Barry Trachtenberg
Rubin Presidential Chair of Jewish History and Director of Jewish Studies Program at Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, NC, US

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Biography

A leading scholar of Jewish history, Barry Trachtenberg can comment on the Holocaust and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as well as a range of other issues facing Jews around the world. For more than 20 years, his research and teaching have focused on the complexities of and controversies in American Jewish history; the Holocaust; Zionism, Israel and Palestine; and modern Yiddish culture.

In his forthcoming book, "The United States and the Nazi Holocaust: Race, Refuge, and Remembrance" (Feb. 2018), Trachtenberg demonstrates that the United States’ response to the rise of Nazism, the refugee crisis it provoked, the Holocaust itself, and its aftermath were — and remain to this day — intricately linked to the ever-shifting racial, economic, and social status of American Jewry. He is also currently writing a book "'Bible for the New Age': The Nazi Holocaust and the Exile of Yiddish," which considers the shifting agenda of Yiddish-language research and the ways that the Nazi Holocaust shaped Jewish historians’ understanding of their task.

Areas of Expertise

American Jewish history, Race, immigration policy and Judaism, The Holocaust, Nazism, Antisemitism, Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Jewish identity and culture, Yiddish culture and language, Zionism

Education

University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D. History

Oxford University
Post-Graduate Diploma Jewish Studies

The University of Vermont
M.A. History

Glassboro State College (Now Rowan University of New Jersey)
B.A. English

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