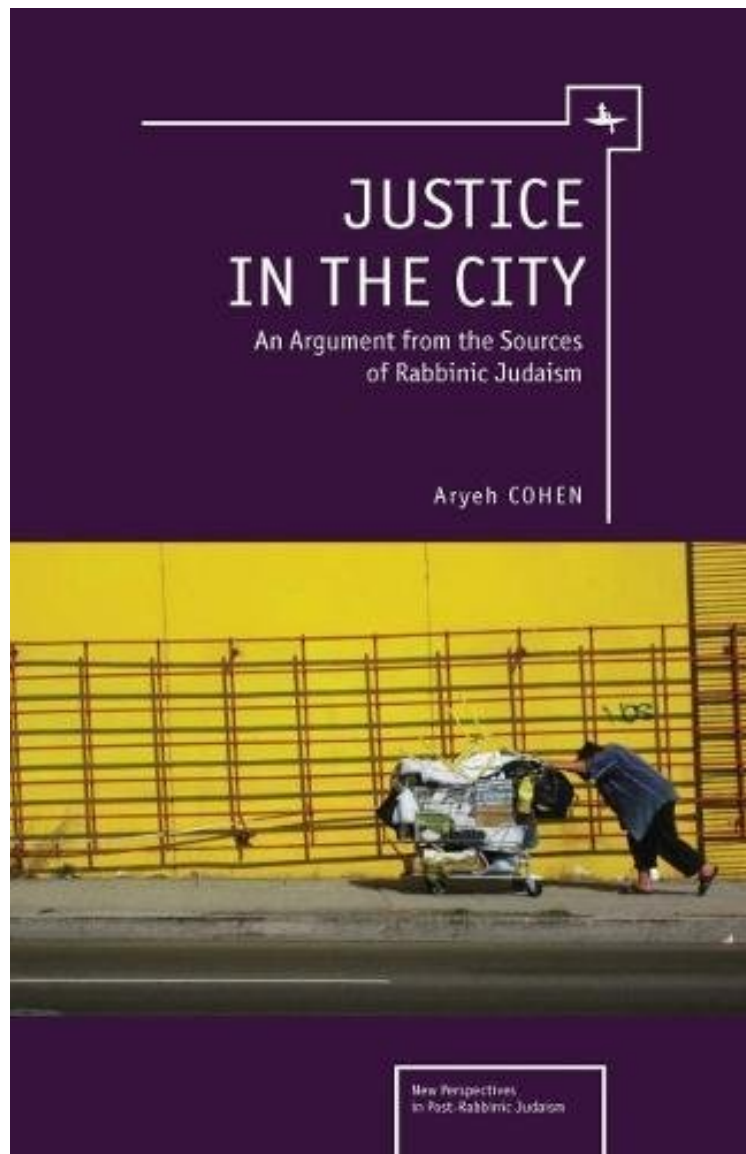


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Justice in the City: An Argument from the Sources of Rabbinic Judaism (New Perspectives in Post-Rabbinic Judaism)

Aryeh Cohen

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Aryeh Cohen : Justice in the City: An Argument from the Sources of Rabbinic Judaism (New Perspectives in Post-Rabbinic Judaism) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Justice in the City: An Argument from the Sources of Rabbinic Judaism (New Perspectives in Post-Rabbinic Judaism):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Ancient Iraqi Jews still relevant
By Benjamin Denckla
As an Angeleno I have the luxury of living with some of the greatest Jewish minds of our times. I got to hear the author speak several times at my Temple and thus was inspired to read this book. It takes a convincing stab at showing how the Jewish wisdom of far flung times and places (the first few centuries CE; cities in what is now Iraq) can help us navigate the ethical challenges of modern cities like Los Angeles.
2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A crucial book for these times
By Harriet Fraad
Justice in the City is a crucial book. More and more Americans and indeed all people live in cities around the world or the slums that surround those cities. In cities we share sidewalks, streets, subways, buses and so much else. In New York City we are at the same time united in sharing public space and confronted with the glut of private wealth in the face of starving the public by cutting funding from Libraries, schools, infants nutrition, child care subsidies ... the list is endless. America was the most egalitarian Western developed nation in 1970. Now we are the least egalitarian of all. The basic equality that helps people feel that we are all in it together is disappearing in the new America which qualifies as best democracy money can buy. Cohen's book speaks to all the millions of every faith and all the non-believers who live in US cities. It shows us a better way to enjoy our shared lives. The struggle to enjoy those better lives is worth it. Read this book and be inspired!
3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Breathtaking!
By Isaac Stewart
A stunning, long-awaited contribution, bound to transform the way we think about our neighbors and ourselves, from one of the most insightful, deep and revolutionary scholars of Jewish ethics today. An absolute must!

Justice in the City argues, based on the rabbinic textual tradition, especially the Babylonian Talmud, and utilizing French Jewish philosopher Emmanuel Levinas framework of interpersonal ethics, that a just city should be a community of obligation. That is, in a community thus conceived, the privilege of citizenship is the assumption of the obligations of the city towards Others who are not always in viewworkers, the poor, the homeless. These Others form a constitutive part of the city. The second part of the book is a close analysis of homelessness, labor, and restorative justice from within the theory that was developed. This title will be useful for scholars and students in Jewish studies, especially rabbinic literature and Jewish thought, but also for those interested in contemporary urban issues.

"This is an extremely important, interesting and creative project. Nothing like it really exists. Here is someone who combines erudition in the classical literature of Judaism (especially the Babylonian Talmud) with his passion for social justice, both as an activist and as someone who thinks in highly sophisticated terms about the tradition of political philosophy and of social theory inspired by religious traditions." (Charlotte Fonrobert)"Ours is an age that aches for justice. Growing disparities of wealth, continuing marginalization of people by ethnicity, faith, gender, and ability, propensity to use violence and power to impose controlthese and other blights assault our ability to thrive as human beings on this planet. Fortunately, we have a consummate academic, passionate prophet, and wise sage in Aryeh Cohen, who musters the resources of Jewish tradition as tools for clearer analysis and effective engagement. This is a great book by a master scholar and community activist." (Rabbi Bradley Shavit Artson Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University)In a deft exegetical stroke, Cohen turns the rabbi's idea of accompaniment into a metaphor for civic obligationthe space between, on the one hand, the coercive power of the state, and, on the other, the callousness of inconsiderate (and illusory) individualism. In this conception, justice in the city is the accompaniment of strangers. (Yehudah Mirsky)"Rabbi Aryeh Cohen's book Justice in the City is a . . .compelling, easy-to-read discussion of how rabbinic texts, primarily the Babylonian Talmud, lay out a vision of justice. . . . Every interaction that we have is part of a network of interactions. . . .Cohen continues to expand these interactions and define them, ultimately leaving us with a balanced, coherent, and workable way to view our ties to others and to develop our notions of community in the framework of a world where we will never meet many or most of its inhabitants, and yet must feel some responsibility for them nevertheless." (Rabbi Alana Suskin MyJewishLearning.com)Voluntary giving and voluntary organizations are great. But. . .what if charitygiving out of love or noblesse oblige or religious commitmentdoesn't go far enough? To understand what's wrong with the voluntary model, I suggest reading the recent book Justice in the City by the scholar and activist Aryeh Cohen. (Gershom Gorenberg Daily Beast)About the AuthorAryeh Cohen (PhD Brandeis University) is an associate professor of Rabbinic Literature at the American Jewish University. His previous book is Rereading Talmud: Gender, Law and the Poetics of Sugyot (Brown University, 1998).