



PEOPLEHOOD

and Its Role and Significance
in Jewish Life

Bring the excellence of Hartman scholarship into your community with the Hartman Institute Video Lecture Series

The idea of Jewish Peoplehood—its complex origins, its implications, and how it might be sustained—is an issue of wide concern in the Jewish community today. The concept of a “Jewish collective” appears at odds with a contemporary ethos of intense individualism. Anxiety about a dwindling sense of Peoplehood increasingly defines the agenda for Israeli agencies and Jewish institutions and federations worldwide. The meanings and implications of Jewish Peoplehood impact directly on nearly all of the central questions and tensions of Judaism and modern life.

The faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute has developed a timely and sophisticated curriculum to address the questions of Jewish Peoplehood. In this 9-part video lecture series, senior Hartman faculty engage in broad and deep analysis of some of the many tensions that Peoplehood raises, both in classical Jewish tradition and in contemporary Jewish thought and life.

The Video Lecture Series brings the world-renowned faculty of the Shalom Hartman Institute into partnership with community rabbis and educators across North America to create a customized course of study that provides relevant, contemporary approaches to the urgent challenges facing the Jewish people.

The series includes:

Nine curricular units on DVD or USB: Each unit runs approximately 45 minutes and consists of a lecture by a member of the Hartman Institute faculty. See reverse for details.

Sourcebook: Each chapter of the sourcebook includes primary sources for the lecture, supplementary sources for additional study and reflection, and recommended background readings. The package comes with one book for the leader; additional books for participants may be purchased for \$20 each (shipping included).

Leader’s Guide: The Guide contains a comprehensive outline of each lecture, recommended hevruta questions for each primary text, explanations of supplementary sources, suggested discussion questions, and recommended background readings.

Price: \$500, shipping included.

To purchase Peoplehood and Its Role and Significance in Modern Jewish Life,
visit www.shalomhartman.org/video



Central Themes of Peoplehood and Its Role and Significance in Modern Jewish Life

The Meaning and Significance of Peoplehood in Jewish Life explores the biblical and rabbinic origins of the concept of Jewish Peoplehood. Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman probes the tension between the familial, ethnic aspects of Jewish identity and the religious, behavioral content of Jewish identity. What happens when the Jewish People and the Jewish Religion come into conflict?

Genesis and Exodus: Two Models of Jewish Peoplehood raises important questions about the nature of Jewish identity. What is the essence of Jewishness according to Jewish tradition? Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman presents two different models of what a collective Jewish peoplehood means and traces these two paradigms through biblical narrative and Talmudic debate as he reflects on the state of these two models in modern Jewish identity.

The Emergence of Jewish Peoplehood from the Biblical Perspective examines the origins of Jewish Peoplehood in the Bible. Professor Israel Knohl explores expressions of Jewish Peoplehood in our earliest narratives. He argues that the formation of the “People of Israel” was connected to a dramatic political revolution.

Prioritizing Peoplehood: A Reading of the Book of Jonah presents a close reading of the Book of Jonah as a powerful reflection of the priority of Jewish Peoplehood in biblical literature. Dr. Micah Goodman suggests that the character of Jonah is challenged with the conflict between his devotion to God and his devotion to the Jewish People. He argues that the Book of Jonah is a testimony to the essential tension of Jewish identity — is Judaism a nation or a religion?

The Individual and the Collective underscores the tension between the individual search for meaning and the commitment to communal obligations and norms. Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer argues that the central institutions of Jewish prayer and Torah study are the locus of this tension today, as they were two thousand years ago. Can Jewish life and spirituality be a personal religious journey, or must we sacrifice our individual needs for the sake of community?

The Poetics of Peoplehood explores the diverse expressions of Peoplehood in biblical and rabbinic Jewish literature. Dr. Melila Hellner-Eshed shares the imaginative ways in which Jews have defined a sense of belonging to the Jewish People. Throughout her lecture, Melila invites us to explore the ways in which the language we use to describe ourselves reflects our values.

Peoplehood and the Centrality of Place examines the ways in which land and nationhood inform and complicate our picture of the Jewish collective. Dr. Yehuda Kurtzer questions how the dynamics of “home” and “homeland” influence Jewish belonging and identification. Are there unique models of Jewish Peoplehood in Israel and in the Diaspora? How have vibrant “Diaspora” communities reshaped our understanding of Jewish Peoplehood? Yehuda explores the differences between the Diasporic Jewish institutions and the Israeli public square.

Jewish Peoplehood and the Possibilities of Modernity: Mordechai Kaplan and Martin Buber introduces two important modern Jewish thinkers and their understanding of Jewish Peoplehood. Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi explores how Jewish Peoplehood takes on new meaning in the modern world. What are the challenges to collective Jewish identity in the modern world? Both Kaplan and Buber offer invaluable insights into the dilemmas of Peoplehood today and the enduring meaning of Jewish belonging.

Core Principles of Jewish Peoplehood seeks to identify the core principles of the Jewish People. Rabbi Dr. Donniel Hartman argues that a dialogue about core principles can both define and create a community of meaning and purpose. How do we understand the foundation of Jewishness, and how does our understanding of core principles impact our identification with the Jewish People?



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