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Yadgar, Yaacov. *Sovereign Jews: Israel, Zionism, and Judaism*. Albany: State University of New York Press, 2017. 279 pp. \$68.00. (9781438465333). Also available as an eBook.

The author, a professor at the University of Oxford, argues that the concept of Zionism as a secularization of Judaism and the idea that there is a clash within the State of Israel between “secular” and “religious” are both untrue. He thinks that the use of what he considers a Protestant concept of religion as an apolitical belief in the supernatural, which arose in the context of the European nation states, as an analytical tool in the Jewish context distorts the Jewish, Zionist, and Israeli reality. Professor Yadgar’s argument that persons and movements who do not believe in God or the supernatural may nevertheless have a “political theology” or “theopolitics” is confusing but he seems to equate religion or theology—at least in the Jewish context—with any worldview, including a nationalistic one. While this eccentric use of vocabulary makes his argument less clear than it might be, his point that Jewish traditions do not set boundaries between so-called religious and secular spheres of activity is a valid and important one and allows him to offer some insightful and thought-provoking interpretations of Zionism and the modern Jewish state. For academic collections.

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