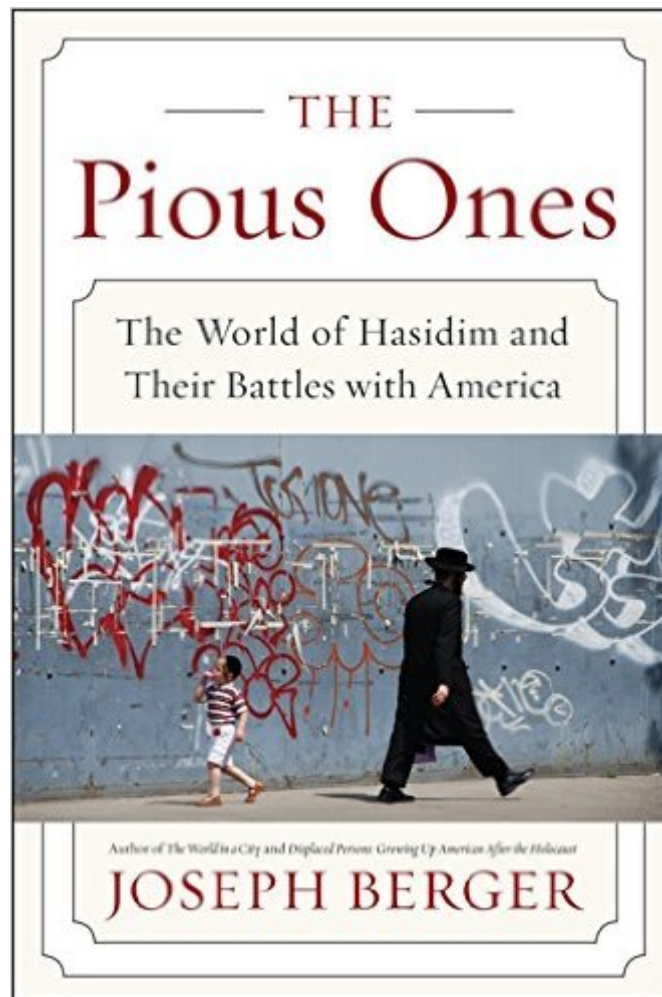


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# The Pious Ones: The World Of Hasidim And Their Battles With America



## Synopsis

As the population of ultra-Orthodox Jews in the United States increases to astonishing proportions, veteran New York Times journalist Joseph Berger takes us inside the notoriously insular world of the Hasidim to explore their origins, beliefs, and struggles—and the social and political implications of their expanding presence in America. Though the Hasidic way of life was nearly extinguished in the Holocaust, today the Hasidim—the pious ones—have become one of the most prominent religious subcultures in America. In *The Pious Ones*, New York Times journalist Joseph Berger traces their origins in eighteenth-century Eastern Europe, illuminating their dynamics and core beliefs that remain so enigmatic to outsiders. He analyzes the Hasidim's codified lifestyle, revealing its fascinating secrets, complexities, and paradoxes, and provides a nuanced and insightful portrayal of how their all-encompassing faith dictates nearly every aspect of life—including work, education, food, sex, clothing, and social relations—sustaining a sense of connection and purpose in a changing world. From the intense sectarian politics to the conflicts that arise over housing, transportation, schooling, and gender roles, *The Pious Ones* also chronicles the ways in which the fabric of Hasidic daily life is threatened by exposure to the wider world and also by internal fissures within its growing population.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

*The Pious Ones*, Joseph Berger Posted on February 14, 2015 | [Leave a comment](#) |

Edit20705652 Joseph Berger is a one of a kind. As an accomplished journalist at the New York Times he has covered religion, education, New York's ethnic diversity, the Middle East and all

things Jewish. For almost 30 years, he made a defining contribution to the face of American journalism. However, his prowess goes beyond just the newsprint and I will always love his writing most for the tender and revealing way he paid tribute to his inspirational parents and their journey through the Holocaust, refugee camps and into the land of the brave and free. In his book, *Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust*, Berger clearly defines himself as an exemplary story teller, a master of the rarest kind. What I didn't know about Joseph Berger was his incredible and passionate commitment to detailed research and it was this that I discovered in his latest book, *The Pious Ones*. I'm not always a fan of the well researched non-fiction. Often I find these types of books hard going, laborious reading filled with meaningless statistics and mindless interviews and so I was somewhat apprehensive when I picked this book up and started reading. I was only marginally placated by the fact that my husband couldn't move for 2 days while he read *The Pious Ones* – marginally because he has more reading stamina than I do when it comes to this type of non-fiction. There was not one page in Berger's latest book that disappointed me. I flagged pages so that I could revisit them. I reread whole paragraphs to myself repeatedly so that I could drown in the intense detail. I fell in love with Yitta Schwartz, a survivor who when she died at age 93 left behind over 2000 relatives.

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