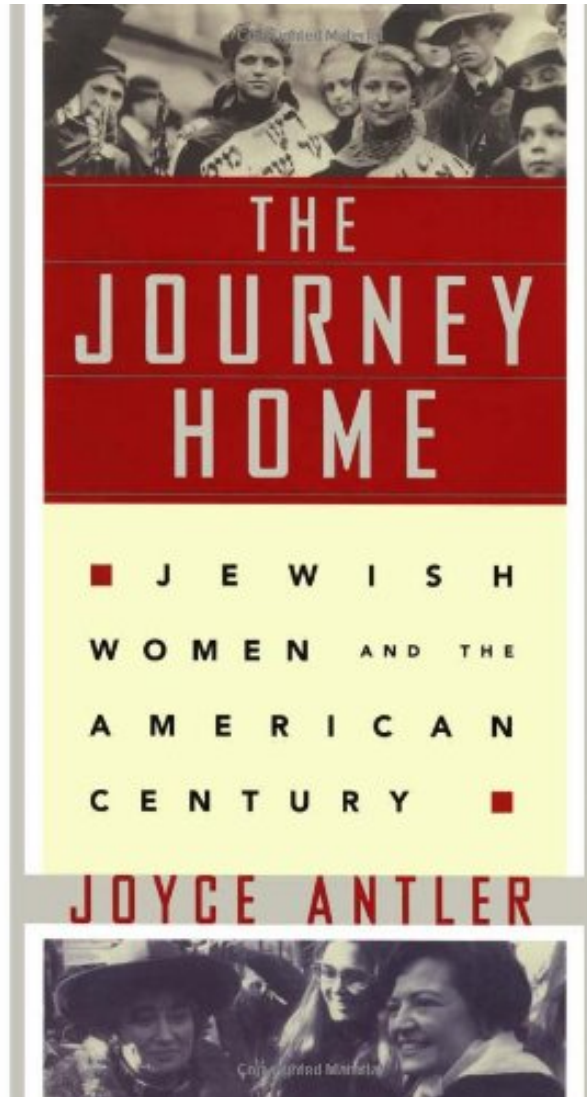


(Download ebook) The Journey Home

## The Journey Home

Joyce Antler

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**Joyce Antler : The Journey Home** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Journey Home:

In recent decades, prominent American Jewish women like Bella Abzug and Betty Friedan have made headlines and history, challenging the constraints facing women in American public life. Few realize that these women embody a hundred-year legacy of remarkable activism. From suffrage to birth control, from trade unionism to higher education, from civil rights to feminism to every aspect of popular culture, Jewish women have been in the vanguard, leading key

social movements and shaping cultural consciousness. Anarchists and Zionists, 'sob sister' writers and Supreme Court justices, rabbis and reformers, personalities as diverse as Emma Goldman, Sophie Tucker and Gertrude Stein have left their indelible mark on the American century. Joyce Antler profiles these women leaders in "The Journey Home," interweaving social history with brilliant portraiture. In a fresh and lively narrative, she examines the political conflicts and personal tensions that animated their lives as they redefined the landscapes of American culture and society. To change their nation they battled class and gender prejudice, anti-Semitism, and anti-immigrant fervor. They drew sustenance from Jewish tradition but always took independent stands.

.com In *The Journey Home*, profiles of more than 50 notable Jewish American women are woven into a carefully researched though somewhat scattershot social history of the 20th century. The paths that these rousing activists and artists of all stripes chose often clashed with family and religious mores. Pressing toward their goals made them outcasts as surely as their religion did, notes historian Joyce Antler. Ironically, she says, reviled political firebrands, from anarchist labor organizer Emma Goldman to the wonderfully abrasive and outspoken New York Congresswoman Bella Abzug, echoed actions undertaken by respectable Jewish housewives who occasionally "took to the streets, waging bitter strikes to protest the high costs of housing and food" in what was considered a socially acceptable defense of their families. Zionists Henrietta Szold and Golda Meir, sob sister Fanny Hurst, vaudeville star Fanny Brice, and feminists Betty Friedan and Letty Cottin Pogrebin are among those who receive their due. Finding a home in the world called for a reckoning between their Jewish identity, their essential natures, and the more prosaic roles they were expected to fill. From *Library Journal* In this fascinating and persuasive work, Antler (women's studies, Brandeis Univ.) explores the lives of notable 20th-century Jewish American women from Emma Lazarus, Emma Goldman, and Golda Meir to Bella Abzug, Adrienne Rich, and Wendy Wasserstein. Antler traces childhood influences and how each woman rose to her accomplishments. She clearly demonstrates how "a century of impressive achievement nonetheless also chronicles a cross-generational pattern of tension, ambivalence, struggle, and displacement." She emphasizes how Jewish women today are "the most dynamic resource for the survival and continuity of Jewish life in America." She also provides valuable information on lesser-known figures. A seminal study; highly recommended for both public and academic libraries. ?Marcia G. Welsh, Guilford Free Lib., Ct. Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. Joyce Antler, who teaches American studies at Brandeis University, blends history, anecdote and biography to emphasize the achievement of [more than 50 Jewish women], who attempted to satisfy family, God and their own dreams at the same time. [*The Journey Home*] illuminates their struggles for identity as well as the sexism and anti-Semitism they encountered. -- *The New York Times Book* , Susan Shapiro