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The Friars And The Jews: The Evolution Of Medieval Anti-Judaism

THE FRIARS AND THE JEWS

The Evolution of Medieval Anti-Judaism

JEREMY COHEN



Synopsis

"Cohen argues that it was in the thirteenth century that a fundamental shift occurred in the Christian perception of both Judaism and Jews in Western Europe, and he attributes this change to the activities of the newly-formed mendicant ordersâ •the Dominicans and Franciscans. In order to make this case as effectively as he does, the author has to approach his problem from two different perspectivesâ •that of the historian of the medieval church, and that of the Jewish historian. Each of these approaches has its own scholarly literature, its own emphases, its own particular blind spots. It is the principal quality of this book that it focuses a steady, clear light on those dark corners, and will make sense to a variety of readers. . . . Cohen's views will be taken seriously. Indeed, the calm and sensible tone of this book may help stimulate a new scholarly debate. "â •American Jewish History

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"Cohen not only presents the ideology and strategy of such leading figures as Raymond de Peà aforte, Pablo Christiani, Raymond Martini, Nicholas of Lyra, and Raymond Lull, but also some Jewish responses to their attacks. . . . This book is thoroughly researched, documented, and convincing."â •Religious Studies Review"Important, richly documented, and beautifully written. . . . Highly recommended."â •Choice"Jeremy Cohen displays remarkable expertise in the history of both the Jews and the friars. As a result he can offer a convincing solution to an important problem in medieval Jewish historyâ •the transition from the relative tolerance of the Church towards Jews in the early Middle Ages to the growing intolerance starting in the thirteenth century, which led to the

expulsion of the Jews from country after country."â •Jacob Katz, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

This book is a classic. Cohen does a wonderful job in revealing the evolution of Dominican and Franciscan theology concerning God's chosen people--the Jews. It documents the ignorance and ugliness essential for to the advancement of replacement theology.

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