



# The Oxford Handbook of Judaism and Economics (Oxford Handbooks)

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The interaction of Judaism and economics encompasses many different dimensions. Much of this interaction can be explored through the way in which Jewish law accommodates and even enhances commercial practice today and in past societies.

From this context, *The Oxford Handbook of Judaism and Economics* explores how Judaism as a religion and Jews as a people relate to the economic sphere of life in modern society as well as in the past. Bringing together an astonishingly strong group of top scholars, the volume approaches the subject from a variety of angles, providing one of the most comprehensive, well-rounded, and authoritative accounts of the intersections of Judaism and economics yet produced. Aaron Levine first offers a brief overview of the nature and development of Jewish law as a legal system, then presents essays from a variety of angles and areas of expertise. The book offers contributions on economic theory in the bible and in the Talmud; on the interaction between Jewish law, ethics, modern society, and public policy; then presents illuminating explorations of Judaism throughout economic history and the ways in which economics has influenced Jewish history.

*The Oxford Handbook of Judaism and Economics* at last offers an extensive and welcome resource by leading scholars and economists on the vast and delightfully complex relationship between economics and Judaism.

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## **Editorial Review**

### **Review**

"Rabbi Dr. Aaron Levine is a world-renowned authority on the Talmud, on Economics, and on Ethics. Here he has put together a remarkable collection of essays on and surveys of a very wide range of issues bearing on the relationship between Jewish literature, law, and practice on the one hand, and on the other hand, economic theory and business practice--especially business ethics. The volume spans thousands of years, from Biblical times to modern Israel, and one may expect it to become a standard reference."--Robert John Aumann, Professor Emeritus, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, co-winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics for 2005

"These new essays assembled by Aaron Levine constitute a landmark in bringing Jewish law and Jewish history to bear on economics as an intellectual discipline. The collection is remarkable both for its astonishing range and for the depth of scholarship on display in many of the individual essays. Scholars working at the intersection of economics and Judaica will be citing these essays for decades."--Benjamin M. Friedman, William Joseph Maier Professor of Political Economy, Harvard University, author of *The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth*

"What a wonderful contribution! Aaron Levine has put together a book containing individual papers that cover many diverse aspects of Judaism from the Bible and Talmud to modern day law and society. All the papers are tied together by the use of economic reasoning to gain insight into each subject. The book is breathtaking in its scope and shows the power of economic thinking to illuminate the rich tradition and history of Judaism. A striking contribution of the book is to show the relevance of Judaism to many of today's ethical and practical problems."--Dennis W. Carlton, Katherine Dusak Miller Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago

### **About the Author**

**Aaron Levine** is the Samson and Halina Bitensky Professor of Economics at Yeshiva University. A noted authority on Jewish commercial law, he has published widely on the interface between economics and Jewish law, especially as it relates to public policy and modern business practices.

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