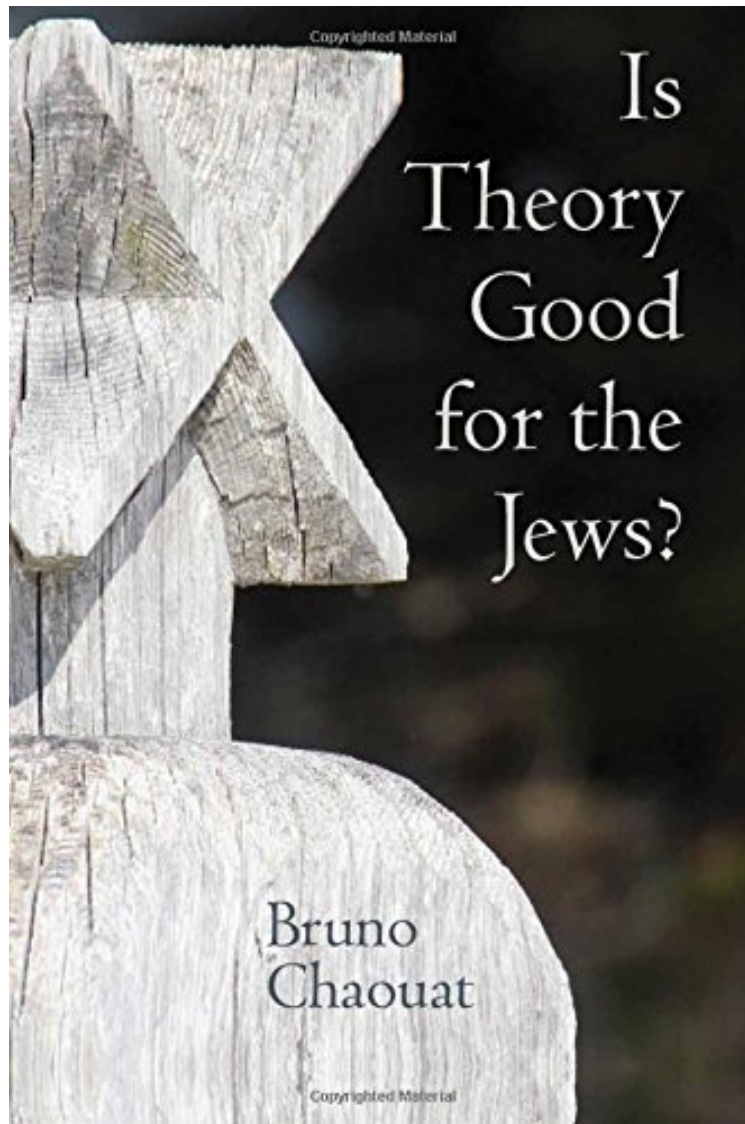


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Is Theory Good for the Jews?: French Thought and the Challenge of the New Antisemitism (Contemporary French and Francophone Cultures Lup)

Bruno Chaouat

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Is Theory Good for the Jews? is the first attempt at exploring the cultural, intellectual, literary, and ideological roots of French engagement with the global and local upsurge of antisemitism in the 21st century. It is also the first attempt at analyzing the French responses to this new crisis. Chaouat endeavors to understand phenomena of repression, distortion, perversion, or outright denial, within the specific context of French intellectual and cultural history. By looking back to the 1960s and the emergence of a theoretical discourse on trauma, victims and suffering, the Holocaust and the Jews in literature, philosophy, and literary theory, he offers the first in-depth exploration of the cultural roots of French responses to the new antisemitism. Engaging with the work of major thinkers such as Maurice Blanchot, Jacques Derrida, and Jean-François Lyotard, *Is Theory Good for the Jews?* is an essential text for scholars of contemporary French and contemporary Jewish Studies.

"The reader will be fascinated by the deftness with which Chaouat triangulates such oppositions as Sephardic/Ashkenazi, Israelite/Juif, Jew of the flesh/Jew of the spirit, infinitely expanding Europe/infininitely expanding Jihad. This is a remarkable book." - Professor Jeffrey Mehlman, Boston University
"In this startlingly lucid book, Bruno Chaouat asks why so many of the important theorists of our time, from Alain Badiou to Judith Butler, have failed to confront the problem of the 'new antisemitism.' A must-read for anyone interested in the intersection of contemporary politics and critical theory." - Maurice Samuels, Betty Jane Anlyan Professor of French and Director, Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism, Yale University
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