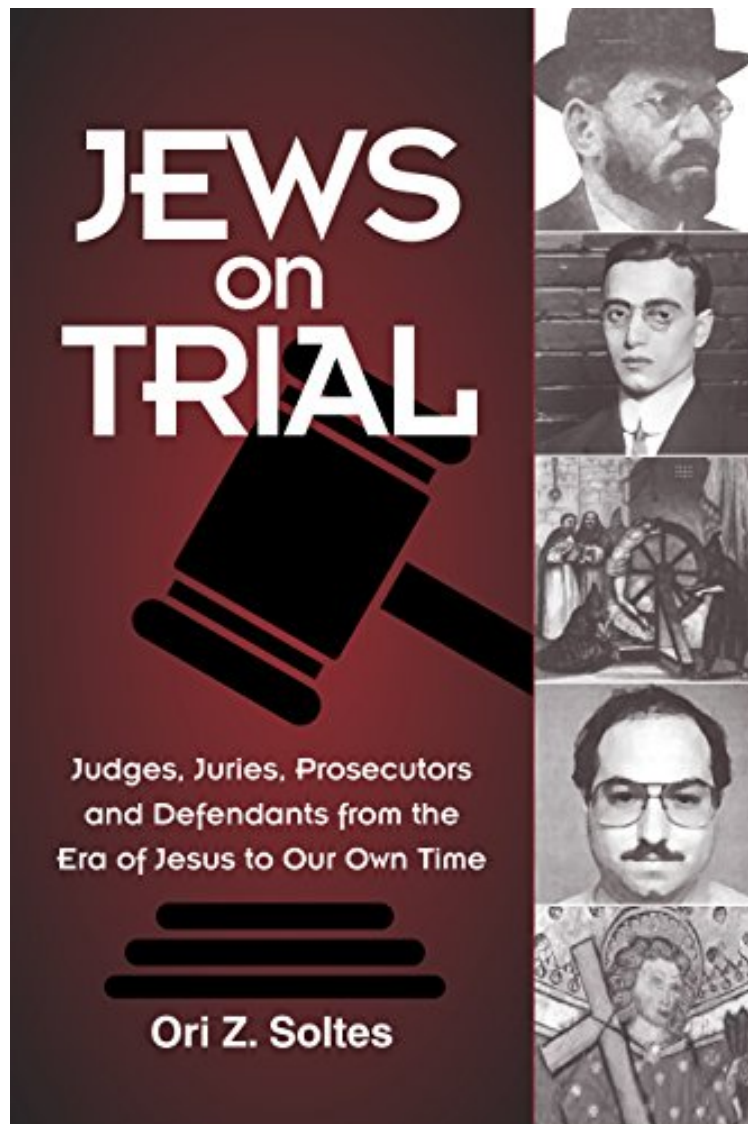


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Jews on Trial: Juries, Prosecutors and Defendants from the Era of Jesus to Our OwnTime

Ori Z. Soltes

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Ori Z. Soltes : Jews on Trial: Juries, Prosecutors and Defendants from the Era of Jesus to Our OwnTime
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jews on Trial: Juries, Prosecutors and Defendants from the Era of Jesus to Our OwnTime:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Compelling and Informative.By AnnBarbieThis book was a long

time in the making, but it was definitely worth the wait. Although in essence a history of Jewish survival in a Christian world, the theme of Jews on trial (broadly investigating concepts of law and justice as they involve Jewish individuals who are, in some sense, on trial) lifts the narrative far above other histories on the subject and gives it a compelling focus. Beginning with a review of the development of Jewish legal thought from the time of Abraham through the final redaction of the Babylonian Talmud, the author provides the critical background for understanding a number of individual cases throughout history. These cases range from the trial of Jesus in the first Century, through the middle ages, until the 19th and 20th Century in the Middle East, Europe and the United States, primarily concerning Jewish relations with Christians but with a few diversions specifically into the Muslim world. While no attempt is made to be comprehensive, the particular instances are chosen to illustrate multiple aspects of the topic and demonstrate historical developments. The author avoids sensationalism and the emotional or moralistic tone that so often creeps into similar works, yet writes historically accurate vignettes that are, at their best, as compelling and vibrant as the finest historical literature. Over 500 pages with end notes (don't make the mistake of ignoring these!), the book was so compelling that I read it in a very few sittings. I read late into the night to finish the last third; I just couldn't put it down!

Ori Soltes delivers a concise and extensive review of the history of Christian-Jewish relations that examines that relationship from a legal and quasi-legal perspective.

From the Inside Flap
From the Gospel account of Jesus' trial and punishment to medieval Blood Libels, from the notorious Dreyfus Affair to the story of Leo Frank's trial and eventual lynching, and from the State of Israel's trial and execution of Nazi Adolph Eichmann to Jonathan Pollard's closed-door trial and ongoing incarceration, it seems that the Jew, one way or another, is always on trial in the courtroom of journalistic and historiographic examination, whether as the accused, the accuser, the jury or the judge. Unique and provocative, this volume begins by asking when and how law became separate from religion in the Israelite-Judaean world before considering how we might evaluate and understand the Gospel's narrative of Jesus' trial and punishment in light of information found within Judaean, pagan Roman and early Jewish literature. Regardless of the details that favor or disfavor the Gospel account, many generations of Christians accept it as unequivocally true, which has shaped their relations with Jews over the past two millennia. In *Jews on Trial*, Ori Soltes delivers a concise and extensive review of the history of Christian-Jewish relations that examines that relationship from a legal and quasi-legal perspective and adds significantly to the discourse. There is no other comprehensive text so broadly conceived, yet focused on such an important aspect of human history through a specific lens of religion, law and justice.
About the Author
Ori Z. Soltes is Goldman Professorial Lecturer in theology and fine arts at Georgetown University and a regular lecturer at the Smithsonian Institution and at many other colleges and institutions.. He is the editor-in-chief of the Shengold Jewish Encyclopedia online (Shengold.com).