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Looking at Jewish History Through the Lens of 30 Turning Points

July 2018—The study of Jewish history is a complex pursuit that presents unique challenges for the serious student. With *Turning Points in Jewish History* (JPS, July 2018), Marc Rosenstein, the former director of the Israel Rabbinical Program of Hebrew Union College, examines the entire span of Jewish history through the lens of 30 pivotal moments in the Jewish people's experience from biblical times through the present.

Zeroing in on eight turning points in the biblical period, four in Hellenistic-Roman times, five in the Middle Ages, and thirteen in modernity, Rosenstein elucidates each formative event with a focused history, a timeline, a primary text with commentary, and discussion of its legacy. Along the way he analyzes various controversies arising from Judaism's encounters with power, exile, messianism, rationalism, mysticism, catastrophe, modernity, nationalism, feminism, and other historical forces.

Blending big picture context with exacting attention to detail, the book is intended as an accessible yet serious introduction for the layman, and as a textbook and source reader for college and adult Jewish history survey courses. Discussion questions for every chapter (some in print, more online) facilitate reflection and continuing conversation.

Rabbi Eric H. Yoffie, president emeritus of the Union for Reform Judaism, commented on the accessible nature of the text: "The history of the Jewish people is remarkable but very difficult to teach. Here, impressively, Marc Rosenstein conveys the drama and complexity of Jewish history in a single accessible volume." According to a starred review in *Kirkus*, "Those who fear deep philosophical meanderings can rest easy. Each chapter is supremely readable, understandable, and enlightening, making the book a valuable addition to any library."

*For more information about *Turning Points in Jewish History*, visit jps.org. To contact the author, email Suzanne Selengut, sselengut@jps.org. For a review copy, contact Anna Weir, aweir@unl.edu.*

About The Jewish Publication Society: Founded in 1888, The Jewish Publication Society is the preeminent publisher of classic and contemporary Jewish texts for English readers worldwide. JPS has been publishing partners with the University of Nebraska Press since 2012. For more information, please visit jps.org or nebraskapress.unl.edu/jps.