

Religion • Judaism

Fine



“The complex relationship between an ancient, holy tradition and a modern, rationalistic culture drives many to one extreme or the other. Rabbi Fine’s vision of a third way resists simplistic dichotomies and invites the reader—whether Jew or Gentile, religious or secular—into a way of thinking, and a way of life, in which the deep resources of the past continue to engage and shape a life rooted in our present intellectual and social climate. Insightful, brave, and warmly personal, *Passionate Centrism* writes a new chapter in the dialogue between faith and understanding. This book is a great blessing.”

—Rev. Canon John G. Hartnett, St. Elizabeth’s Episcopal Church, Ridgewood, New Jersey

“*Passionate Centrism* is a spirited invitation to embrace a Judaism that can move confidently into the future precisely because it is committed to its ancient sources and rooted in a clear-eyed understanding of Jewish history. Throughout this book, Rabbi David Fine surprises the reader as he offers liberal reasons to support traditionalist conclusions—and traditionalist reasons to welcome liberal changes in Jewish law and belief. Marked by admirable clarity, impressive scholarship, and deft argumentation, this book is both an important read and an accessible one.”

—Benjamin D. Sommer, Jewish Theological Seminary, and author of *Revelation and Authority: Sinai in Jewish Scripture and Tradition*

Passionate Centrism is an important discussion of Positive Historical Judaism and the benefit of holding the center of Judaism—that is, the Conservative Movement. It is a book that will appeal to clergy and other congregational leaders and is an excellent product for lecture series.

David J. Fine is the rabbi of Temple Israel and Jewish Community Center in Ridgewood, New Jersey, and is also an adjunct professor of Jewish law at the Abraham Geiger and Zacharias Frankel Colleges at the University of Potsdam in Germany. He was ordained by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and received his PhD in modern European history from the City University of New York.

Published in Cooperation with
United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism

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