Introduction

Chapter 1 70 CE to 1492: How Many Jews Were There, and Where and How Did They Live?
From Jesus to Muhammad (1 CE–622): A World of Farmers
From Muhammad to Hulagu Khan (622–1258): Farmers to Merchants
From Hulagu Khan to Tomás de Torquemada (1258–1492): The End of the Golden Age
Jewish History, 70 CE–1492: Puzzles

Chapter 2 Were the Jews a Persecuted Minority?
Restrictions on Jewish Economic Activities
Taxation Discrimination
Physical versus Portable Human Capital
Self-Segregated Religious Minority
The Economics of Small Minorities
Summary

Chapter 3 The People of the Book, 200 BCE–200 CE
The Two Pillars of Judaism from Ezra to Hillel (500–50 BCE): The Temple and the Torah
The Lever of Judaism: Education as a Religious Norm
The Destruction of the Second Temple: From Ritual Sacrifices to Torah Reading and Study
The Legacy of Rabbinic Judaism: the Mishna and Universal Primary Education, 10 CE–200
Judaism and Education: The Unique Link in the World of the Mishna

Chapter 4 The Economics of Hebrew Literacy in a World of Farmers
Heterogeneity and the Choices Facing Jewish Farmers circa 200
The Economic Theory: Basic Setup
The Economic Theory: Predictions
Life in a Village in the Galilee circa 200 through the Lens of the Theory

Chapter 5 Jews in the Talmud Era, 200–650: The Chosen Few
An Increasingly Literate Farming Society
Conversions of Jewish Farmers
Summary

Chapter 6 From Farmers to Merchants, 750–1150
The Economics of Hebrew Literacy in a World of Merchants
The Golden Age of Literate Jews in the Muslim Caliphates
Summary
Chapter 7 Educated Wandering Jews, 800–1250
- Wandering Jews before Marco Polo
- Jewish Migration within the Muslim Caliphates
- Migration of Byzantine Jewry
- Jewish Migration to and within Christian Europe
- Migration of the Jewish Religious Center
- Summary

Chapter 8 Segregation or Choice? From Merchants to Moneylenders, 1000–1500
- The Economics of Money and Credit in Medieval Europe
- Jewish Prominence in Moneylending: Hypotheses
- The Dynamics of Jewish Moneylending in Medieval Europe
- Italy: A Detailed Analysis
- Attitudes toward Moneylending
- Facts and Competing Hypotheses
- From Merchants to Moneylenders: Comparative Advantage in Complex Intermediation

Chapter 9 The Mongol Shock: Can Judaism Survive when Trade and Urban Economies Collapse?
- The Mongol Conquest of the Muslim Middle East
- Socioeconomic Conditions of the Middle East under the Mongols
- Jewish Demography under Mongol and Mamluk Rule: An Experiment
- Why Judaism Cannot Survive when Trade and Urban Economies Collapse
- Summary

Chapter 10 1492 to Today: Open Questions
- Portrait of World Jewry circa 1492
- Jewish History, 70 CE–1492: Epilogue
- Trajectory of the Jewish People over the Past 500 Years
- Persistence of Jewish Occupational Structure

Appendix

Bibliography

Index