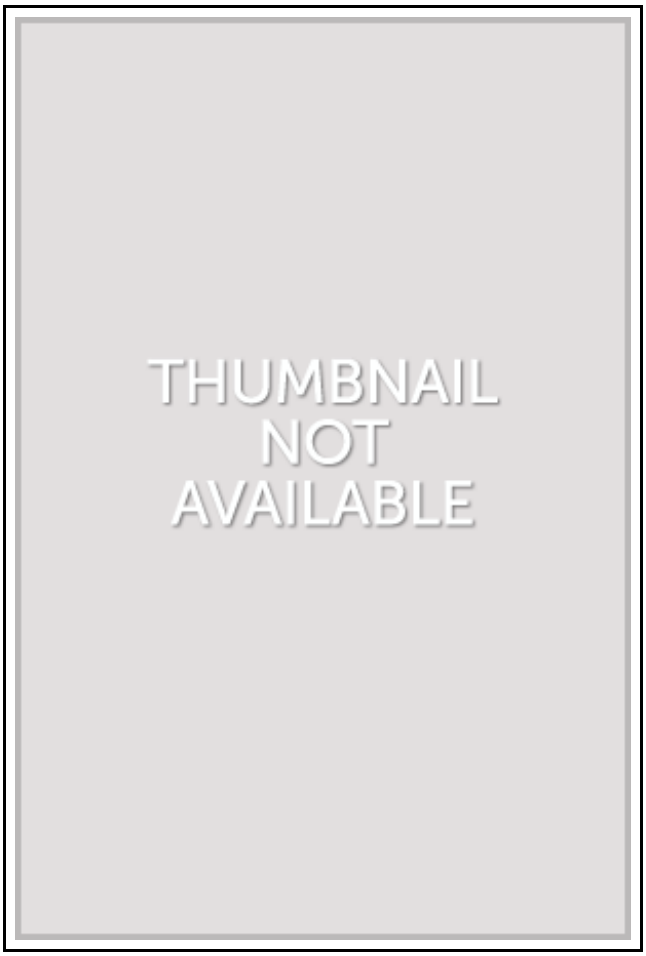
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Littman Library Of Jewish Civilization, 2013. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: For many centuries, Poland and Russia formed the heartland of the Jewish world. Right up to the Second World War, the area was home to over 40 per cent of the world''s Jews. Nearly three and a half million Jews lived in Poland alone, with nearly three million more in the Soviet Union. Yet, although the majority of the Jews of Europe and the US, as well as a large proportion of the Jews of Israel, originate from these lands, and many of the major movements that have characterized the Jewish world in recent times have their origins there, the history of their Jewish communities is not well known. Rather, it is the subject of mythologizing that fails both to bring out the specific features of the Jewish civilization that emerged there and to illustrate what was lost in its destruction. Jewish life in these parts, though often poor materially, was marked by a high degree of spiritual and ideological intensity and creativity. In this book, author Antony Polonsky re-creates this lost world, brutally cut down by the Holocaust and seriously damaged by the Soviet attempt to destroy Jewish culture. It is a study that avoids both sentimentalism and the simplification of the east European Jewish experience into a story of persecution and martyrdom. The book''s relevance reaches far beyond the Jewish world or the bounds of East-Central Europe, and it succeeds in providing a comprehensive overview that highlights the realities of Jewish life while also setting them in the context of the political, economic, and social realities of the time. This is an abridged version of a three-volume hardback edition which won the 2011 Kulczycki Book Prize for Polish...

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