

Modern Political History of the Jews  
Emancipation and the Making of Modern Jewish Politics, 1589-1919

History/Jewish Studies 373

2:30-3:45 MW 1101 Humanities

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This is the first semester of a two-semester sequence about Jews and modern politics. This course will explore the ways in which the modern period reshaped the nature of Jewish politics. It will follow four themes:

1. The Jews' internal traditions of political self-understanding and behavior, especially their relationship to political authority
2. The changing political status of Jews in Europe from 1589-1922, especially the acquisition of increased privileges under the ancien regime and equal rights or emancipation in civil society.
3. The internal politics of the Jewish community.
4. Jews' participation in politics in the larger society, and especially their relationship to the ideologies or movements that promoted their emancipation, namely, liberalism and socialism, or opposed it, namely, Zionism and Anti-Semitism.

We will explore how the modern period (circa 1589-1922) reshaped the political principles that had governed diaspora Jewish life (the "quietism" of "autonomy," "intercession," & the "vertical alliance" vs. revolt-rebellion and/or "messianism"). We will begin with the resettlement of Western and Central Europe and the movement of Jews into Eastern Europe (1600-1700) that marked a new era in European Jewish life, namely, the acquisition of extensive "privileges" in estate society. This was the first phase of the prolonged process of emancipation, the Jews' acquisition of equal civic and political rights, that took over three centuries and dominated their experience of the modern period. We will study the last great messianic movement, Sabbateanism. We will then study the second phase of emancipation, the acquisition of equal rights in civil society. Finally, we will examine the development of Jewish political movements as well as the Jews' participation in the politics of the larger society, both of which took place during, and as a result of, emancipation. We will also pay attention to the changing internal politics of the Jewish community under emancipation's impact.

The course will meet four hours per week. There will be two lectures per week (MW). Lindsay Starkey will lead discussion sections and grade assignments. This is an upper division 4 credit course.

Readings:

David Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History (New York, 1986)

Pierre Birnbaum & Ira Katznelson eds., Paths of Emancipation: Jews, States and Citizenship (Princeton, 1995)

Michael Burns ed., France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History (Boston, 1999)

David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997)

Allen Levine, Scattered among the Peoples: the Jewish Diaspora in twelve portraits (Overlook, 2003)

Raphael Mahler ed., Jewish Emancipation: A Selection of Documents (New York, 1944) (photocopy; on-line)

Theodore Herzl, The Jewish State (Herzl Press)

Assignments

You will write four short essays on assigned topics. You will do peer review of these papers in discussion section and you will have the opportunity to rewrite them. You will also write a final 6-8 page paper. There will be no exams.

January 21: Introduction

January 26: Political Archetypes I

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, "Political Ideologies of Antiquity," 27-33;

Joseph Story: Genesis 37; 39-41; 47:1-26; Exodus 1:1-14

Political Archetypes II

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, "The Political Theory of the Diaspora," 34-57;

Book of Esther; Maccabees I 1-2;

January 28: The Jewish Diaspora in the Middle Ages

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, "Jewish Political Activity in the Middle Ages," 69-77; "Jewish Self-Government," 77-83; "Urge Toward Statehood," 83-86;

Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World, "Charter of the Jews of the Duchy of Austria," (1244) 28-32; "Josel of Rosheim," 198-199; "Expulsion from Spain," 51-55;

1<sup>st</sup> paper: bring to Discussion Section on January 29th

February 2: 1593 Venice and Livorno

Simone Luzzatto, "The Hebrews among the Nations," Commentary 3 (1947) 474-478

David Sorkin, "The Port Jew: Notes Toward a Social Type," Journal of Jewish Studies 50 (Spring 1999) 87-97

"La Livornina," 1593 (trs. by Bernard Cooperman)

February 4: Amsterdam

Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, "The Portuguese Nacao - Amsterdam, 1700," 113-140

Mahler, Declaration of the Estates General of the United Netherlands, 10

February 9: 1656 England

Manasseh ben Israel, "How Profitable the Nation of the Jews are,"

Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, Jew in the Modern World, 10-13; John

Toland, "Reasons for Naturalizing the Jews in Great Britain and Ireland."

February 11: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Jampol Community and Town Privilege, 1711, 1753 (trs. Teller Early Modern Workshop)

Memoirs of Ber of Bolechow (London, 1922) 60-67

Gershon Hundert, Jews in Poland-Lithuania in the Eighteenth Century "The Largest Community in the World," 21-31, "Economic Integration," 32-47;

February 16: Constantinople, 1666

David Halperin ed., Sabbatai Zevi: Testimonies to a Fallen Messiah (Oxford: Littman Library, 2007). Biography of Abraham Cuenque, 156-183; letters of Joseph Halevi, 106-123.

Paul Rycout, History of the Turkish Empire (1687), in Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World, 262-268

Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, "Physicians, Poets and a False Messiah, Constantinople, 1666," 79-112

February 18: Prague 1744

Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, "Court Jews -Vienna, 1730," 141-168

Michael Graetz, "Court Jews in Economics and Politics," in Vivian Mann and Ritchie Cohen eds., From Court Jews to the Rothschilds (1996) 27-43

"Appointment of Samson Wertheimer," Jew in the Modern World, 18-20

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, 87-117.

2<sup>nd</sup> paper: bring to Discussion Section on February 19th

February 23: Berlin, 1781

Christian Wilhelm Dohm, "Concerning the Amelioration of the Civil Status of the Jews" (1781)

Werner Mosse, "From 'Schutzjuden' to 'Deutsche Staatsbürger Jüdischen Glaubens': The Long and Bumpy Road of Jewish Emancipation in Germany," in Birnbaum & Katznelson, Paths of Emancipation, 59-93

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 18-20 (Austria)

February 25: Paris, 1790-1791

Lynn Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History, (Boston, 1996) 84-101

Paula Hyman, Jews of Modern France, 17-35

Malino, "From Patriot to Israelite: Abraham Furtado in Revolutionary France," in Reinharz and Swetschinski eds., Mystics, Philosophers and Politicians (Durham, NC, 1982) 213-33

March 2: Paris 1806-08

Transactions of the Parisian Sanhedrim, or Acts of the Assembly of Israelitish Deputies of France and Italy trs. Diogene Tama (London, 1807) 105-08, 130-38, 149-56, 176-95, 201-07, 242-47, 255-56

Malino, "From Patriot to Israelite: Abraham Furtado in Revolutionary France," 233-48

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 30-37 (Poland, 1807, Westphalia, Frankfurt, Prussia, Denmark, France, Germany & Austria)

March 4: 1815-1818 Congress of Vienna, Aix-la-Chapelle

Wilhelm von Humboldt, "Regarding the Draft of a New System of Legislation of the Jews," (July 17, 1809) [Max Kohler, Jewish Rights at the Congresses of Vienna (1814-15) and Aix-La-Chapelle (1818) (New York, 1918) 71-83]

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, Congress of Vienna, 37-38

3rd paper: bring to Discussion Section on March 5th

March 9: Damascus 1840

Thomas Philipp, "The Farhi Family and the Changing Position of the Jews in Syria, 1750-1860," Middle Eastern Studies 20 (1984) no. 4, 37-52

Israel Bartal, "Moses Montefiore: Nationalist Before His Time or Belated Shtadlan?" Studies in Zionism 11 (1990) no. 2, 111-125

Jonathan Frankel, "Conclusion," The Damascus Affair (1997) 432-445

March 11: Frankfurt 1848

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 47-52

Allan Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, "The Age of Emancipation," 169-98

Robert Liberles, "Was there a Jewish movement for Emancipation in Germany," Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 31 (1986) 35-49

March 23: Constantinople 1854

Aron Rodrigues, "From Millet to Minority: Turkish Jewry," in Birnbaum and Katznelson eds., Paths of Emancipation, 238-61

The Khatt-I Humayun (February 18, 1856) in Norman A. Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands: A History and Sourcebook, 357-361

March 25: London 1856

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 40-43, 53-57

Geoffrey Alderman, "English Jews or Jews of the English Persuasion? Reflections on the Emancipation of Anglo-Jewry," in Paths of Emancipation, 128-136

March 30: Bologna 1858

David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997) 1-161

April 1

David Kertzer, The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara (New York, 1997) 162-end

April 6: Odessa 1881

Allan Levine, Scattered Among the Peoples, "The Pale of Settlement," 199-230

Michael Stanislawski, "Russian Jewry, the Russian State, and the Dynamics of Jewish Emancipation," in Paths of Emancipation, 262-83

April 8: Jews in Politics

Geoffrey Alderman, "English Jews or Jews of the English Persuasion? Reflections on the Emancipation of Anglo-Jewry," in Paths of Emancipation, 137-56

Peter Pulzer, Jews and the German State (1992) "The Liberal Epoch," 85-96

Simon Dubnow, "Jewish Rights between Red and Black," in

Dawidowicz, The Golden Tradition, 461-470

Israel Getzlar, "A Grandson of the *Haskalah*," in Ezra Mendelsohn ed., Essential Papers on Jews and the Left (New York, 1997) 275-299

April 13: Jews as Civil Servants

Pierre Birnbaum, "Particularism versus Universalism within a Strong State: The Case of the French Jewish Civil Servant," in Rolf Torstendahl ed., State Theory and State History (London, 1992) 223-237

Peter Pulzer, Jews and the German State (1992) "Religion and Judicial Appointments in Imperial Germany," 44-64, "Jews and the State, 1893-1914," 106-120

April 15: Berlin 1878/79

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 57-61

Richard Levy ed., Antisemitism in the Modern World: An Anthology of Texts, "Destroyers of Traditional Values: Adolf Stoecker," "A National Menace: Heinrich von Treitschke," "The Eighteen-Hundred Year Conspiracy: Wilhelm Marr," 56-93

Peter Pulzer, Jews and the German State (1992) "Bismarck's Change of Course and the Rise of Anti-Semitism," 96-105

Carole Fink, Defending the Rights of Others: The Great Powers, the Jews, and International Minority Protection, 1878-1938 (2004) "Prologue: the Congress of Berlin," 3-38;

4<sup>th</sup> paper: bring to Discussion Section on April 16th

April 20: Berlin 1893

Ismar Schorsch, Jewish Reactions to German Anti-Semitism, 1870-1914 (1972) "Time to Act" & "Self-Defense: Centralverein deutscher Staatsbürger jüdischen Glaubens, 1893-1914," 103-148;

April 22: Paris 1894-1906

Michael Burns ed., France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History (Boston, 1999) 1-123

April 27: Basel 1897

Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State (New York, 1989)

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, 118-141

April 29: Vilna 1897

Vladimir Medem, "The Youth of a Bundist," in Dawidowicz, The Golden Tradition, 427-434; Bronislaw Grosser, "From Pole to Jew," 435-441.

Jonathan Frankel, "The Roots of 'Jewish Socialism' (1881-1892): From 'Populism' to 'Cosmopolitanism'?" in Ezra Mendelsohn ed., Essential Papers on Jews and the Left, 58-77  
of Texts, 104-112

May 4: Versailles 1919

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 63-5 (Russia), 67-71 (Poland, Balfour Declaration)

Eugene Black, "Lucien Wolf and the making of Poland, Paris 1919," Polin 2 (1987) 5-36

Carole Fink, Defending the Rights of Others: The Great Powers, the Jews, and International Minority Protection, 1878-1938, "Paris," 133-169, "Defending Jewish Rights in Eastern Europe," 283-294;

May 6 Conclusion

Final Paper due