more detailed study, if you wished.Solomon writes well, with a light, sometimes even humorous touch, where appropriate. He was a lecturer at Oxford when this book was first published in 1996, but is now retired, I believe. A revised edition wouldn't go amiss. Perhaps he is too busy working on his Penguin Classics Talmud, which is due out soon and should be worth reading. He is not to be confused with the American activist of the same name, although  does exactly that, so that if you click on either author, you get a list of books by both of them. Take it from me, they are very different!

Excellent Introduction. Very much enjoyed this book.

The 411 on the faith of my birth for those who need an introduction.

Great Txn

Great read, very informative, and just as seller had listed its condition (great!). Overall great experience

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