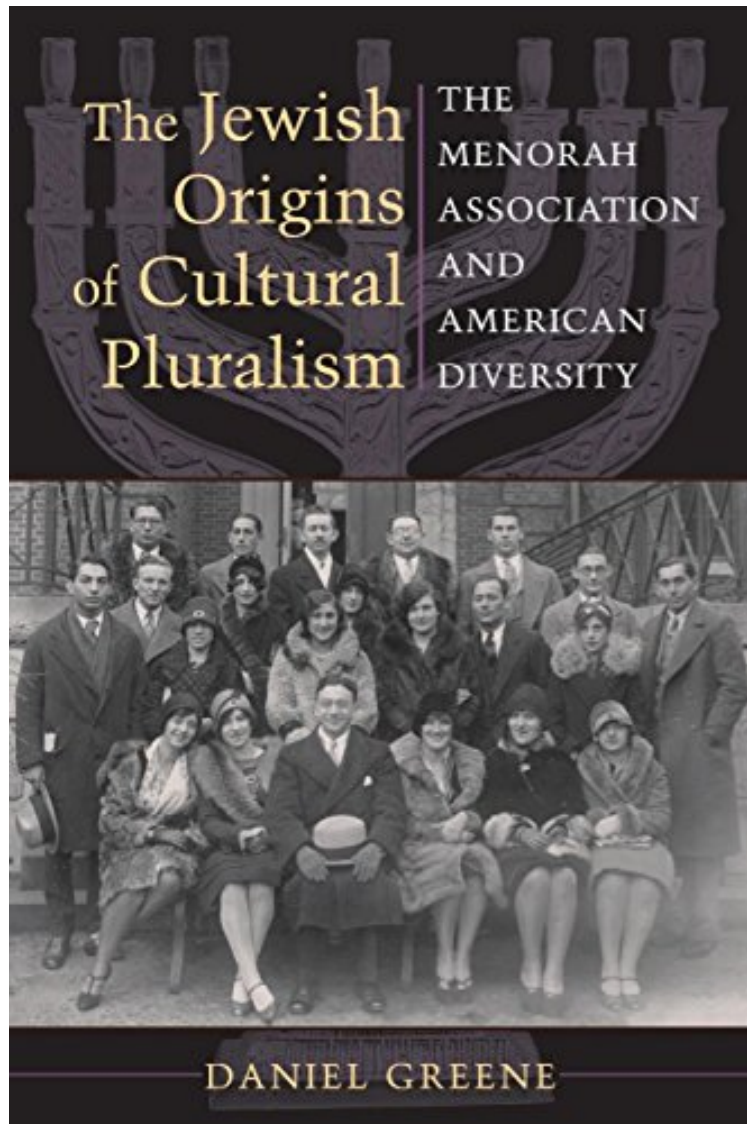


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Daniel Greene

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Daniel Greene : The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism: The Menorah Association and American Diversity (The Modern Jewish Experience) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time,

and all praised *The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism: The Menorah Association and American Diversity (The Modern Jewish Experience)*:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Pioneering Analysis that Could Yet be Developed Further
By Howard L. Cori
The author expertly reviews the pioneering work of Horace Kallen, "The Menorah Journal", and other individuals in the field of appreciating and articulating the substance and value of the diverse cultural, national, and "Peoples" heritages of North America. My only criticisms are actually "wishes"-- that he had defined his scope more broadly to include (1) "and Later Development" of Cultural Pluralism (occurring in the second half of the 20th Century); and (2) the relationship of this phenomenon to the history of Zionism and within the State of Israel. But that truly is needed and hopefully will later be brought forth by the author and/or others.
0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. worthy discussion
By Edward
The role of Horace Kallen and numerous other Menorah intellectuals in formulating the foundational discourse and philosophy of cultural pluralism/multiculturalism should never be forgotten. See also Elinor Joan Grumet's earlier study *The Menorah Idea and the Apprenticeship of Lionel Trilling* as well as Stephen Fredman's crucial work titled *A Menorah for Athena: Charles Reznikoff and the Jewish Dilemmas of Objectivist Poetry*

Daniel Greene traces the emergence of the idea of cultural pluralism to the lived experiences of a group of Jewish college students and public intellectuals, including the philosopher Horace M. Kallen. These young Jews faced particular challenges as they sought to integrate themselves into the American academy and literary world of the early 20th century. At Harvard University, they founded an influential student organization known as the Menorah Association in 1906 and later the Menorah Journal, which became a leading voice of Jewish public opinion in the 1920s. In response to the idea that the American melting pot would erase all cultural differences, the Menorah Association advocated a pluralist America that would accommodate a thriving Jewish culture while bringing Jewishness into mainstream American life.

This well-written text not only lays out the ideas associated with cultural pluralism as defined by Kallen and others but also offers readers an insight into the world of American higher education and its engagement and connection to the rise of Jewish intellectualism. (Menorah) This ambitious work . . . rewards the reader with a greatly enriched understanding of American cultural pluralism and the context that gave rise to it. (American Historical) Greene's text has done a great service by placing the social lives of Jews like Horace Kallen back into our consideration of a crucial term in American intellectual life. Grasping the Jewish origins of 'cultural pluralism' allows us to better ground its abstract claims, and to understand its flaws as well as its possibilities. (AJS s) Greene recovers the lost efforts of the Menorah Journal association and demonstrates their shared interest in notions of pluralism. Hopefully this work will spark new conversations about the relationship between Jews, pluralism, and the United States in the past and the future. (American Jewish History) Private or public, school, synagogue or academic collections if you are interested in the history and the formation of Jewish culture in America, the ongoing debate between the need for pluralism and the fear of assimilation, the differing ideologies and literature of identity formation you must have (and read!) this book. (AJL s) Greene makes out a good case for his contention that what happened to American Jewish college students is a good representation of what happened to American Jews generally during the early part of the 20th century. More significant is his analysis of cultural pluralism. These two elements of the book make for a useful addition to our comprehension of American Jewish history. (Buffalo Jewish) *The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism* illuminates our understanding of American-Jewish culture and what we call the American experience. It is a grand study of the IMA's [Intercollegiate Menorah Association] enduring achievements. Vol. 63.1, 2011 (American Jewish Archives Journal) In his excellent book, *The Jewish Origins of Cultural Pluralism* . . . Daniel Greene tells the story of [the Harvard Menorah Society] which spread from Harvard to campuses across the country and became the Intercollegiate Menorah Association in 1913 . . . But beyond that, Greene tells the tale of the birth and development of cultural pluralism, the idea that undergirded the Menorah Association. Cultural pluralism, emerging out of a small Jewish student movement, would shape the way Americans understood their diverse nation, and provide the intellectual basis for modern multiculturalism. (Journal of Jewish Identities) Greene makes visible the Jewish strand of a larger American story, an intervention that will help readers to better understand how and why the concept of cultural pluralism came about in the way it did. . . . It adds in important ways to the conversation about racial and ethnic differences and the way they have been understood in American culture. (Eric Goldstein Emory University) Greene lucidly exposes one of the central tensions in American Jewish history--between the desire for acceptance and the commitment to difference--and shows how this tension . . . took on a new life in the minds of these highly self-conscious and intellectual Jewish men. . . . He does a wonderful job mediating between the broader American context and the more specific contexts of his actors. (Lila Corwin Berman Temple University) About the Author Daniel Greene is Director of the Dr. William M. Scholl Center for American History and Culture at the Newberry Library in Chicago and a former curator and

historian at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.