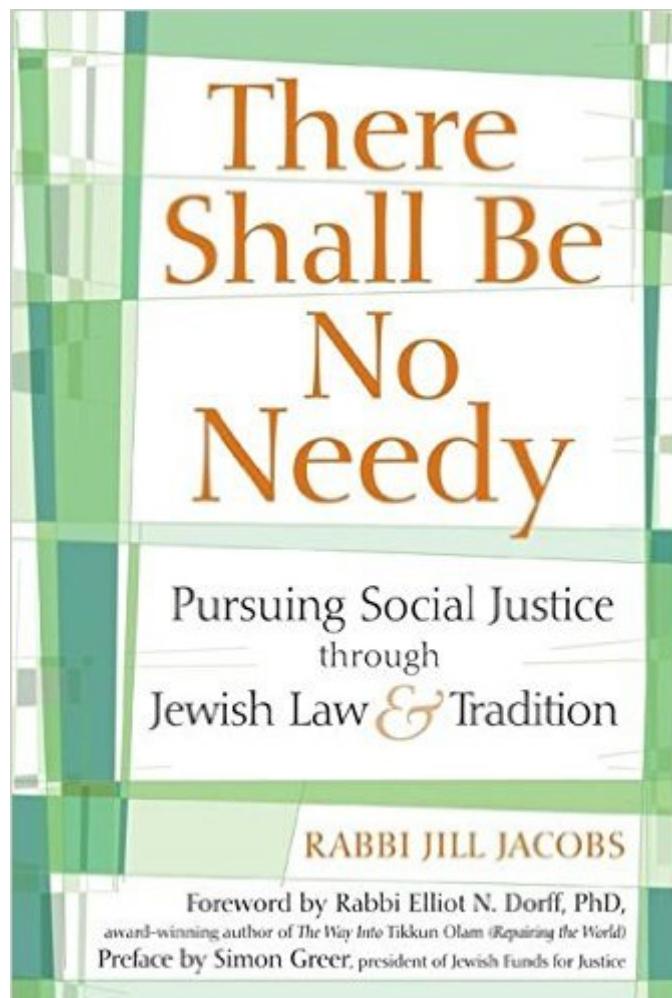


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# There Shall Be No Needy: Pursuing Social Justice Through Jewish Law And Tradition



## Synopsis

How can a Jewish approach to social justice offer positive change for America?"Ancient texts offer significant wisdom about human nature, economic cycles, the causes of inequality, and our obligations to each other. These insights can inform our own approaches to current issues, challenge our assumptions, and force us to consider alternative approaches. The conversation between our texts and our lives can enrich our experience of both."â •from the IntroductionConfront the most pressing issues of twenty-first-century America in this fascinating book, which brings together classical Jewish sources, contemporary policy debate and real-life stories.Rabbi Jill Jacobs, a leading young voice in the social justice arena, makes a powerful argument for participation in the American public square from a deeply Jewish perspective, while deepening our understanding of the relationship between Judaism and such current social issues as: Poverty and the Poor Collection and Allocation of Tzedakah Workers, Employers and Unions Housing the Homeless The Provision of Health Care Environmental Sustainability Crime, Punishment and RehabilitationBy creating a dialogue between traditional texts and current realities, Jacobs presents a template for engagement in public life from a Jewish perspective and challenges us to renew our obligations to each other.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a smart, serious look at traditions of social justice in Judaism and what they can teach us about living an ethical life today. I liked it because it's not just for religious scholars and not just for activists - it's for anyone interested in understanding Jewish ways of thinking about our

responsibility to our communities. If you have ever been unsure about whether/how Judaism is relevant to the challenges we face in today's global society, this book might have some answers for you.

This timely, beautifully-written book is an essential addition to any bookshelf. Combining Jewish law and tradition with contemporary social justice efforts, Rabbi Jacobs' voice is a new and welcome addition to the conversation.

In *There Shall be No Needy* Rabbi Jill Jacobs poses some of the most relevant and provocative questions of our day: Who are the poor? What is adequate housing? Why is more than one out of every hundred adults in the US in prison? What is our obligation to pursue justice for all? What is the government's role in ensuring basic human rights? What I found most enlightening is her historical perspective, illuminated through Scripture, parables, and Jewish texts, which she pairs with current facts, statistics and analysis leading to a very cogent argument for policy changes. Rabbi Jacobs leaves the reader with three principles that resonate all religious traditions and lay a foundation for our efforts toward social justice: "the fundamental dignity of human life; the commitment to lessening disparities of money or power; and the mutual responsibility between the community and the individual." (p. 214) Sue Cipolle, author of *Service-Learning and Social Justice: Engaging Students in Social Change*

This is a terrific book! For Jews, the connection with social justice seems almost automatic... this book helps us to understand where those connections originate. Rabbi Jacobs links social justice ideas to Jewish texts and other core ideas in Judaism. This book is enriching and inspirational!

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