

**Bejarano, Margalit. *The Jewish Community of Cuba: Memory and History*. Jerusalem: The Hebrew University Magnes Press, 2014. 360 pp. \$65.00. (9789654937634).**

This book provides a history of the Jewish Diaspora community that established roots in Cuba, flourished, and was then driven into exile. Through first person narratives and reminiscences, Dr. Bejarano offers a fascinating history of Jewish immigration to Cuba and the development of a diverse community. Prior to WWI, Sephardic Jews immigrated from Turkey and Syria, followed by a wave of Ashkenazi immigrants from Eastern Europe in the 1920s, and later by Holocaust refugees.

Each chapter is introduced by an extensive historical background followed by oral histories and personal experiences. The testimonies of the interviewees bring to life the challenges of immigrant life and the realities of adjusting to a new country, as well as the creation of Jewish institutions and Jewish religious life, the growth in prosperity of the community and its collapse and dispersal to new countries after the government of Fidel Castro took power. These personal experiences, written in their own voices, is what sets this book apart from others written on the same subject. Highly recommended for all libraries.

*Sonia Smith, McGill University, Canada*