

Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key: Anglo-Jewry's  
Construction of Modern Jewish Thought by David B.  
Ruderman. Princeton University Press 2000.

Professor David Ruderman is an eminent Jewish Historian in America who has written or contributed to some very fine books on aspects of Jewish history over the last three decades.

In Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key David Ruderman enters, with admitted surprise, the field of Jewish Thought in eighteenth and nineteenth century England, the first such comprehensive study. Between an introduction and an afterword are six chapters which consider significant individuals or the development of significant ideological points that have since shaped Anglo-Jewry and contributed to European Jewish thought.

Ruderman introduces the reader to such characters, inter alia, as Raphael Baruh, David Levi, Joshua van Oven, Isaac D'Israeli, Jakob Hart and my personal favourite Abraham Ben Naphtali Tang. In doing so he exemplifies the increasing involvement of Jews in the political, intellectual, scientific and practical life of English Society, how they influenced and were influenced in their turn.

While I would recommend Jewish Enlightenment in an English Key to anyone interested in Jewish History, for those whose interest exceeds their knowledge I would commend immersion in a more general study of the subject before happily diving into Professor Ruderman's masterful book.

Rabbi Dr Charles H Middleburgh