



Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet (Jewish Lives)

By Jeffrey Rosen



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A riveting new examination of the leading progressive justice of his era, published in the centennial year of his confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court

According to Jeffrey Rosen, Louis D. Brandeis was “the Jewish Jefferson,” the greatest critic of what he called “the curse of bigness,” in business and government, since the author of the Declaration of Independence. Published to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of his Supreme Court confirmation on June 1, 1916, *Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet* argues that Brandeis was the most farsighted constitutional philosopher of the twentieth century. In addition to writing the most famous article on the right to privacy, he also wrote the most important Supreme Court opinions about free speech, freedom from government surveillance, and freedom of thought and opinion. And as the leader of the American Zionist movement, he convinced Woodrow Wilson and the British government to recognize a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Combining narrative biography with a passionate argument for why Brandeis matters today, Rosen explores what Brandeis, the Jeffersonian prophet, can teach us about historic and contemporary questions involving the Constitution, monopoly, corporate and federal power, technology, privacy, free speech, and Zionism.

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Editorial Review

Review

"[E]loquent, insightful and compact Rosen's accessible prose makes a difficult intellectual feat look easy. He provides an excellent introduction to Brandeis's ideas about government regulation and big business, free speech, technology and privacy, and Zionism."

(The Washington Post)

"An elegant and judicious look at the extraordinary jurist whose pioneering opinions on the sanctity of privacy and the dangers of bigness remain pertinent in the era of the internet and of institutions said to be too big to fail."—Geoffrey C. Ward, author of *A First-Class Temperament: The Emergence of Franklin Roosevelt*

(Geoffrey C. Ward 2016-01-11)

"As we debate today's issues of free speech and privacy, or wrestle with the powers of big government and corporations, we should be guided by the wisdom of Brandeis. In this insightful biography, Jeffrey Rosen shows why this visionary philosopher matters today."—Walter Isaacson, President, The Aspen Institute; Author, *Benjamin Franklin, Einstein, and Steve Jobs*

(Walter Isaacson 2015-12-09)

"A tightly written, tightly reasoned biography aimed at readers who are not legal scholars."—*Kirkus Reviews* (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Rosen's angle on Brandeis is crisp, fresh and incisive, with striking relevance to modern-day issues concerning (among other things) corporate power, the problems of big government, an economy at risk from huge financial institutions that are too big to fail, and the future of Israel as a democratic Jewish state."—Akhil Reed Amar, author of *America's Constitution: A Biography*

(Akhil Reed Amar)

"In this fast-moving and easily digestible chronicle, Rosen pays ample tribute to Brandeis's achievements, which included his judicial contributions, his political activism, and his promotion of Zionism. This is an ideal introduction to Brandeis' life for general readers."—*Booklist*, Starred Review (*Booklist*)

"A concise and sympathetic exploration of Brandeis's main intellectual causes. . . . Mr. Rosen persuasively makes his case that recognizing Brandeis as an 'American prophet' 'seems more important today than ever.'"—Adam Cohen, *New York Times*

(Adam Cohen *New York Times*)

About the Author

Jeffrey Rosen is President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, professor of law at the George Washington University Law School, and a contributing editor of the *Atlantic*.

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