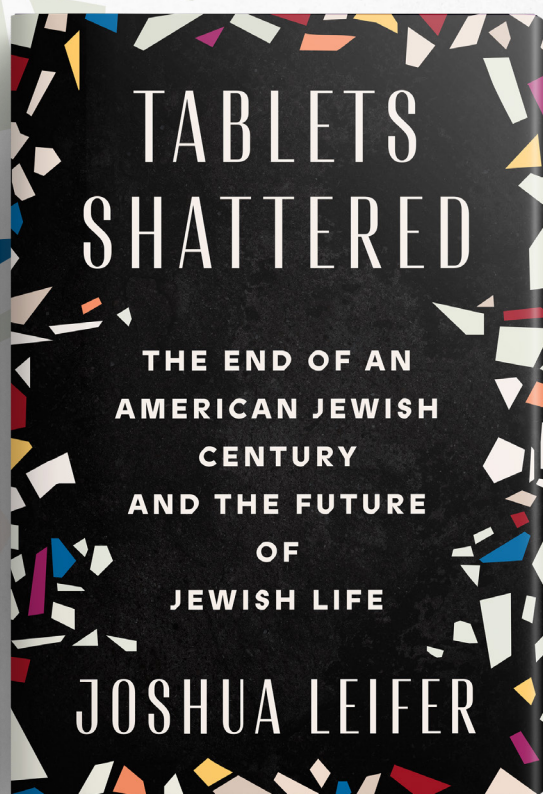


THE DEFINITIVE ANALYSIS OF THE AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE



THE AUDIENCE

For readers of smart nonfiction: This book is the next must-read for those interested in nonfiction deep dives, especially on history, the politics of identity, and cultural critiques. It will be of interest for readers of serious nonfiction and journalism (e.g., George Packer, Masha Gessen, Philippe Sands, Patrick Radden Keefe); for readers of Jewish books and essays (e.g., Joshua Cohen, Nathan Englander, Cynthia Ozick); for progressive readers of books about identity and activism (e.g., Cathy Park Hong, Jay Caspian Kang, Wesley Lowery); and for more conservative readers of books on religion and liberalism (e.g., Ross Douthat, Patrick Deneen, Russell Moore).

JOSHUA LEIFER is a journalist, editor, and translator. His essays and reporting have appeared widely in international publications, including *The New York Review of Books*, *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *The New Statesman*, *Haaretz*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. A member of the *Dissent* editorial board, he previously worked as an editor at *Jewish Currents* and at *+972 Magazine*. He is currently pursuing a PhD at Yale University, where his research focuses on the history of modern moral and social thought.

Leifer is well-connected in the mainstream media, with contacts at *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *The New Yorker*, *Harper's Magazine*, *New York Magazine*, and beyond. He is a regular guest on Al Jazeera's media criticism TV program, *The Listening Post*, and has appeared on numerous podcasts. JoshuaLeifer.com [Twitter](https://twitter.com/JoshuaLeifer) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/joshualeifer)

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

- **American Jewish identity is in unprecedented crisis:** The century that defined American Jewish life as we know it is over. Leifer traces how the pillars of the postwar Jewish consensus—Americanism, Zionism, and liberalism—emerged and why we are witnessing them falter today. Leifer provides an unparalleled look at the contemporary Jewish landscape, illuminating the attempts by American Jews to build new forms of community and shared identity as the generation of Holocaust survivors passes away and Israel increasingly becomes a source of communal division.
- **The first left-wing perspective:** This is the first and only book that surveys contemporary American Jewish life from a progressive political perspective. The other writers best known in this field—e.g., Bari Weiss, Dara Horn, Yossi Klein Halevi—write from a right-wing perspective when it comes to Israel and tend toward conservatism on most other domestic issues. But the majority of American Jews are devoted liberals and, according to polls, increasingly critical of Israeli policies; this book intends to speak to their views, which have long been ignored by established Jewish writers.
- **American Jewish life is a case study for other upheavals in American politics:** Leifer provides an on-the-ground look at how the tumult of the Trump presidency, the national reckoning on issues of race, the pandemic, and the ongoing violence in Israel/Palestine have remade Jewish communal and religious organizations. These events have dramatically reconfigured how many American Jews understand their place in this country, their relationship to whiteness, and their connections to other historically marginalized people.
- **Extensive reporting with exceptional range and unique access:** This book is the product of in-depth reporting conducted in the United States and Israel/Palestine. It is informed by nearly 100 interviews with Jewish communal leaders, educators, racial justice and Palestine Solidarity activists, LGBTQ+ rabbis, ultra-Orthodox machers and education reformers, journalists, diplomats, and Israeli politicians.