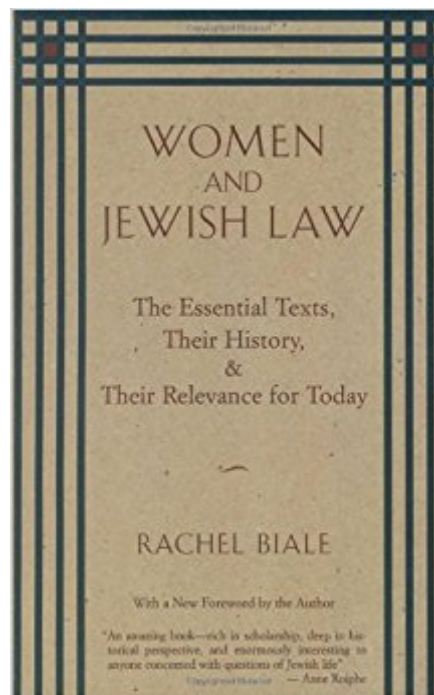




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# Women And Jewish Law: The Essential Texts, Their History, And Their Relevance For Today



## Synopsis

How has a legal tradition determined by men affected the lives of women? What are the traditional Jewish views of marriage, divorce, sexuality, contraception, abortion? *Women and Jewish Law* gives contemporary readers access to the central texts of the Jewish religious tradition on issues of special concern to women. Combining a historical overview with a thoughtful feminist critique, this pathbreaking study points the way for informed change in the status of women in Jewish life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An amazing book—rich in scholarship, deep in historical perspective, and enormously interesting to anyone concerned with questions of Jewish life."—Anne Roiphe  
"An essential resource and entry point for understanding the construction of women's roles in traditional Judaism."—Judith Plaskow, author of *Standing Alone at Sinai*  
"With great precision and clarity, Biale ferrets out for us the inner meaning of the law, traces its development, and explores its relevance to Jewish women's lives today."—Blu Greenberg, author of *On Women and Judaism*  
"[Biale] open[s] up the halakhic process to women, providing the reader who is unfamiliar with the original Hebrew texts with her first encounter of learning."—Hadassah

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gives contemporary readers access to the central texts of the Jewish religious tradition on issues of special concern to women. Combining a historical overview with a thoughtful feminist critique, this pathbreaking study points the way for "informed change" in the status of women in Jewish life.

This book is unique and critical. I had to read a few chapters of it for a Religious texts course and I was fascinated. It shows a unique intersection of philosophy: Jewish culture, law, and politics from a feminist perspective. As such it could be taught in a variety of classes and no matter how it were taught it would not lose its punch. Influential and phenomenal; hope to have it on my bookshelf for the rest of my life.

What a great book. I purchased this book after the Ben Ish Chai's laws for women. I was a bit hesitant, thinking that this book too would be too simple for where I am in my studies. Fortunately, I was wrong. This book goes into relevant commentary from big-time sages on essentially all issues pertaining to women. I really enjoyed reading it. I've definitely learned from it and will surely recommend it.

This is a clear concise book that pulls no punches and does not fail to go into adult language to explain a woman's rights and obligations in a relationship that is truly according to Jewish Law.

Although this book is dated, it is very informative and useful for discussion.

informative but needing more substantive references to go on in this subject.

Ms. Biale's book, not only explains relevant laws and how they affect Jewish women (marriage, divorce, abortion, niddah)... she also takes the time to cite the teachings of the great Rabbis, allowing all sides- from right to middle to left- to be heard. This presentation is a fascinating read and allows you to consider all of the evidence and create your own, informed opinions.

I felt that the reference to "today" was sometimes out of date. Otherwise, I found it to be a good review of the women in Jewish law. Hopefully, another writer will take another look at the subject as it is viewed since women have taken a larger role among rabbis. Good read for someone with very little knowledge for Judaism.

Very well explained with sources provided. Mostly non personal, and objective. Very well done.  
Directed at the general Jewish audience in particular, but can be enjoyed by all.

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