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Patterson, David. *Anti-Semitism and its Metaphysical Origins*. New York: Cambridge University Press. 2015. 333 pp. \$99.00. (9781107040748). Also available as an eBook.

This latest book by David Patterson, a professor at the University of Texas at Dallas and a National Jewish Book Award winner, is ambitious. It seeks to identify the metaphysical origin of antisemitism—above and beyond contingent, historical factors—through an analysis based upon Jewish sources. These writings include classical texts like the Tanakh and Talmud, but also the works of various Jewish intellectuals. One of those Patterson draws upon most is Emmanuel Levinas, with his emphasis upon the fundamental importance of interpersonal relationships. Dr. Patterson writes, “The soul, therefore, is more an action than an object...To be alive in His Torah is to burn with a devotion to our fellow human beings...” Dr. Patterson believes the Hebrew nation was created in order to spread God’s message of every human being’s responsibility to all other human beings, and that anti-Semitism is the rejection of this call to responsibility and a retreat to egoism and self-delusion. Though Dr. Patterson’s language is at times opaque (perhaps another influence of Levinas) and his argument occasionally repetitive, his analysis is original and his consideration of the various manifestations of anti-Semitism (e.g. Jihadism, National Socialism, and Anti-Zionism) can be thought-provoking.

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