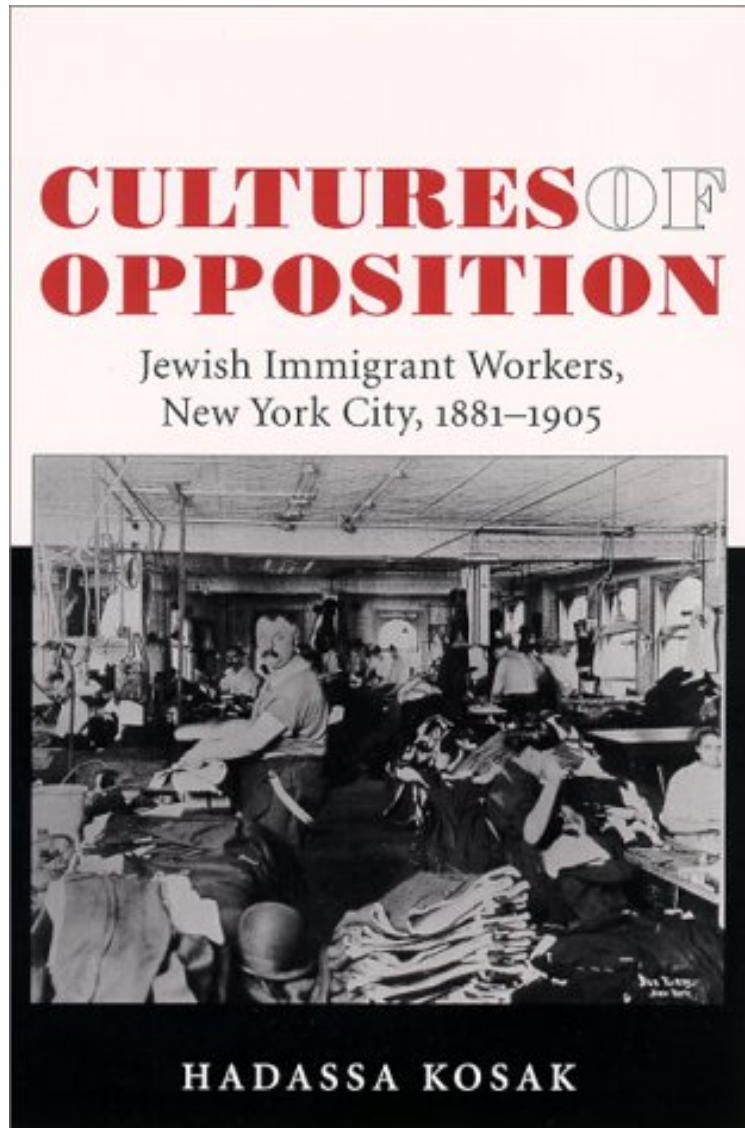


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## **Cultures of Opposition: Jewish Immigrant Workers, New York City, 1881-1905 (Sunny Series, American Labor History)**

*Hadassa Kosak*

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**Hadassa Kosak : Cultures of Opposition: Jewish Immigrant Workers, New York City, 1881-1905 (Sunny Series, American Labor History)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Cultures of Opposition: Jewish Immigrant Workers, New York City, 1881-1905 (Sunny Series, American Labor History):

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. The most original book on this topic in yearsBy W. ToveyA truly fresh look at the earliest East European Jewish immigrants to New York. Forget whatever you think you know, this study refutes Howe et al in the assertion that the early immigrants lacked working-class consciousness and were unorganizable as workers. Kosak's familiarity with sources in a variety of languages and her broad understanding of the role of culture in forming political movements add immensely to current scholarship on these immigrants. While among the most exploited workers in American history, they were not passive in the face of injustice, and if existing American labor institutions found them hard to assimilate, the fault lies more with those organizations' limited understanding of the processes of cultural and economic assimilation, and the pressures of old and new world social structures.

This work provides a reinterpretation of the origins of Jewish working-class oppositional culture in the United States. It tells how this culture was characterized by public practices such as strikes, attacks on scabs and police, rent strikes, consumer boycotts, and street parades. The participants in this social unrest ultimately forged an unmistakably new Jewish political culture informed by concepts of social justice, community solidarity and effective community-wide political participation. Enhancing Kosak's fascinating narrative are eleven period photographs.

an impressively researched and thoughtful book Kosak is able to bring to the forefront the larger context in which Jewish immigrants made a place for themselves in New York City. Journal of American Ethnic History Hadassa Kosak s theoretically sophisticated study of the political culture of early East European Jewish immigrants to New York is both interesting and valuable Kosak makes particularly good use of newspapers published during the period with which she is concerned, and of unpublished, underutilized, autobiographies and interviews her work deserves to be read and applauded. Jewish Culture and History A fascinating story of artisanal Jewish people as they make the journey from the Pale of Settlement to New York's Lower East Side at the end of the nineteenth century. The source material is vibrant and alive with meaning. The analysis of the relations between artisans and the official keepers of the Jewish tradition is thoughtful and clear. The voices and the events she chronicles make this history real and readable. Elizabeth Ewen, author of Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925".".an impressively researched and thoughtful book ... Kosak is able to bring to the forefront the larger context in which Jewish immigrants made a place for themselves in New York City." -- Journal of American Ethnic History "Hadassa Kosak's theoretically sophisticated study of the political culture of early East European Jewish immigrants to New York is both interesting and valuable ... Kosak makes particularly good use of newspapers published during the period with which she is concerned, and of unpublished, underutilized, autobiographies and interviews ... her work deserves to be read and applauded." -- Jewish Culture and History "A fascinating story of artisanal Jewish people as they make the journey from the Pale of Settlement to New York's Lower East Side at the end of the nineteenth century. The source material is vibrant and alive with meaning. The analysis of the relations between artisans and the official keepers of the Jewish tradition is thoughtful and clear. The voices and the events she chronicles make this history real and readable." -- Elizabeth Ewen, author of Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925From the Back CoverThis work provides a reinterpretation of the origins of Jewish working-class oppositional culture in the United States. It tells how this culture was characterized by public practices such as strikes, attacks on scabs and police, rent strikes, consumer boycotts, and street parades. The participants in this social unrest ultimately forged an unmistakably new Jewish political culture informed by concepts of social justice, community solidarity and effective community-wide political participation. Enhancing Kosak's fascinating narrative are eleven period photographs. "A fascinating story of artisanal Jewish people as they make the journey from the Pale of Settlement to New York's Lower East Side at the end of the nineteenth century. The source material is vibrant and alive with meaning. The analysis of the relations between artisans and the official keepers of the Jewish tradition is thoughtful and clear. The voices and the events she chronicles make this history real and readable." -Elizabeth Ewen, author of Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925About the AuthorHadassa Kosak is Assistant Professor of History at Yeshiva University.