

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

History/Jewish Studies 373 (2011)

2:30-3:45 T/Th 115 Van Hise

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This course, the first semester of a two-semester sequence about Jews and modern politics, 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 (T/Th) that will be conducted as discussions of the readings. You should come to class each day prepared to discuss the assigned readings. Lindsay Starkey will lead the weekly 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)

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

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

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 18: Introduction

I. Biblical and Medieval Legacy

January 20: Political Archetypes I

Biale, Power and Powerlessness, "Political Ideologies of Antiquity," 10-33;

Yosef Hayim Yerushalmi, "'Servants of Kings and not Servants of Servants': Some Aspects of the Political History of the Jews," 7-23

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 25: The Jewish Diaspora in the Middle Ages

Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, "Corporate Power in the Middle Ages," 58-69; "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;

1st paper: bring to Discussion Section on January 26th/27th

II. New Status of Jews in Early Modern Europe

January 27: 1593 Venice and Livorno

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

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

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

February 1: 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 3: 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 8: Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

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

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

"The Council of Four lands and the Lithuanian Council" in Jacob Rader Marcus, The Jew in the Medieval World, 205-211

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

Integration," 32-47;

February 10: 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 Rycaut, 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 15: 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

François Guesnet, "Textures of Intercession: Rescue Efforts for the Jews of Prague, 1744-1748," Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook 4 (2005) 355-375

2nd paper: bring to Discussion Section on February 16th/17th

III. Impact of Revolution on European Jewry

February 17: Berlin, 1781

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

Christopher Clark, "German Jews," in Liedtke & Wendehorst eds., The emancipation of Catholics, Jews and Protestants (Manchester, 1999) 122-147

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 18-20 (Austria)

February 22: Paris, 1790-1791

Lynn Hunt, The French Revolution and Human Rights: A Brief Documentary History, (Boston, 1996) 77-79, 84-101

Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 117

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

February 24: 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

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 1: 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 2nd/3rd
IV. Emancipation in the 19th century

March 3: Damascus 1840

"A Plea for Aid in the Damascus Affair"; "A Report on the
Treatment of Jewish Prisoners in the Damascus Affair"; "The
British Consul Tries to Intercede"; "Montefiore and Cremieux";
"The Ottoman Sultan" in Stillman, The Jews of Arab Lands, 393-402
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

Abigail Green, "The Damascus Affair," in Moses Montefiore: Jewish
Liberator, Imperial Hero, 133-57

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

March 8: Frankfurt 1848

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 47-49, 57-9

Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, "Reform Rabbinical Conference at
Brunswick," 177-78; "Reform Rabbinical Conference at Frankfurt,"
183-85

Moshe Rinott, "Gabriel Riesser: Fighter for Jewish Emancipation,"
Leo Baeck Institute Yearbook 7 (1962) 11-38

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

March 10: London 1858

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 22: Italy 1848-1870

Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 50-52, 59

Andrew M. Canepa, "Emancipation and the Jewish Response in Mid-
Nineteenth Century Italy," European History Quarterly 16 (1986)
403-39

March 24: Bologna 1858

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

March 29

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

March 31 Odessa 1881

Mendes-Flohr/Reinharz, 375-380

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 5: 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;

April 7: 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

Luigi Luzzatti, "Wellsprings of My Faith," Leo Schwarz, Memoirs of My People, 395-403.

April 12: 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

4th paper: bring to Discussion Section on April 13th/14th

April 14: No Class!!

V. The New Politics and Jewish Emancipation

April 19: 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," 103-135; Hermann Ahlwardt, "The Semitic vs. the Teutonic Race," & Theodor Fritsch, "The Rascists' Decalogue," in Paul Massing, Rehearsal for Destruction 2nd ed., (New York, 1967) 300-307

April 21: Paris 1894-1906
Michael Burns ed., France and the Dreyfus Affair: A Documentary History (Boston, 1999) 1-123

April 26: Basel 1897
Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State (New York, 1989)
Biale, Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History, 118-141

April 28: Vilna 1897
Simon Dubnow, "Letters on Old and New Judaism," letters 2-4, in
Simon Dubnow, Nationalism and History, 100-142

May 3: Versailles 1919
Mahler, Jewish Emancipation, 63-5 (Russia), 67-71 (Poland,
Balfour Declaration)
Carole Fink, The Jews and Minority Rights During and After World War 1," Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research (Occasional Papers Series, no. 3, 2001) 1-11
Marc Levene, "Authority and Legitimacy in Jewish Leadership: The Case of Lucien Wolf (1857-1930)," Jewish Political Studies Review 4:1 (Spring 1992) 85-110

May 5 Conclusion

Final Paper due