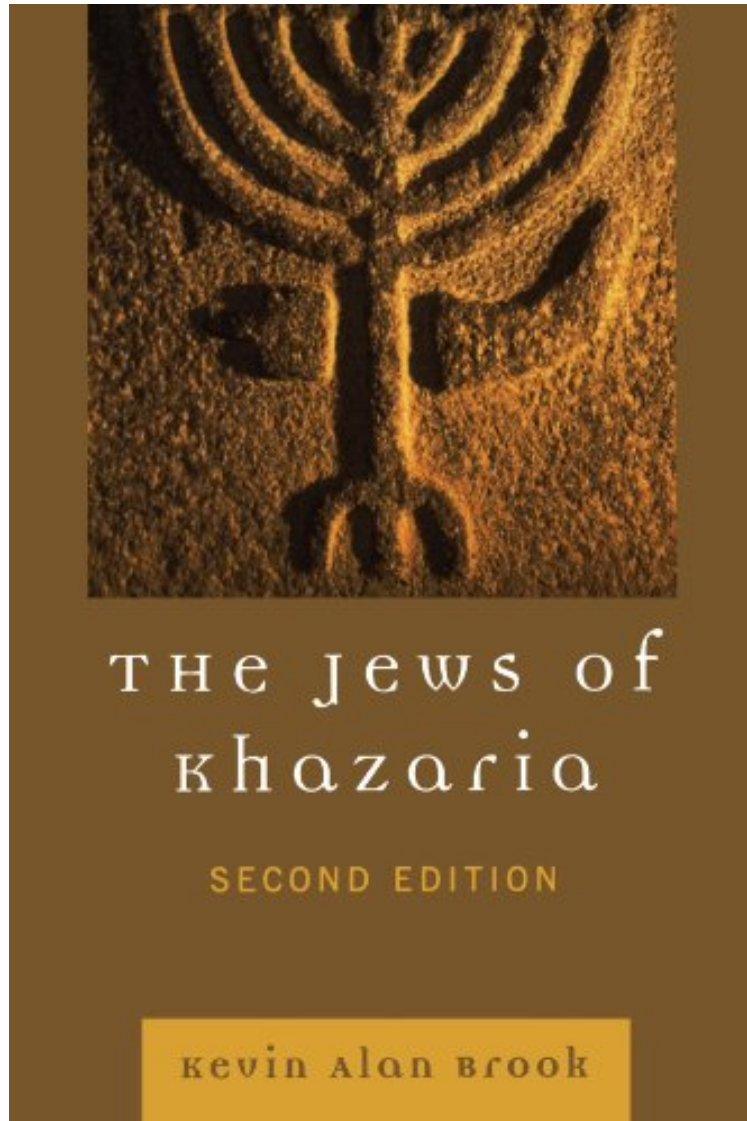


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The Jews of Khazaria

Kevin Alan Brook

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Kevin Alan Brook : The Jews of Khazaria before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of Khazaria:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. A vast improvement on an already impressive workBy Brian G.Brook has accomplished what no-one since D.M. Dunlop (in his 1954 "History of the Jewish Khazars") has been able to do: He has written a comprehensive, up-to-date, scrupulously researched and scholarly account of the amazing history of the Khazars. Better still, he has done so in a manner that is accessible to the layman as well as to historians.Brook, a layman himself (albeit a lay expert), has meticulously collected thousands of tidbits of historical

knowledge and lore from a myriad of primary and secondary sources Brook's first edition (published by Jason Aaronson in 1999) was a masterpiece in and of itself, but it was flawed by the certainty of certain controversial assertions (such as that the conversion of the Khazars took place in 861) which have, over the course of only a few years, become outdated by dramatic new discoveries in numismatics and archaeology. This second edition of Brook's magnum opus corrects many errors and also includes information on new discoveries, organized into convenient, intuitive and well-cited sections (including "The Origins of the Khazars", "The Khazars' Conversion to Judaism", and "Relations between the Khazars and other People".) Khazar history is brought to life through discussions of trade, religion, daily life, language, and many other issues. Anyone interested in Jewish, Eastern European or Eurasian history, or anyone who fancies themselves a polymath, would be remiss if they failed to purchase and read this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars By wordEnlightening. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Jews of Khazaria second edition by Kevin Alan Brook By Nadene Goldfoot The Jews of Khazaria is a brilliant work of incredible research written in a very interesting manner. This is a group of Turkish people from the early medieval period that has been overlooked in most history books, perhaps mentioned in a few sentences. Kevin Brook has managed to find out so much on the history of Jews. Up to the 10th century Khazaria covered area from the northern Caucasus and the Volga delta to Kiev. I thought after having a Y DNA test and finding that the male side of my family were rather rare Q haplogroup that we would also be from Khazaria but that may not be true. Nevertheless, I have learned a great deal about a part of my history that I had never known about.

The Jews of Khazaria chronicles the history of the Khazars, a people who, in the early Middle Ages, founded a large empire in eastern Europe (located in present-day Ukraine and Russia). The Khazars played a pivotal role in world history. Khazaria was one of the largest-sized political formations of its time, an economic and cultural superpower connected to several important trade routes. It was especially notable for its religious tolerance, and in the 9th century, a large portion of the royal family converted to Judaism. Many of the nobles and commoners did likewise shortly thereafter. After their conversion, the Khazars were ruled by a succession of Jewish kings that began to adopt the hallmarks of Jewish civilization, including the Torah and Talmud, the Hebrew script, and the observance of Jewish holidays. In this thoroughly revised edition of a modern classic, The Jews of Khazaria explores many exciting new discoveries about the Khazars' religious life, economy, military, government, and culture. It builds upon new studies of the Khazars, evaluating and incorporating recent theories, along with new documentary and archaeological findings. The book gives a comprehensive accounting of the cities, towns, and fortresses of Khazaria, and features a timeline summarizing key events in Khazar history.

"As a full exploration in English of the history and culture of the Khazars, this volume is without equal..." --Edward J. Lazzerini, Visiting Professor of Central Eurasian History, Indiana University Bloomington "a compendium of information gathered from every available source... a useful reference work" --James Howard-Johnston, Lecturer, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, Winter 2009 "a concise and readable digest... current and accessible... extremely valuable for its consolidation of this disparate material." --Eve Krakowski, University of Chicago, in *Journal of Near Eastern Studies*, October 2011 About the Author Kevin Alan Brook is a historian who has researched the Khazars since 1993. Since 1995, Brook has maintained the website Khazaria.com. He has lectured on the Khazars in Ontario, Ohio, and Massachusetts. He is the author of the following articles, among others: "A Brief History of the Khazars" in Rabbi Korobkin's edition of *The Kuzari: In Defense of the Despised Faith* (Feldheim, 2009) "Khazars and Judaism" in *The Encyclopaedia of Judaism*, Second Edition (Brill, 2005) "Khazar Empire" in *Encyclopedia of World Trade* (M.E. Sharpe, 2005) "Khazar-Byzantine Relations" in *The Turks* (Yeni Türkiye, 2002) "The Origins of East European Jews" in *Russian History/Histoire Russe*, Spring-Summer 2003 "Jews in Medieval Armenia" in *Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora* (ABC-CLIO, 2008)