Contents

Acknowledgments ix
List of abbreviations xi

1. Byzantine-Jewish economic history 1
   The Jews of Byzantium 2
   Economic history as applied to Byzantine Jewry 9
   Opportunities and challenges in the economic history of the Jews 14
   Byzantine Jews in the Mediterranean economy 17

2. Byzantine Jews throughout the Mediterranean: fluidity and exchange 24
   The problem of numbers 28
   Byzantine Jews outside the empire: from the rise of Islam to the eleventh century 31
   Jews of non-Byzantine origin within the empire: from the eleventh century to the Fourth Crusade 50
   Contacts among Byzantine Jews across political boundaries 63
   The effects of Byzantine-Jewish demography on the economy 75

3. The inner economy of the Jewish communities 78
   Rabbinical academies 80
   Communal contributions 96
   Contracts 104
   Scrolls and scribes 112
   Kosher edibles 119
   Pilgrimage 123
   A Jewish economy 126
## Contents

4. The integrated Jewish economy 129
   Taxation, tax collection and fines 131
   Mechanisms and means of international trade 147
   Primary markets 163
   Secondary markets 171
   Contribution and competition, integration and segregation 175

5. Byzantine-Jewish trade in the Commercial Revolution 181
   Byzantium and the Commercial Revolution 183
   The Pirenne thesis and Mediterranean Jewry 189
   From the thirteenth century 203

6. Conclusion: a new perspective on Byzantine economic history 206
   Economic history as a measure of social relationships 208
   Professions conspicuous by their absence 211
   The promise of Byzantine-Jewish history 213

Appendix A: MS translations 215
Appendix B: MS images 229
Sources consulted 234
Index 265