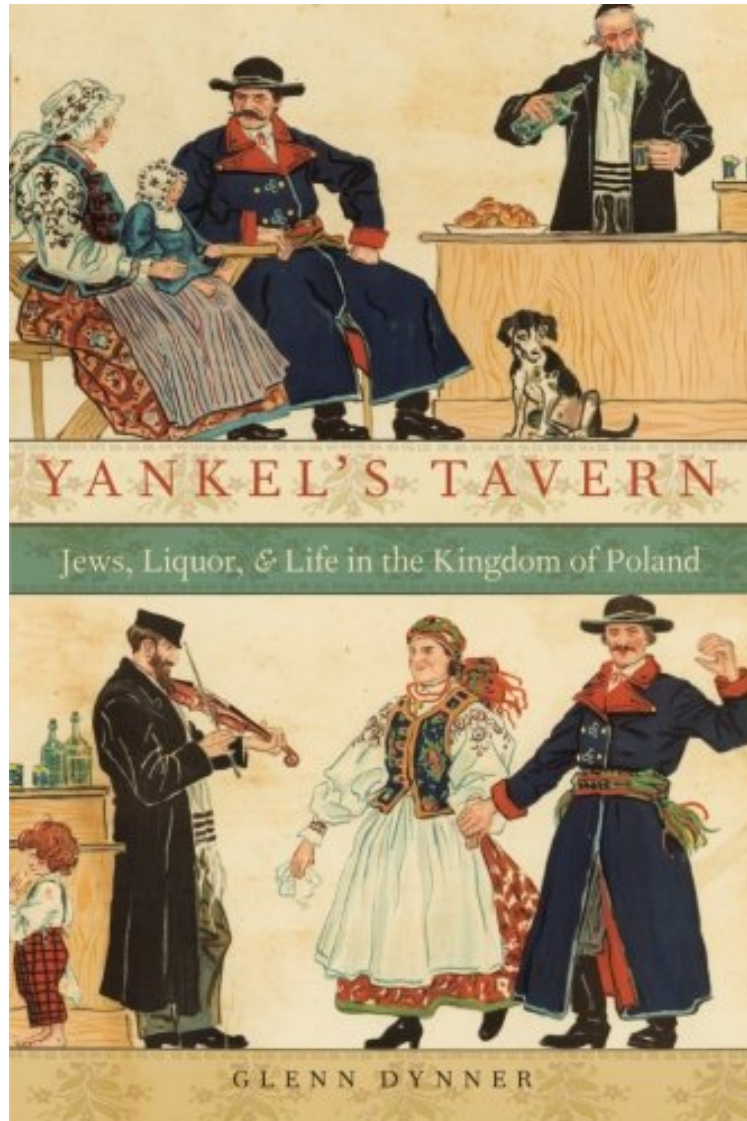


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Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland

Glenn Dynner

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#1139155 in Books Dynner Glenn 2014-12-01 2014-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.10 x .60 x 9.10l, .0 #File Name: 0190204141272 pagesYankel s Tavern Jews Liquor and Life in the Kingdom of Poland | File size: 28.Mb

Glenn Dynner : Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Yitzchok GoldsonExcellent. A real eye opener into the place of Jews in "Shetel" Poland.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three StarsBy Customerit is ok0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. It acted like an old PDF fileBy W. WeigelFrom what I can tell, this is a

very readable treatment of a fascinating subject. Much of it seems to be territory already covered in Hillel Levine's *Economic Origins of Antisemitism*, but in a less scholarly form. However, I gave up on it after a few dozen pages. My problem is not with the book itself, but the format in which provided it. It acted like an old PDF file: Margins were fixed and the text could not reflow to fit screen size or viewer's preferences. This meant that it was (for me, at any rate) unreadable on my 5.7 inch screen smartphone, which is my usual ebook reader. Even on my 7 inch tablet I could only read it in landscape mode, which is awkward and not optimal for a number of other reasons. I cannot imagine why made this format choice.

Awarded Honorable Mention for the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award
In nineteenth-century Eastern Europe, the Jewish-run tavern was often the center of leisure, hospitality, business, and even religious festivities. This unusual situation came about because the nobles who owned taverns throughout the formerly Polish lands believed that only Jews were sober enough to run taverns profitably, a belief so ingrained as to endure even the rise of Hasidism's robust drinking culture. As liquor became the region's boom industry, Jewish tavernkeepers became integral to both local economies and local social life, presiding over Christian celebrations and dispensing advice, medical remedies and loans. Nevertheless, reformers and government officials, blaming Jewish tavernkeepers for epidemic peasant drunkenness, sought to drive Jews out of the liquor trade. Their efforts were particularly intense and sustained in the Kingdom of Poland, a semi-autonomous province of the Russian empire that was often treated as a laboratory for social and political change. Historians have assumed that this spelled the end of the Polish Jewish liquor trade. However, newly discovered archival sources demonstrate that many nobles helped their Jewish tavernkeepers evade fees, bans and expulsions by installing Christians as fronts for their taverns. The result—a vast underground Jewish liquor trade—reflects an impressive level of local Polish-Jewish co-existence that contrasts with the more familiar story of anti-Semitism and violence. By tapping into sources that reveal the lives of everyday Jews and Christians in the Kingdom of Poland, *Yankel's Tavern* transforms our understanding of the region during the tumultuous period of Polish uprisings and Jewish mystical revival.

"*Yankel's Tavern* is a path-breaking work that should be of interest to students of Polish, Russian, and Jewish history alike....With his careful mining of archival materials, especially case studies...Dynner has shown a more complex, even contradictory, reality."--Slavic "The best English language work on the subject of Jewish tavernkeeping in nineteenth-century Poland....Dynner's short monograph is a remarkable achievement. The book is one of those rare academic accomplishments: persuasive yet concise. The frequent turn to literary references makes sense given Dynner's own elegant, almost effortless prose. There are protagonists and antagonists, evocative settings and fits of sentimentality (intended or not). Any historian of East European Jewry will find much to feast on inside *Yankel's Tavern*."--*European History Quarterly*"Glenn Dynner has written a history of Jewish tavern keepers that serves as a point of entry into a much broader challenge to a surprisingly diverse swath of conventional wisdom about Jewish life in the Polish lands of the Russian Empire. For this reason, *Yankel's Tavern* should be required reading for anyone interested in Jewish history, Polish history, Russian imperial history, nationalism and national identity, and the economic history of eastern Europe. Without ever adopting an aggressive or polemical tone, Dynner has launched several debates that are sure to continue for years to come....[Dynner]offers a story of nuance and complexity, one that defies any attempt to squeeze it into the simplistic dualities that have long weakened both Polish and Jewish history. This alone should place *Yankel's Tavern* on everyone's must-read list."--*AJS* "[An] erudite, meticulously researched, and refreshingly original new book..." --*Jewish of Books*"*Yankel's Tavern* is an interesting work that provides insight into the social, economic, political and religious realities of Jews during this time period. The book is a pleasure to read and accessible to the scholar and non-scholar alike." --*Association of Jewish Library's*"Dynner's rich archival discoveries lead him into multifarious aspects of Jewish life in the Congress Kingdom. He offers a thoughtful survey of Jewish perspectives on the Polish insurrections of 1830-31 and 1863."--*Times Literary Supplement*"The sacred, the profane, and the 45-percent proof are at the heart of Glenn Dynner's new book, *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland*. Like all fine scholarly work, this...volume contains multitudes." --*Tablet Magazine*"Meticulously researched, judiciously analyzed and deeply engaging, *Yankel's Tavern* sets a new standard in Jewish social history. Dynner succeeds admirably in cutting through the swath of filio-pietistic myth and anti-Semitic invective that envelops the Eastern European Jewish past. His enthusiasm for reconstructing the 'tragi-comic' lives of ordinary people is positively infectious. A rich and stimulating read." --*Olga Litvak, author of Haskalah: The Romantic Movement in Judaism*"Dynner shifts the focus of nineteenth-century Polish-Jewish history from government policy, ideological movements and secularization to the lives of real people and the persistence of traditional social, economic and cultural patterns. Using the pervasive liquor trade as a prism, he illuminates both the myths and the reality of the complexities and perplexities of the Polish-Jewish symbiosis." - *Moshe Rosman, author of The Lords' Jews: Magnate-Jewish Relations in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*"Based upon massive new archival research, Glenn Dynner presents a wide-ranging portrait of the Jewish-run tavern, a central but overlooked institution of Polish Jewry. Drawing on a remarkable range of sources - legal, administrative, rabbinic, and literary - he illuminates the

social, economic, religious and political ramifications of his subject. A sobering view of an intoxicating subject, told with sensitivity, nuance, and balance." - Jerry Z. Muller, author of *Capitalism and the Jews* About the Author Glenn Dynner is Professor of Jewish Studies at Sarah Lawrence College. He is author of *Men of Silk: The Hasidic Conquest of Polish Jewish Society*, which received the Koret Publication Prize, and editor of *Holy Dissent: Jewish and Christian Mystics in Eastern Europe*. He has been a Fellow at the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, a member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University, and is currently the NEH Senior Scholar at the Center for Jewish History in New York.