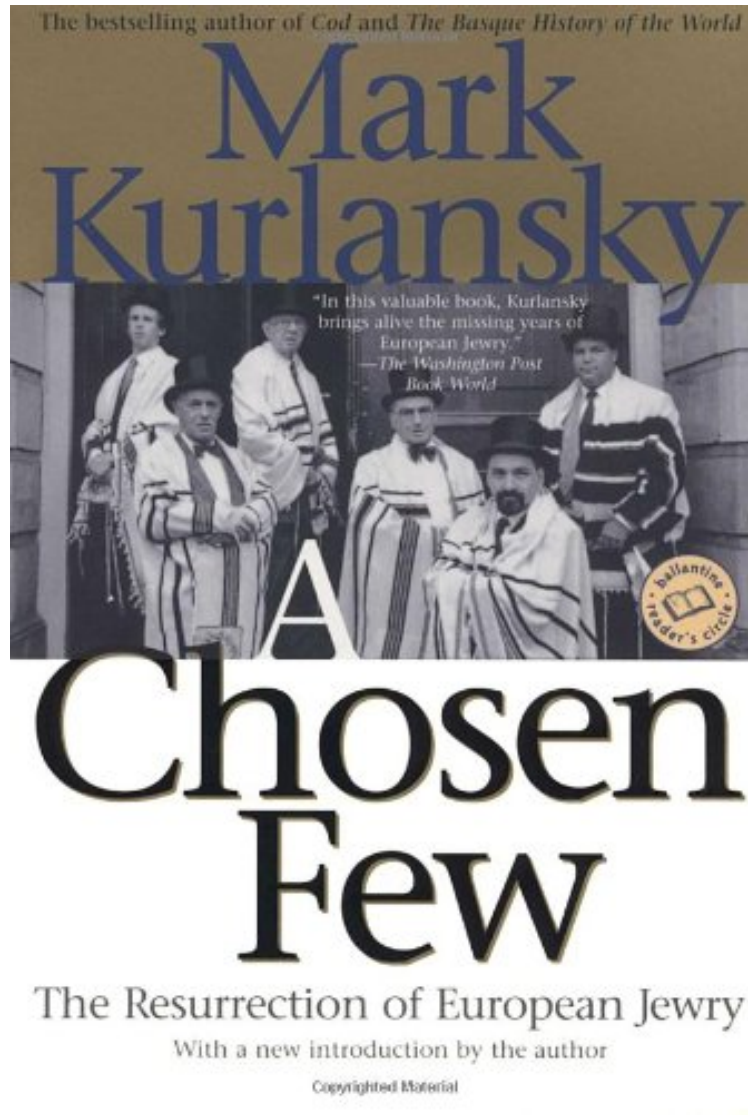


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A Chosen Few: The Resurrection of European Jewry (Ballantine Reader's Circle)

Mark Kurlansky

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Mark Kurlansky : A Chosen Few: The Resurrection of European Jewry (Ballantine Reader's Circle) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Chosen Few: The Resurrection of European Jewry (Ballantine Reader's Circle):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. 5 star content, 2 star editing By TomasGA Chosen Few: The Resurrection of European Jewry is proving to be a very interesting book. It is not just a case study of the resurgence of

Jewish life in Europe, post-WWI, but of the political histories of many Eastern European countries, as well. I am learning more about this time period that was ever taught in public schools in the late '60's. My main problem with this Kindle version of the book is the extremely poor editing of the electronic version. It appears as though the pages were scanned with OCR readers, and the discrepancies were either not caught or were ignored by human proofreaders. Many of the Eastern European names of people and places were absolutely butchered - and not even in the same way from page to page. Luckily, most were repeated often enough in the same chapter that I could generally figure out these mis-spellings well enough to make sense of the text. I want to continue reading Mr. Kurlansky's books as Kindle editions (I read *Salt* in trade paperback format and thoroughly enjoyed it), and can only hope that the conversion to electronic format is better done. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Kurlansky sees and tells the truth. By Samoa W. Many stories about Jews who returned to European cities after the Holocaust and tried to resume normal lives. Compared to the pre WWII population, only a small number of Jews returned and stayed. Their stories are amazing and some are very sad. In a number of countries Anti-Semitism resurfaced and again ruined lives. Mark Kurlansky tells the truth as he sees it even if it is painful. The book was originally published in 1995. This paperback has a updated introduction at 2002. I only wish the whole text had been updated. Perhaps a sequel is in order. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A MUST! By Jose Sandino It is a must to read this book for a clear understanding of a chosen nation surviving among evil forces through world history. They deserve a country of their own.

A POWERFUL, DEEPLY MOVING NARRATIVE OF HOPE REBORN IN THE SHADOW OF DESPAIR Fifty years after it was bombed to rubble, Berlin is once again a city in which Jews gather for the Passover seder. Paris and Antwerp have recently emerged as important new centers of Jewish culture. Small but proud Jewish communities are revitalizing the ancient centers of Budapest, Prague, and Amsterdam. These brave, determined Jewish men and women have chosen to settle or remain in Europe after the devastation of the Holocaust, but they have paid a price. Among the unexpected dangers, they have had to cope with an alarming resurgence of Nazism in Europe, the spread of Arab terrorism, and the impact of the Jewish state on European life. Delving into the intimate stories of European Jews from all walks of life, Kurlansky weaves together a vivid tapestry of individuals sustaining their traditions, and flourishing, in the shadow of history. An inspiring story of a tenacious people who have rebuilt their lives in the face of incomprehensible horror, *A Chosen Few* is a testament to cultural survival and a celebration of the deep bonds that endure between Jews and European civilization. Consistently absorbing . . . *A Chosen Few* investigates the relatively uncharted territory of an encouraging phenomenon. Los Angeles Times I can think of no book that portrays with such intelligence, historical understanding, and journalistic flair what life has been like for Jews determined to build lives in Europe. SUSAN MIRON Forward

From Publishers Weekly A half-century after the Holocaust, Paris has again become a major Jewish center, and traditional Jewish life is thriving in Antwerp and Budapest. Jewish communities in Berlin, Prague and Amsterdam, however, are struggling, and Poland is almost devoid of Jewish life. Kurlansky (*A Continent of Islands*) visited numerous Jewish communities that had been decimated during the war, interviewing camp survivors, rabbis, atheists, professional people, political activists and writers. Stitching together their personal stories with history and reportage, this keenly observant narrative charts a traumatized people's experiences in rebuilding their lives after unimaginable horrors and the loss of their homes and businesses. Many of Kurlansky's respondents voice anxiety over the resurgence of anti-Semitic and nationalist violence. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Kurlansky (*A Continent of Islands: Searching for the Caribbean Destiny*, LJ 1/92) presents an insightful look at European Jewry today. He has interviewed Jews of all ages and occupations throughout Europe. After the devastation of the Holocaust, it may come as a surprise that Jews continue to live in countries with tragic histories of anti-Semitism. Kurlansky chronicles the determined efforts of these Jews to survive. Europe will never be the focal point of Jewish life as it was before the Holocaust, but Kurlansky shows how Jews are writing new chapters in the European Jewish experience. Indeed, in the democratic countries of Western Europe, Jews can actually thrive. This unusual book is informative and easy to read. Libraries serving Jewish clientele and those seeking to bolster their current affairs section will want to add. Paul Kaplan, Lake Villa Dist. Lib., Ill. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sA richly descriptive and insightful survey of post-Holocaust European Jewry. Kurlansky (*A Continent of Islands*, 1992) interviews scores of Holocaust survivors and their children in Germany, Holland, Poland, Slovakia, and other countries to examine how and why Jews still live in Europe. He moves from the end of WW II to the present, showing people just after the war, often in displaced-persons camps, and then later, having survived--opening a bakery in Paris, enrolling in a Jewish school in Budapest, or running a museum in Prague. Kurlansky states that "Jewry today has a future in Europe, and Hitler at last has been defeated," and he gives statistical evidence that European Jewry is rebounding. But the qualitative state of European Jewry remains less clear. Many of the interview subjects have had Jewish identity thrust on them, whether they want it or not, by political opponents or by the biases and prejudices of the majority cultures in which they reside. And the few traditional Jews (in the growing communities of France and the

Lowlands) are immigrants from North Africa or Hasidim who have come to ply the diamond trade. Many of the younger people we meet have only been told of their Jewish background when a parent is dying or when a child is found to be on the receiving or giving end of anti-Semitism. Anti-Semitism, in fact, has been a constant over the years, whether it's the rantings of Nazis or the subtle, anti-Zionist sneers of present-day foreign secretaries. This is not a catalogue of fear and shame, however, as Kurlansky, with a novelist's eye for irony and description, offers many moments of transcendence and humor: entertaining culture clashes between communists and capitalists, religious and secular, Zionists and diasporists. The humor darkens when American tourists are greeted at the Warsaw train station with cries of "Taxi? Hotel? Auschwitz?" in Poland's new "world fair of genocide." A lively, penetrating follow-up to Holocaust readings that speaks volumes about the resiliency of the Jewish people. -- Copyright 1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.