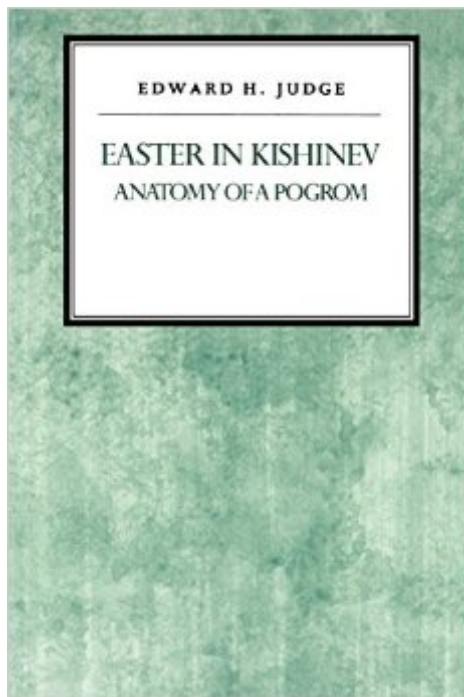


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Easter In Kishinev: Anatomy Of A Pogrom



Synopsis

Judge's book is the best to date on the Kishinev pogrom of 1903. In seven gracefully written chapters, the author lays out the background of the Jewish question in Russia, profiles the city of Kishinev, narrates the events leading up to and included in the pogrom, and analyzes its causes and effects.-Choice A detailed re-examination of the notorious Kishinev pogrom of 1903.-East European Jewish Affairs In February of 1903, in a town in the southwestern part of the Russian empire, a peasant stumbled upon the corpse of 14-year old Mikhail Rybachenko, bruised and covered with stab wounds, in a garden. The murder immediately fueled wild rumors that he had been killed by local Jews in need of his Christian blood to prepare their matzah bread. Panic rumors, grounded in sinister superstitions of Jewish sorcery and ritual murder, quickly spread to nearby towns. By April, they had hit Kishinev -- a growing metropolis of 100,000 inhabitants rife with the unrest of rapid expansion, ethnic rivalry, revolutionary agitation, and anti-Semitism -- with full force. The resulting massacre left dozens dead, and hundreds wounded, maimed, widowed, orphaned or homeless. This is the story of Kishinev. In this extensively researched book, Edward Judge examines these anti-Jewish riots, detailing their background, cause, and aftermath. He traces the evolution of the riots, analyzing the broader impact of imperial policies, urbanization, nationalism, population growth, and revolutionary activism upon the Jewish situation in Russia. Recounting the activities and attitudes of anti- semitic agitators and Kishinev officials, the book examines the spiral of violence, the inaction of the authorities in the wake of the pogrom, the storm of indignation that followed the pogrom, and the efforts of tsarist officials to counter subsequent negative publicity. EASTER IN KISHINEV also portrays the investigation of the disorders and the trials of the rioters and carefully considers the question of government responsibility for the outbreak of the pogrom.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A thoughtful and well-researched account of a once-infamous, now-forgotten pogrom in what is now Moldova, which claimed scores of Jewish lives. The author does a good job explaining the forces at work that lead to the pogrom and determining just how complicit the government was in the tragedy. I do, however, think the book was a bit dry. There could potentially have been exciting glimpses of the action itself -- certainly the author had the resources, in the form of court testimony. Some people are just better than others at making academic writing entertaining. I would recommend this for people interested in Russian Jewish history, but not for the general reader. In 2012 a very good fictional treatment of the story was published: *Rachel's Secret* by Shelly Sanders.

At the time of publication (1992), *Easter in Kishinev* was practically the only book in English that focused on any aspect of the history of the Moldovan capital. Edward Judge, Professor of History at Lemoyne College in Syracuse, NY, deals with the darkest chapter in the city's history: the pogrom of 1903. He reexamines the evidence surrounding the horrific events that made international headlines at the beginning of the last century, events that are unknown to many inhabitants of Kishinev today, though they have not been forgotten by the numerous Jewish families who used to live there and are now scattered around the world. To read more, go to hamiltonbeck.wordpress.com

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