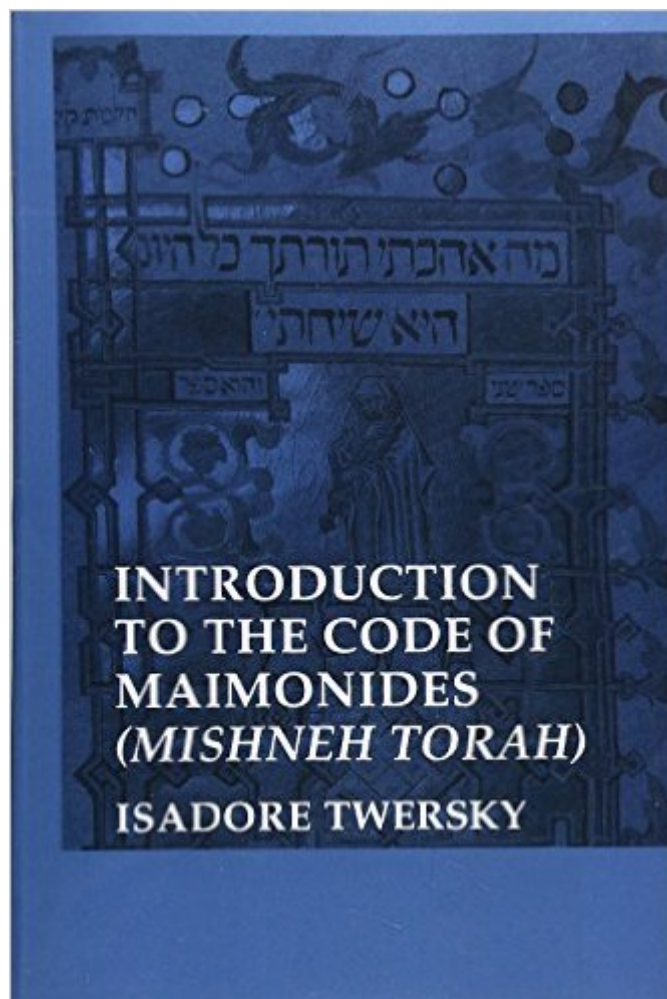


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Introduction To The Code Of Maimonides (Mishneh Torah) (Yale Judaica Series)



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Customer Reviews

I'm not familiar enough with the Twersky's book (though I have read parts of it and it is quite useful as a reference to the works of Maimonides), but I can't let M;Jones review pass without comment. Virtually every sentence in the review is false in part. First, among Jewish scholars probably no post-talmudic has been *more* read than MT, so calling it little read seems quite strange. It was one of the first Jewish books printed and has been continuously in print ever since. So much for "few have read it." Secondly the review acts as if MT is not based on (and indeed is an interpretation of as well as restatement of) the vast rabbinic literature and Jewish law that came before it. Finally, the idea that MT does not have Maimonides own views is quite false. The whole work, although it is a restatement of Rabbinic law, is also permeated with Maimonides religio-philosophical ideas.

Very approachable introduction to the works of Maimonides. Twersky really brings Maimonides' intellectual force and rationalistic and philosophically-informed approach to religion to life with selected snippets across different works. He also manages to sketch a portrait of a man stuck in a beleaguered circumstance struggling with adversity and yet pouring out works of insight and leadership that brought knowledge and courage to his co-religionists spread across Europe and the Levant.

The late Rabbi Doctor Twersky was the preeminent scholar of Maimonidean thought of the 20th Century. This book is approachable for the beginner who is just looking for an introduction, but it shines when used for a more in depth re-reading of the entire Mishneh Torah. Reading the book

and opening the references, one re-reads familiar halacha in a new light - its context within the entire body of Jewish scholarship. R Twersky's book - over 30 years old - still stands strong as the most comprehensive basis for understanding the Rambam - and appreciating the brilliance that created the 800 year industry of debate over its meaning.

Wonderful way to be introduced to Maimonides and the Mishnah Torah (repetition of the Torah) with lots of cross references to his many other works by a scholar of great note.

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