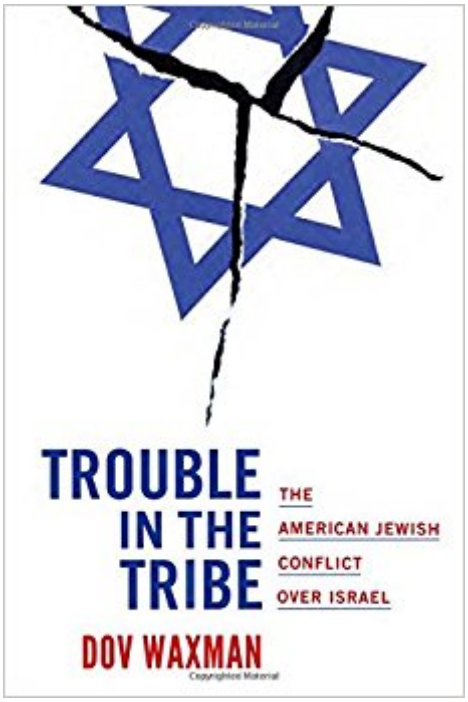
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Trouble In The Tribe: The American Jewish Conflict Over Israel



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Synopsis

Trouble in the Tribe explores the increasingly contentious place of Israel in the American Jewish community. In a fundamental shift, growing numbers of American Jews have become less willing to unquestioningly support Israel and more willing to publicly criticize its government. More than ever before, American Jews are arguing about Israeli policies, and many, especially younger ones, are becoming uncomfortable with Israel's treatment of Palestinians. Dov Waxman argues that Israel is fast becoming a source of disunity for American Jewry, and that a new era of American Jewish conflict over Israel is replacing the old era of solidarity.Drawing on a wealth of in-depth interviews with American Jewish leaders and activists, Waxman shows why Israel has become such a divisive issue among American Jews. He delves into the American Jewish debate about Israel, examining the impact that the conflict over Israel is having on Jewish communities, national Jewish organizations, and on the pro-Israel lobby. Waxman sets this conflict in the context of broader cultural, political, institutional, and demographic changes happening in the American Jewish community. He offers a nuanced and balanced account of how this conflict over Israel has developed and what it means for the future of American Jewish politics.Israel used to bring American Jews together. Now it is driving them apart. Trouble in the Tribe explains why.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A meticulous, precise, well-organized survey that takes into account the many different views and

will certainly facilitate the heated conversation."--Kirkus (Starred Review)"A valuable road map to an ongoing and very important conflict."--Murray Polner, History News Network"As a primer on the American Jewish machloket (argument) over Israel, Trouble in the Tribe is extremely useful. Its data is copious . . . its charts are handy; its perspective mostly balanced. . . . It is an excellent guide for the perplexed."--Jay Michaelson, Moment Magazine"As Waxman convincingly demonstrates in this valuable and important book, the very thing that once united the American Jewish community--Israel--now is the thing that divides us most of all."--Moti Rieber, Kansas City Jewish Chronicle"Brave and unsettling."--Jonathan Kirsch, Jewish Journal"[A] detailed and meticulously balanced account. . . . Both Waxman's complex picture of American Jewry and the plea for--critical engagement--emerging from it deserve our serious consideration."--William Kolbrener, Times Higher Education"An accessible, readable introduction to the topic."--Choice"Gently insightful, richly documented, clearly presented, and illuminatingly broad."--Ari Y. Kelman, Middle East Journal"Waxman deserves plaudits for tackling an important and very timely subject that has heretofore been ignored by the scholarly literature on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He analyzes a complicated and contentious topic with rare objectivity, ample research and calm reasoning. Trouble in the Tribe is an indispensable volume for anyone seeking to understand why American Jews quarrel over Israel and why such fraternal infighting will further complicate the quest for a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."--Michael Rubner, Middle East Policy"This book offers a useful grounding for thinking about the changes already taking place [in the American Jewish community], and what may lie ahead."--Survival"Dov Waxman has written a book that will likely become a standard text. In Trouble in the Tribe, he examines the American Jewish discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and presents it coherently and critically."--Edward Rettig, Israel Journal of Foreign Affairs

"Dov Waxman could hardly have picked a more contentious topic for investigation than the troubled relationship between (and among) American Jews and Israel. But with Trouble in the Tribe, he brings to bear a rare combination of calm, reasoned analysis with scrupulous scholarly research. American Jewish arguments about Israel will certainly continue, but if Waxman's contribution to it gets the attention it deserves, they should be based far more on complex reality than simplistic fantasy. And we will all be better for it."--Eric Alterman, columnist for the Nation"Good books, Orwell once wrote, set your scattered thoughts in order--in a way, tell you what you already know. Dov Waxman's Trouble in the Tribe lays it out: the attitudes, the clashes, the numbers, the future. For a generation, American Jewish solidarity regarding Israel was indistinguishable from the ÃƒÂ©lan of

community life. Waxman shows how, and why, this can change, even how Israel has become polarizing for congregational life. A grim, real, necessary book."--Bernard Avishai, Dartmouth College and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem"This is an extremely important book that will have profound consequences. When puzzled friends ask me why the American Jewish community is now so divided over Israel, this is the book I will recommend."--Kenneth D. Wald, coauthor of Religion and Politics in the United States"Trouble in the Tribe is an outstanding book. Waxman's judgments are fair, judicious, and balanced."--Theodore Sasson, author of The New American Zionism

The book explores the relationship between U.S and Israeli Jewry in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and its implications on the relations between the communities at present and in the future. It shows how internal changes within the communities effect the dynamic between the two and then describes the possible ramifications for Israel as a whole as a result. It also sheds light on the complexities of the relationship and how simplistic statements like "American Jews automatically support Israel" and "there is only one pro-Israel voice" are simply untrue.If you're looking for important insights with regards to the US-Israeli Jewry relationship and an in-depth understanding of the recent trends of Jewish American support for the Jewish State, you wanna grab this one. I certainly gained a 'bigger picture' perspective of the nature of the relations in the past, present and future by reading it.

In a well written book, Dov Waxman confronts a contentious topic and treats it fairly and thoroughly. His work is insightful and will contribute to policy debates for many years.

Excellent objective overview of divisions in the American Jewish Community over how to approach the situation in Israel.

This book traces the contours of the conflict in American Jewish communities over Israel in a thoughtful, engaging and even-handed way. I came away from it with a greater understanding of the communities I'm a part of, and with the confidence that I'm less alone in my tortured feelings about Israel than I had feared.

Important book on the way forward for Israel questioning the wisdom of hard liners.

Best book on the subject to date, and I think I've read most of them

Slightly biased left, but a good history.

Although I disagree with Professor Waxman on several points, the book is incredibly well written and I believe he does his best to remain objective until his final conclusion regarding the fragile future of American Jewry and its tenuous relationship with Israel. I think it is absolutely worth reading regardless of where you might fall on the political spectrum because his analysis with respect to the history of Israel's relationship with the American Jewish Community and American Jewry's relationship with the Zionist Movement in general is extremely well researched and he raises key issues that should concern us as Jews. I believe that Professor Waxman probably falls of the extreme left and a key point that I disagree with him on is his assessment of such organizations as the Jewish Voice for Peace. Unfortunately in this respect I think that he may accept the false historical narrative concerning how Israel was legitimately reestablished in 1948. Sadly a group like the Jewish Voice for peace unfortunately completely removes itself from the Jewish community by advocating for Israel's enemies calling for the destruction of the Jewish state. In their eyes nothing which Israel does is justified and they help spread the false claim of occupation, Apartheid and seek a one State solution where the Jews would no longer be the majority. Unlike Professor Waxman, I believe that any Jew who supports a group like the JVP is self hating and has no real sense of Jewish identity. It is not worth delving into all these points now but overall he has done a great job with this book and it is something that every Jew should read because it will broaden your view of the conflict between the extreme right and the extreme left in terms of how Israel has molded and shaped the growing divide within American Jewry over the last few decades. The bottom line is that it is an exceptional book and you will only benefit from reading what he has to say about the subject.

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