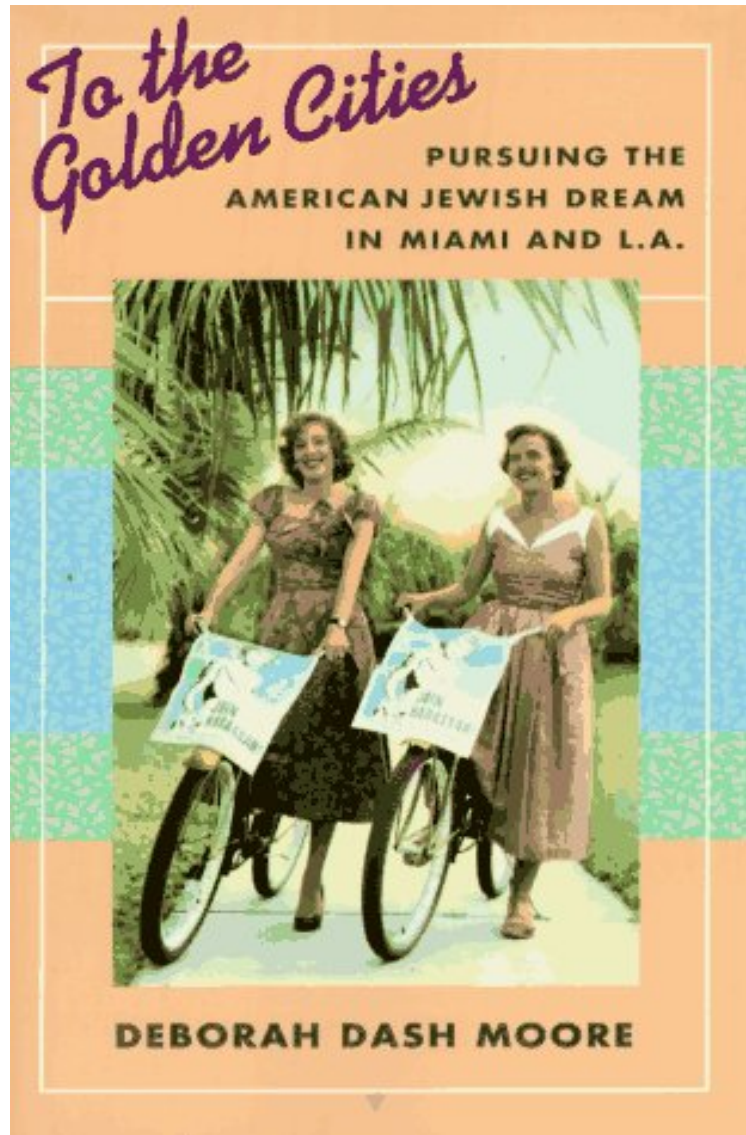


[Download pdf ebook] To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A

To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A

Deborah Dash Moore

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Deborah Dash Moore : To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To the Golden Cities: Pursuing the American Jewish Dream in Miami and L.A:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read like a dissertation. Maybe it was. Very, very dry. By Kids Toys

purchaserRead like a dissertation. Maybe it was. Very, very dry. Put it down after a chapter.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Moore offers a case study of Miami and LA in ...By NekuMoore offers a case study of Miami and LA in parallels that emphasize the migration patterns and development of Jewish life in these major cities after the second world war.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Looked more interesting with the cover photographBy D. SchwartzReally didn't want to see photos of Paul Newman and Eva Marie Saint filming Exodus out in LA, nor did the promise of two attractive women bicycling to recruit members to Hadassah in the 1950s pan out to a vivid description of Jewish identity in the playgrounds of LA and Miami. What I got out of it was the desire to move out to those cities came mostly from a positive experience Jewish servicemen had while shipping out from those cities during WWII. It was a real love they had for the climate and wide open spaces. But a real analysis of the brand of Jewishness that was practiced in those two warm-climate cities, apart from a too-detailed account of the rabbis who transplanted themselves and what their dynamic was, was what I was seeking. A real dialogue from some transplants was neglected. They had left extended family behind. Comments on that would have been interesting.

The first great modern migration of the Jewish people, from the Old World to America, has been often and expertly chronicled, but until now the second great wave of Jewish migration has been overlooked. After World War II, spurred by a postwar economic boom, American Jews sought new beginnings in the nation's South and West. There, they shaped a new, postwar style of American Judaism for the second half of the twentieth century. Today these sun-soaked, entrepreneurial communities contribute greatly to the American Jewish landscape. In this book, the vibrant Jewish culture of Los Angeles and Miami comes to life through Moore's skillful weaving of individual voices, dreams, and accomplishments.

From Publishers WeeklyJoining the great postwar migrations from the Northeast and the Midwest to Los Angeles and Miami were large numbers of Jews from Chicago and New York. Cut loose from their ties to the old European religious cultures of their families, these "permanent tourists," as Moore calls them, created a new and distinctly American Jewish identity, colored by the comparably free-wheeling, easy life around them in their new Edens. Regular attendance at religious services and observation of ritual customs met with strong competition from sun and sea; some rabbis felt obliged to hold a congregation together by promoting the Sabbath services as "entertainment." Moore, director of Vassar College's Program in American Culture, details Jewish life minutely in Miami and Los Angeles; the loss of a traditional Jewish sense of identity, and its ultimate reconstitution in the establishment of Israel; and the constant presence of anti-Semitism, which could, paradoxically, serve to reunify. Although often overwhelmed by documentation of such trivia as the name of the manager of the gift shop of a Miami synagogue, Moore's study is nevertheless a notable depiction of the social, political and religious experiences of the two migratory streams. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalMoore (Vassar Coll.) has used the prisms of Miami and Los Angeles to reflect the transformation of American Jewry. Crammed with solid documentation, yet written in a fluid, readable style, her book identifies the factors and trends that led to fundamental changes in the American Jewish community in the decades following World War II. Moore uses the metaphor of the "permanent tourist" to describe the initial reaction of the Jews who migrated from the Northeast and large Midwestern cities, attracted by the climate, the casual lifestyle, and the lack of established norms. Responding to their new environment, they chose to express themselves in new ways that both identified an ethnic Jewishness and promoted rapid integration into the surrounding American culture. This seminal work will be widely read.- Carol R. Glatt, VA Medical Ctr. Lib., PhiladelphiaCopyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Kirkus sA lucid account of American Jewry's second great migration- -from the old, cold cities of the Northeast and Midwest to the sunny new Edens of Los Angeles and Miami. According to Moore (American Culture/Vassar), just as Jews from Warsaw and Cracow made a new start in the New World, the post- G.I. Bill migrants to Miami were ready to make a break from the crowded "Old Country" centers in places like the Bronx or to follow the Dodgers from Brooklyn to Los Angeles. Moore sees Miami as the principal "suburb of New York" and traces the move from specific Midwest neighborhoods to the "Kosher Canyon" of LA's Beverly-Fairfax area. Aware of their similarities, Moore is careful to delineate the demographic, sociological, and religious factors that made Jewish Miami and L.A. distinct. Miami, termed "God's waiting room" for its large number of retirees, saw a denser, more ethnocentric community form in ghettolike strips of Miami Beach, where old hotels became retirement homes and estates turned into high-rises. While the mellower, more suburban West Coast scene faced no Klan bombings, Jewish Angelenos encountered exclusivist WASPS, with many Jewish Hollywood writers and producers hurt by "anti-Communist" blacklisting. Both communities have been galvanized by the rise of Israel (aided by Hollywood's Exodus film) to the extent that Moore sees the Jewish state replacing New York as their cultural center. The study credits these suntanned American Jews with recasting the well-defined traditional Jewish religious and ethnic culture into "symbolic cultural fragments...that are more individualistic and voluntary." Sadly, this lively book does not take us up to the 1980's, but Moore is a historian, not a journalist, and her story gives modern continuity to the Diaspora. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.