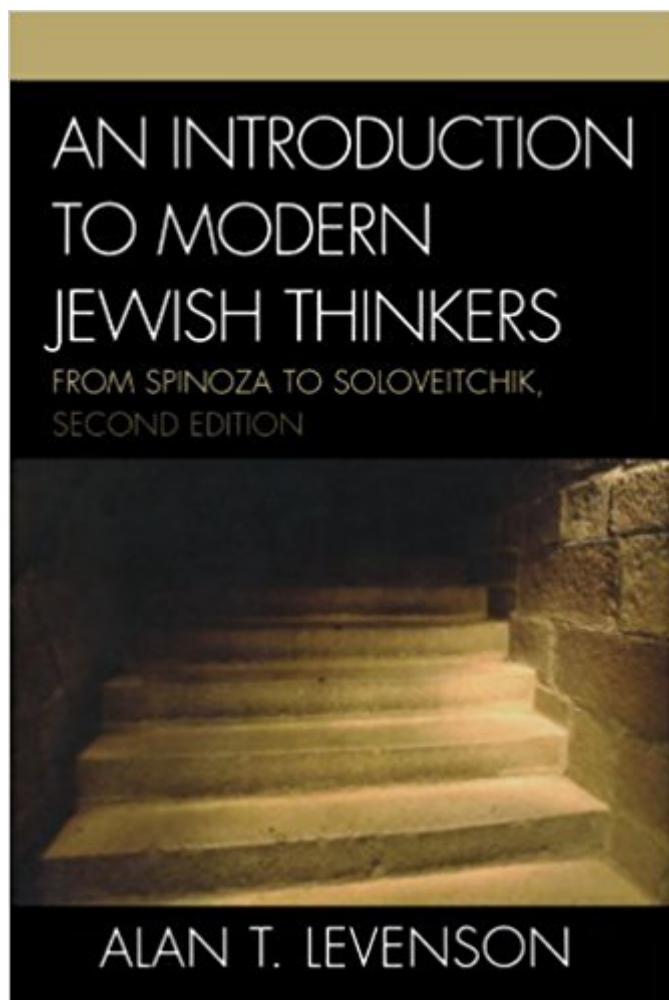


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# An Introduction To Modern Jewish Thinkers: From Spinoza To Soloveitchik



## **Synopsis**

Highlighting well-known Jewish thinkers from a very wide spectrum of opinion, the author addresses a range of issues, including: What makes a thinker Jewish? What makes modern Jewish thought modern? How have secular Jews integrated Jewish traditional thought with agnosticism? What do Orthodox thinkers have to teach non-Orthodox Jews and vice versa? Each chapter includes a short, judiciously chosen selection from the given author, along with questions to guide the reader through the material. Short biographical essays at the end of each chapter offer the reader recommendations for further readings and provide the low-down on which books are worth the reader's while. *Introduction to Modern Jewish Thinkers* represents a decade of the author's experience teaching students ranging from undergraduate age to their seventies. This is an ideal textbook for undergraduate classes.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Every thinking Jew today is heir to Spinoza and Herzl, Buber and Rosenzweig, Kaplan and Heschel. Levenson has written an essential sourcebook for understanding the modern thinkers behind the various strands of Jewish life. Adult learners and university students alike will benefit from Levenson's artful blend of intellectual rigor and probing questions about the meaning of these thinkers for our own time. (Rabbi Barbara Penzner, Temple Hillel B'nai Torah, Past President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association) Alan Levenson's anthology is the best textbook on modern Jewish thinkers available for college courses and adult Jewish learning today. He offers biographical background, historical context, a description of the author's significance and

contribution, focused passages in translation, study questions, and suggestions for further reading. This book is at the top of my list for anyone who wishes to go back to the modern Jewish sources themselves. (David S. Ariel, Siegal College of Judaic Studies, Cleveland) Alan Levenson's book is clear, concise, and easy to use. Levenson writes an excellent introductory essay on each thinker and his analysis of their philosophy is thoughtful. (Rabbi Amy Wallk Katz, Congregation Beth Shalom) The book is an excellent sourcebook for understanding the modern thinkers behind the various strands of Jewish life, and is an artful blend of intellectual rigor and probing questions about the meaning of these thinkers for our own time. This anthology is an excellent book for college courses and adult Jewish learning. Prof. Levenson offers biographical background, historical context, a description of the author's significance and contribution, focused passages in translation, study questions, and suggestions for further reading. (Dov Peretz Elkins Jewish Media Review)...a concise, accurate pen portrait of the thinker under scrutiny is followed by a description of his overall intellectual contribution....By the end of the book, the student will have a sound grounding in the major trends of Jewish thought over the last 350 years. (Spring 2008 Journal of Jewish Studies) Alan Levenson provides a superb introduction to the many varieties of Jewish self-understanding in the modern world. His presentation is remarkably clear and fascinating. (Susannah Heschel, Dartmouth College)

Dr. Alan Levenson teaches Jewish history and thought at Siegal College.

I love this book. It provides an excellent view of all the thinkers and it is very comprehensive. The author also add questions for the reader to ponder. A great introduction.

Levenson has done a great service to those who are unacquainted with or interested in learning about recent Jewish trends in thought. The brief discussion provides an accurate overview of thought and invites and suggests further reading in a fascinating intellectual area. For many this study will bring names to life, suggest new perspectives, and clarify the impact of important ideas by the thinkers here described.

Very informative and well written. Interesting choice of "thinkers". I bought it for a class and am really learning so much. Like the way the author places the thinker in history before discussing the work. Gives a much broader perspective.

Excellent collection of modern Jewish philosophy. This collection of writings of some of the greatest modern Jewish thinkers is very well done. Although some of the material is difficult to digest, the effort is well spent.

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