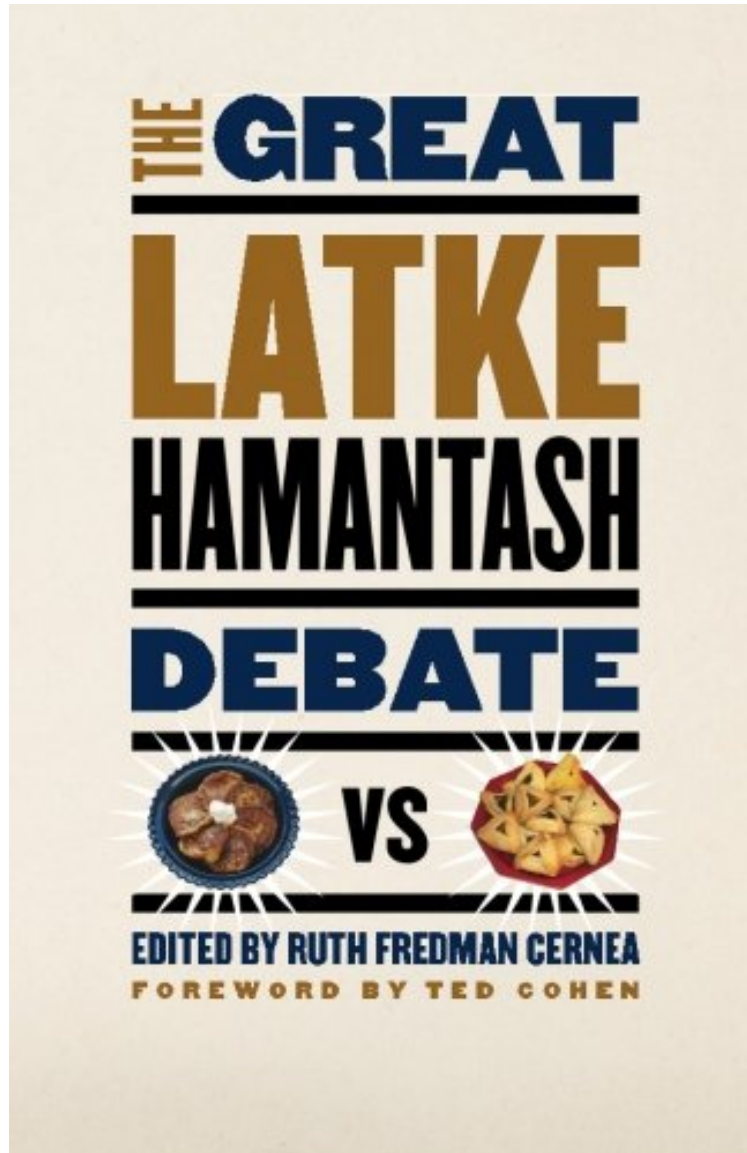


(Free) The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate

## The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate

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**From University Of Chicago Press : The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. " poetry and more- a merry romp through Jewish History (slightly tilted to satisfy the debate particularsBy Edith SobelAn extraordinary book replete with humor, philosophy, psychology, political "intrigue," poetry and more- a merry romp through Jewish History (slightly tilted to satisfy the

debate particulars.) Who would expect a book featuring Latkas and Hamantash to be such a lush literary experience. I have purchased a number of paperbacks to send to my children so that they too can have an unusual and utterly entertaining experience. Edith Sobell 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Absolutely delightful. Granted - a bit esoteric in some ...By eppsAbsolutely delightful. Granted - a bit esoteric in some places (as one might expect), but only in the service of hilarity. I laughed about the essay "The Bioethical Implications of the Latke-Hamantash Debate; or, Small Fry, Deep Fry, in Your Eye, Northrop Frye" for two days straight, and I'm a biologist.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The Great latke-Hamantash DebateBy Elaine HilowitzThis is one of the funniest and most entertaining books I've ever read. This started at the University of Chicago in 1946 as a unique fundraiser for the Hillel. They invited 2 (at first Jewish) professors to debate which is better/first/most important, using their discipline as the basis of the presentation. What started in a small room on campus is now presented in the largest auditorium on campus, and non-Jewish professors have now also participated in this. This book is a collection of the best of these presented debates. It is an easy read that can be picked up without losing the "story". I laughed out loud with almost every entry. It is a favorite Chanukkah gift.

Creation versus evolution. Nature versus nurture. Free will versus determinism. Every November at the University of Chicago, the best minds in the world consider the question that ranks with these as one of the most enduring of human history: latke or hamantash? This great latke-hamantash debate, occurring every year for the past six decades, brings Nobel laureates, university presidents, and notable scholars together to debate whether the potato pancake or the triangular Purim pastry is in fact the worthier food. What began as an informal gathering is now an institution that has been replicated on campuses nationwide. Highly absurd yet deeply serious, the annual debate is an opportunity for both ethnic celebration and academic farce. In poetry, essays, jokes, and revisionist histories, members of elite American academies attack the latke-versus-hamantash question with intellectual panache and an unerring sense of humor, if not chutzpah. The Great Latke-Hamantash Debate is the first collection of the best of these performances, from Martha Nussbaum's paean to both foods—in the style of Hecuba's Lament—to Nobel laureate Leon Lederman's proclamation on the union of the celebrated dyad. The latke and the hamantash are here revealed as playing a critical role in everything from Chinese history to the Renaissance, the works of Jane Austen to constitutional law. Philosopher and humorist Ted Cohen supplies a wry foreword, while anthropologist Ruth Fredman Cernea provides historical and social context as well as an overview of the Jewish holidays, latke and hamantash recipes, and a glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew terms, making the book accessible even to the uninitiated. The University of Chicago may have split the atom in 1942, but it's still working on the equally significant issue of the latke versus the hamantash. "As if we didn't have enough on our plates, here's something new to argue about. . . . To have to pick between sweet and savory, round and triangular, latke and hamantash. How to choose? . . . Thank goodness one of our great universities—Chicago, no less—is on the case. For more than 60 years, it has staged an annual latke-hamantash debate. . . . So, is this book funny? Of course it's funny, even laugh-out-loud funny. It's Mickey Katz in academic drag, Borscht Belt with a PhD."—David Kaufmann, Forward

From Publishers WeeklyWhat began in 1946 at the University of Chicago as a way to foster a sense of community among Jewish students and faculty members, these farcical debates about whether latkes or hamantasches are superior wrap absurdist pun-offs in academic trappings, but readers will find as many pits as cherries. In these snippets from an "academic 'carnival'" that "turns the usual academic posture upside-down," professors such as Marvin Mirsky observe "the roundness of the latke clearly suggests the circle of perfection (Plato's ideal form)" and "the flatness of the latke . . . emphasizes the general and the universal (Plato's ultimate truth beyond the illusion of the immediate and the particular)." Most participants use pun-dependent "examples" to illustrate the presence of this debate throughout history and literature: Lawrence Sherman reminds his audience that in *Romeo and Juliet*, "Juliet was a Capulatke, Romeo a Hamantashague," and William Meadow cites the influence of Jewish cooking on rock music, recalling such lyrics as "Come on, baby, latke good times roll" and "the Rolling Stones lament, 'I can't get no hamantashen.'" The schmaltz gets poured on thick, and, like both latkes and hamantasches, the book is best appreciated in moderate servings. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. "As if we didn't have enough on our plates, here's something new to argue about. . . . To have to pick between sweet and savory, round and triangular, latke and hamantash. How to choose? . . . Thank goodness one of our great universities--Chicago, no less--is on the case. For more than 60 years, it has staged an annual latke-hamantash debate. . . . So, is this book funny? Of course it's funny, even laugh-out-loud funny. It's Mickey Katz in academic drag, Borscht Belt with a PhD." -- David Kaufmann "Forward" (11/17/2005)From the Inside FlapCreation versus evolution. Nature versus nurture. Free will versus determinism. EveryNovember at the University of Chicago, the best minds in the world come together to consider the question that ranks with these as one of the most enduring of human history: latke or hamantash? This great latke-hamantash debate, occurring every year for the past six decades, brings Nobel laureates, university presidents, and notable scholars together to debate whether the potato pancake or the triangular Purim pastry is in fact the worthier food. What began as an informal gathering is now an institution that has been replicated

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