

The Moscow State Yiddis

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The Moscow State Yiddish Theater Yiddish Theatre Yiddish Paris Yiddish Empire Yiddish in the Cold War Yiddish Soviet Politics on the Yiddish Stage Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture Yiddish Literature Under Surveillance Russian and Soviet History *Jeffrey Veidlinger Author Joel Berkowitz Nick Underwood Debra Caplan Gennady Estraiikh Miriam Weinstein Jeffrey Veidlinger David Shneer Gennady Estraiikh Steven A. Usitalo*

jeffrey veidlinger relates a fascinating and little known piece of history he distills a remarkable amount of research into a pithy well turned account that will interest readers of cultural and political history publishers weekly drawing from newly available archives jeffrey veidlinger uses the dramatic story of the moscow state yiddish theater the premiere secular jewish cultural institution of the soviet era to demonstrate how jewish writers and artists were able to promote jewish national culture within the confines of soviet nationality policies published with the generous support of the lucius n littauer foundation

this collection of essays conveys a broad range of fundamental ideas about yiddish theatre and its importance in jewish life as a reflection of aesthetic social and political trends and concerns the contributions cover such topics as the yiddish repertoire including the purimshpil and the relationship between yiddish drama and the broader european dramatic tradition the historiography of the yiddish theatre the role of music censorship both by governmental authorities and from within the jewish community and the politics of yiddish theatre criticism taken as a whole these essays make a significant contribution to our understanding of jewish literature and culture in eastern europe and the united states

yiddish paris explores how yiddish speaking emigrants from eastern europe in paris in the 1920s and 1930s created a yiddish diaspora nation in western europe and how they presented that nation to themselves and to others in france in this meticulously researched and first full length study of interwar yiddish culture in france author nicholas underwood argues that the emergence of a yiddish paris was depended on culture makers mostly left wing jews from socialist and communist backgrounds who created cultural and scholarly organizations and institutions including the french branch of yivo a research institution focused on east european jews theater troupes choruses and a pavilion at the paris world s fair of 1937 yiddish paris examines how these left wing yiddish speaking jews insisted that even in france a country known for demanding the assimilation of immigrant and minority groups they could remain a distinct group part of a transnational yiddish speaking jewish nation yet in the process they in fact created a french inflected version of jewish diaspora nationalism finding allies among french intellectuals largely on the left

relates the untold story of a traveling yiddish theater company and traces their far reaching influence

yiddish speaking groups of communists played a visible role in many countries most notably in the soviet union united states poland france canada argentina and uruguay the sacrificial role of the red army and the soviet union as a whole reinforced the left movement in the post holocaust jewish world apart from card careering devotees such groups attracted numerous sympathisers including the artist marc chagall and the writer sholem asch but the suppression of yiddish culture in the soviet union radically changed the climate in jewish leftwing circles former communists and sympathisers turned away while the attention of yiddish commentators in the west turned to the conditions for jewish cultural and religious life in the soviet union and poland jewish emigration and the situation in the middle east ideological confrontations between communist yiddish literati in the soviet union united states canada poland france and israel are in the centre of gennady estraiikh s pioneering study yiddish in the cold war this ground breaking book recreates the intellectual environments of the moscow literary journal sovetish heymland the author was its managing editor in 1988 91 the new york newspaper morgn frayhayt and the warsaw newspaper folks shtime

this first ever biography on yiddish is a charming and highly readable history of the

language that recreates the sound of a world gone forever the washington post for a thousand years yiddish was the glue that held a people together through the intimacies of daily use it linked european jews with their heroic past their spiritual universe their increasingly far flung relations in it they produced one of the world s most richly human cultures impoverished and disenfranchised in the eyes of the world yiddish speakers created their own alternate reality wealthy in appreciation of the varieties of human behavior spendthrift in humor brilliantly inventive in maintaining and strengthening community for a people of exile the language took the place of a nation the written and spoken word formed the yiddishland that never came to be words were army university city state territory they were a people s home the tale which has never before been told is nothing short of miraculous the saving of a people through speech it ranges far beyond europe from north america to israel to the russian chinese border and from the end of the first millennium to the present day this book requires no previous knowledge of yiddish or of jewish history just a curious mind and an open heart

yiddish and the creation of soviet jewish culture gives voice to the activists empowered by the state to create a soviet jewish national culture these activists were striving for a national revolution to create a new culture for jews to identify as jews on new secular soviet terms this book explores the ways in which jews were part of not apart from both the soviet system and jewish history soviet jewish culture worked within contemporary jewish national and cultural trends and simultaneously participated in the larger project of propagating the soviet state and ideology soviet jewish activists were not nationalists or soviets but both at once david shneer addresses some of the painful truths about jews own implication and imbrication in the soviet system and inserts their role in twentieth century jewish culture into the narrative of jewish history

yiddish literature under surveillance the case of soviet ukraine gives a broad view on soviet jewish literary life and on the repression suffered by yiddish writers under stalinist rule it moves from the paradigm of writing almost exclusively about the most prominent authors whose execution in moscow on august 12 1952 is tragically known as the night of murdered poets instead the narrative is built as a group biography of five writers whose literary home was in kyiv the capital of soviet ukraine from 1934 to 1991 those authors are as follows avrom abchuk arrested and executed in 1937 chaim gildin arrested in 1940 died in a camp in 1943 itsik kipnis arrested in 1949 released in 1955 rive balyasne

arrested in 1952 released in 1955 and hirsh bloshteyn an enthusiastic agent of the secret police in addition this book is populated by other yiddish ukrainian and russian literati kyiv was the primary fountainhead for yiddish literary creativity in the early postrevolutionary period for seven decades and remained a leading soviet yiddish literary center second in importance only to moscow attention is paid to the victims rehabilitation posthumous or otherwise in the mid 1950s and onwards

an original and thought provoking text russian and soviet history uses noteworthy themes and important events from russian history to spark classroom discussion consisting of twenty essays written by experts in each area the book does not simply repeat the conventional themes found in nearly all russian history texts anthologies and documentary compilations rather it showcases current thinking on russian cultural political economic and social history from the end of the sixteenth century to the demise of the soviet experiment informed by archival work in the former soviet union and a broad range of published sources this book is intended to introduce students to russian history in an accessible and provocative format its eclectic essays offer readers an incomparable taste of the complexity and richness of russia as it has evolved from late muscovy to the modern era this text is perfect for undergraduate and graduate students in russian history and is a great resource for scholars in the field contributions by sergei arutiunov richard bidlack kees boterbloem james cracraft chester s l dunning colum leckey alexander m martin susan p mccafray martha merritt patrick o meara scott w palmer jelena pogosjan thomas e porter ana siljak douglas smith william taubman steven a usitalo jeffrey veidlinger rex a wade and william benton whisenhunt

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