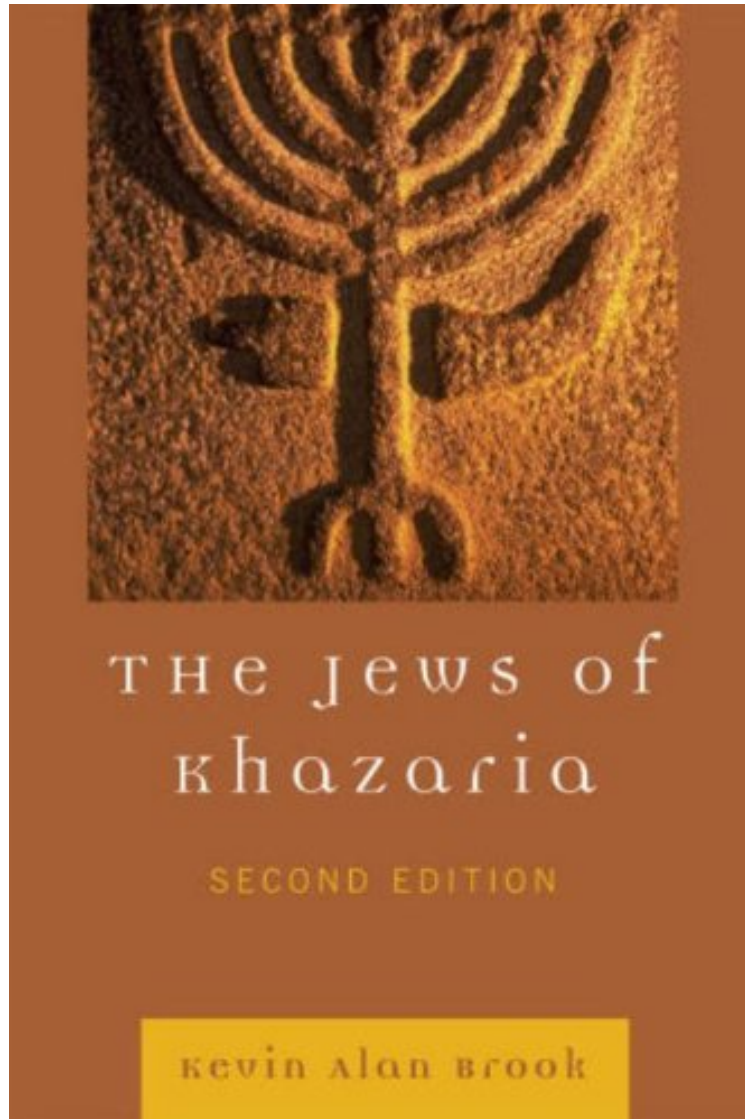


[E-BOOK] The Jews of Khazaria

## The Jews of Khazaria

*Von Kevin Alan Brook*

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**Von Kevin Alan Brook : The Jews of Khazaria** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Jews of Khazaria:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Comprehensive and interesting (albeit sometimes "dry")Von Ein KundeThe book aims to capture the history of Khazaria, a Jewish state near the Caspian sea that reigned between the 7th to 11th centuries, starting as a small tribe and growing in size and in power. The book is primarily based on archival and linguistic discoveries. The author starts in 650 AD when migration patterns westward and wars with the Muslim forces from the south brought to the fore of

history the Khazar empire. Khazaria was located roughly between of present day Hungary from its east and Persia in its west. The Khazars, originally nomads known for their fierce fighting tradition, defended their region and became a loose state about mid 6th century. The controversy about Khazar Jews and their intermingle with Jews in Lithuania, Poland and Rumania is discussed at the conclusion of the book. First, the author describes other incidents when non-Jewish tribes converted and became "children of Moses". Examples are brought from the Avars and Cumans in Europe, Edmoites in the middle east, and the "Children of Moses" in Ethiopia, sometimes known as the Falshas.) Then author then contends that it is quite possible that Khazar Jews, now disbursed amongst several nations, intermarried with "local" or "genuine" jews, most notably in Lithuania as well as in Poland. The book is somewhat 'academic' in its discussion, but very readable. The book boasts in using "archeological" finds in its discussion; in fact, it mentions only a few such finds. It further fails to include maps, documents and other images that would have made it more interesting and 'real'. Nonetheless, the writing is not 'heavy' and the organization is intuitive. Each chapter can be read separately and the footnotes are worth gleaning over. Although some maps appear at the end of chapter 2, and some tables appear at the ends of chapters 3, 4 and 7, they hardly help illustrate the rich history narrated within the chapters. For genealogists who are interested in the controversial around the origins of dark-hair or red-hair jews in Lithuania and Poland, I recommend reading a couple of introductory chapters and then skimming through to the end. For history buffs, I recommend reading the whole book and perhaps use a map to aid in the reading as there are numerous references to battles, invasions and travel routes that would be much easier to understand with a map at hand. This is not an intro-to-genealogy or a how-to-start-genealogy book. I found the subject of Khazaria and the Jewish diaspora, and the narrative in *The Jews of Khazaria* enriching and expanding my 15 years of family history work. Therefore, I mostly recommend this book for genealogists with at least 5 years experience, with some idea about the origins of the families that arrived from the Pale of Settlement; Of course, independently, the subject of the empire of Khazaria is a rich with history and glamour. I find that the narrative of Khazaria and its place in Jewish history well narrated by Brook.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Must reading for students of Jewish history Von Ein Kunde Most histories of Eastern European/Western Asian Jewry begin, essentially, in the 1200's or 1300's. Kevin Brooks argues that a very large portion of Ukrainian and (to a lesser degree) Russian/Lithuanian/Hungarian Jewry descends from converts to Judaism among the Khazars, a Turkic tribe of the 8th to 11th Centuries. The book is a real tour de force and demonstrates a mastery of the material along w/ a love for it. The thesis of the book, that a large portion of Ashkenazic Jewry is descended from 9th Century Turkic converts, will offend many traditionalist Jews. They will attempt alternate explanations to avoid Brooks' conclusion. For example, they might argue that the (apparently) large numbers of Khazar Jews resulted from an influx of Byzantine and other 9th Century Jews who took refuge with the Khazars and blended w/ them. This could help avoid the "descent from converts" emphasis. In private correspondence w/ Brooks, he acknowledges that other hypotheses than his are feasible and suggests that DNA testing might be the only way to settle the issue. The discussion of the Khazar diaspora after the late 10th Century, from its base in the Crimea and far north Caucasus to north Russia, Lithuania, Hungary and the Balkans is fascinating. Further work in this area is sure to follow. Brooks has indicated to me that he intends to follow up this masterwork with further insights. I am certainly anxious for that. Again, this book provides a look at some aspects of Jewish history that are usually skipped over very lightly. READ IT and profit therefrom! 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A must for any researcher or lover of history. Von Ralph Oelbaum (yaakov@cyberzone.net) There are those who write history and those whom make it. Kevin Allen Brook is both. This long awaited book was worth the wait. I myself have been researching the Khazars for a few years on the Internet, books and many other sources. This book is a must for any researcher or even one that just loves history. I received my copy only a few nights ago and have now completed it. I was amazed on how well this book read. There was so much to learn it was incredible. I know I will be referring to this book more and more as I continue my own research. Kevin, it was worth every ounce of energy that you have given this book. The one part of the book that I was very happy to see was the Turik words and definitions in the back of the book. Also it references whether the word is Turik, Rus, and Magyar. So what have I learned for my own research. I have learned that many Khazars fled to Spain and till this day there still might be some living there. This opens a new avenue for me to look at. One side of my family is German but they came from Spain. The other side of the family is from the Odessa region in what was Khazaria. Thank you Kevin for opening my eyes.

**Kurzbeschreibung** *The Jews of Khazaria* chronicles the history of the Khazars, a people who, in the early Middle Ages, founded a large empire in eastern Europe (located in present-day Ukraine and Russia). The Khazars played a pivotal role in world history. Khazaria was one of the largest-sized political formations of its time, an economic and cultural superpower connected to several important trade routes. It was especially notable for its religious tolerance, and in the 9th century, a large portion of the royal family converted to Judaism. Many of the nobles and commoners did likewise shortly thereafter. After their conversion, the Khazars were ruled by a succession of Jewish kings that began to adopt the hallmarks of Jewish civilization, including the Torah and Talmud, the Hebrew script, and the observance of Jewish

holidays. In this thoroughly revised edition of a modern classic, *The Jews of Khazaria* explores many exciting new discoveries about the Khazars' religious life, economy, military, government, and culture. It builds upon new studies of the Khazars, evaluating and incorporating recent theories, along with new documentary and archaeological findings. The book gives a comprehensive accounting of the cities, towns, and fortresses of Khazaria, and features a timeline summarizing key events in Khazar history.

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