



Joseph Karo and Shaping of Modern Jewish Law

The Early Modern Ottoman and Global Settings

By Roni Weinstein

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Provides a global perspective on the history of Jewish law during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, focusing on the codification works of R. Joseph Karo.

The double codes of law composed by R. Joseph Karo during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries mark a watershed in the history of Jewish Halakhah [law]. No further legal project was suggested in later generations. The books suggest a new reading beyond the aspects of positive law. R. Karo continued centuries-long traditions of Jewish erudition, in tandem with responding to global changes in history of law and legality both in Europe, and mainly in the Ottoman Empire. It is a global reading of Jewish Halakhah and modernization of Jewish culture in general.

Readership

Those interested in Jewish history, Mediterranean studies, early modern history, Ottoman studies, global history, connected history, comparative legal history, Anthropology of the law, history of Halakhah [Jewish law].

Contents

Introduction: Methodology, Questions, and Scope; Chapter One The Importance of Being Canonized; Chapter Two The Preamble to Beit Yosef: Manifesto of a Jurist; Chapter Three "Maran" [Our Master] Joseph Karo; Chapter Four Semikhah Polemics in Safed: Establishing a Guild of Jurists; Chapter Five R. Karo in Safed: Establishing a Dominant Status; Chapter Six Law and Mysticism: An Inevitable Encounter; Chapter Seven "Provide Me with the Reasoning for your Verdict": The Prestige and Status of Jewish Courts; Chapter Eight Establishing an International Court of Law; Chapter Nine Summary: Scope and Perspectives; Bibliographical List; Index

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Roni Weinstein teaches at the Hebrew University, Foreign Students Program.

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