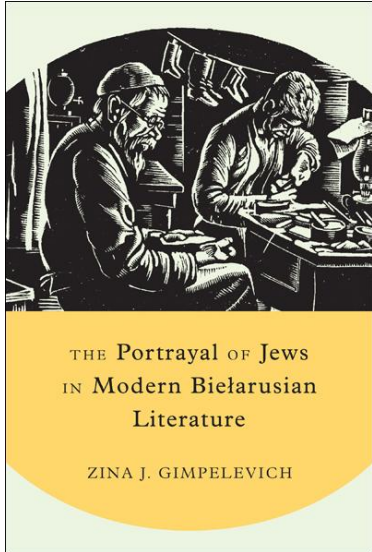




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## ***The Portrayal of Jews in Modern Bielarussian Literature***

By Zina J. Gimpelevich

"*The Portrayal of Jews in Modern Bielarussian Literature* covers a wide range of literary figures, consistently adheres to the theme of empathy towards Jews living in Bielarus, and treats a controversial subject with great sensitivity." Charles A. Ruud, Western University

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### **Overview**

One of the notable distinctions of Bielarussian authors, compared to other writers in Slavic literatures, is their depiction of Jewish characters as natives to the land. The Jewish population in historic Bielarussian territories was the country's largest minority, and Yiddish was one of the state languages of Bielarus between 1919 and 1938. *The Portrayal of Jews in Modern Bielarussian Literature* sheds light on this little-known yet important part of Slavic and Jewish studies. Zina Gimpelevich demonstrates that the works produced by Bielarussian writers over a long period of time display a more consistent tolerance and sympathy towards Jews than has generally been recognized.

**Zina J. Gimpelevich** is professor emeritus of Slavic studies at the University of Waterloo and the author of *Vasil Bykau: His Life and Works*.

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