BYZANTINE JEWRY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMY

Using primary sources, Joshua Holo uncovers the day-to-day workings of the Byzantine Jewish economy in the Middle Byzantine period. Built on a web of exchange systems both exclusive to the Jewish community and integrated in society at large, this economy forces a revision of Jewish history in the region.

Paradoxically, the two distinct economic orientations, inward and outward, simultaneously advanced both the integration of the Jews into the larger Byzantine economy and their segregation as a self-contained economic body. Dr. Holo finds that the Jews routinely leveraged their internal, even exclusive, systems of law and culture to break into – occasionally to dominate – Byzantine markets. Through this, they challenge our concept of Diaspora life as a balance between the two competing impulses of integration and segregation. The success of this enterprise, furthermore, qualifies the prevailing claim of Jewish economic decline during the Commercial Revolution.

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Para Andréa,
Meu Algo Assim
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Acknowledgments

List of abbreviations

1. Byzantine-Jewish economic history
   - The Jews of Byzantium
   - Economic history as applied to Byzantine Jewry
   - Opportunities and challenges in the economic history of the Jews
   - Byzantine Jews in the Mediterranean economy

2. Byzantine Jews throughout the Mediterranean: fluidity and exchange
   - The problem of numbers
   - Byzantine Jews outside the empire: from the rise of Islam to the eleventh century
   - Jews of non-Byzantine origin within the empire: from the eleventh century to the Fourth Crusade
   - Contacts among Byzantine Jews across political boundaries
   - The effects of Byzantine-Jewish demography on the economy

3. The inner economy of the Jewish communities
   - Rabbinical academies
   - Communal contributions
   - Contracts
   - Scrolls and scribes
   - Kosher edibles
   - Pilgrimage
   - A Jewish economy
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Abbreviations

BF Byzantinische Forschungen
BJGS Bulletin of Judaeo-Greek Studies
BMGS Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies
BZ Bzantinische Zeitschrift
CII Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum. 2 vols. Vatican City, 1936
CSCO Corpus Scriptorum Christianorum Orientalium
CSHB Corpus Scriptorum Historiae Byzantinae
CTb Codex Theodosianus. T. Mommsen and P. Meyer (eds.). Berlin, 1905
DOP Dumbarton Oaks Papers
ENA Elkan Nathan Adler Collection, Jewish Theological Seminary
HUCA Hebrew Union College Annual
JESHO Journal of Economic and Social History of the Orient
JJS Journal of Jewish Studies
JNES Journal of Near Eastern Studies
JQR Jewish Quarterly Review
JSAI Jerusalem Studies in Arabic and Islam
MGH Monumenta Germaniae Historica
MGWJ Monatsschrift für Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums
PAAJR Proceedings of the American Academy for Jewish Research
PO Patrologia Orientalis
REJ Revue des Études Juives