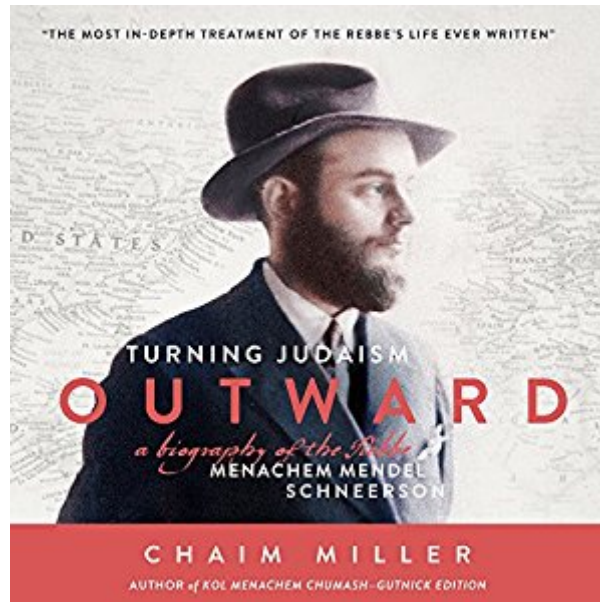


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Turning Judaism Outwards: A Biography Of The Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson



Synopsis

Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson (1902-1994), the Lubavitcher Rebbe, took an insular Chasidic group that was almost decimated by the Holocaust and transformed it into one of the most influential and controversial forces in world Jewry. This superbly crafted biography draws on recently uncovered documents and archives of personal correspondence, painting an exceptionally human and charming portrait of a man who was well known but little understood. With a sharp attention to detail and an effortless style, Chaim Miller takes us on a soaring journey through the life, mind and struggles of one of the most interesting religious personalities of the Twentieth Century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I believe this book may become the accepted biography by the larger world. It is respectful and well documented and captures much of what was exceptional about the Rebbe. There are a few mistakes such as referring to the former President of the American Bar Association who represented Chabad in the famous book trial, Jerry Shestack, as "Joe" Shestak. I think it vastly underplays JJ Hecht and some others but it is well researched and documented. It only falls apart, in my view, at the very end dealing with the will - it doesn't mention the second will - and puts too positive a spin on the Moshiach issue, focusing on the Rebbe's opposition to identifying him as the Moshiach rather than addressing the ambiguity and the reality of what occurred in the last years or the split within the secretariat regarding the post-stroke care and presentation of the Rebbe such as the attempts at coronation are vastly underplayed. These are glaring primarily because of the relatively even handed and in depth treatment of all of the disputes in the earlier years. Perhaps it is

too soon to address these issues but it undercuts the book. Overall it captures the Rebbe's beliefs and philosophy. It addresses the Satmar and Shach disputes but again falls apart on the Moshiach disputes in the larger community. I would not hesitate to recommend it to anyone who want to get a better understanding of the Rebbe. It does have some very interesting anecdotes including the Rebbe's role in developing the US food stamp program. The earlier attempts at a biography of the Rebbe simply do not compare. In short, this is an amazing biography of an amazing individual.

I bought this book after reading several (attempted) biographies on the Rebbe, and I was skeptical whether such a job could ever be done. What Chaim Miller has done has really surprised me. Not only is the text lengthy and informative, but it's so well elucidated and thorough, while remaining easy to read. He treats the Rebbe with reverence and veneration, while still staying honest and loyal to the job of a biographical author. I not only would recommend this book to read, I would tell everyone to go out and buy for their friends and families, as well as anyone who was touched in some way by this great man and the message which he gave to the world.

In this book Rabbi Miller combines the intellectual prowess of a true scholar, the rigour of a professional historiographer and the passion of a Chassid. He turns the daunting task of writing the biography of The Rebbe into an inspirational and riveting read that lays the foundation for a serious conversation on the greatest Jewish leader of our times.

Rabbi Miller's book is very well researched, scholarly but readable and compelling. It is the most informative of the 3 recent biographies. After reading all 3, I can clearly say that from this book I learned more about The Rebbe, gained more insight into who and what he was (and wasn't), and left with more admiration, compared to the other 2. This book is not as personal as Rabbi Steinsalz book'. It is not as fawning as Rabbi Telushkin's book. It is as objective as one can get when one is an admitted chasid of The Rebbe. There is fact and detail blended seamlessly with the magic of a true tzaddik. Highly recommended.

WOW!! This biography on the Rebbe is truly captivating and I enjoyed every minute of it! I am amazed at the amount of in depth information Chaim Miller managed to include throughout the book whilst citing it all... A real work of art!!!

I've read all the biographies on the Lubavitcher Rebbe, and this is hands-down the best one. Unlike

the other biographies in the market, Rabbi Miller's is clear, concise, and follows a linear, logical timeline from the Rebbe's earliest years until the time of his passing and his legacy. The in-depth discussion of the Rebbe's "early" years before he became Rebbe and right afterward are without parallel in the English language. A must-read for anyone with slightest interest in the amazing life of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson.

Excellent. IMHO best of the crop of recent bios of the Rebbe (of blessed memory). Reads like a pageturner novel. Filled with wisdom and inspiration. Sort of ducks the Mashiach issue, but less than the others. BUT -- the Kindle version did NOT allow for back/forth with the footnotes. It was like getting only half the book.

Although it took a while to adjust to The Rebbe being called by his first name, the contents, sheer research and readability are incredible. Rabbi Chaim has again filled a void of inspiration and information, making it available the masses. It is clear that hours of study and avid personal interest have gone into this unique portrayal of The Rebbe. Thank you for giving us another angle into this hugely important personality of our times. Much continued success! RDW

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