



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

The History of Antisemitism

Volunteer Enrichment Session

October 20, 2014

Sometimes called "the longest hatred," antisemitism has persisted in many forms for over two thousand years.

The racial antisemitism of the National Socialists (Nazis) took hatred of Jews to a genocidal extreme, yet the Holocaust began with words and ideas: stereotypes, sinister cartoons, and the gradual spread of hate.

The word antisemitism means prejudice against or hatred of Jews.

Types of antisemitism include:

- Cultural
- Religious
- Racial
- Economic
- Social
- Political

(CNN) -- Posted: 9:44 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 5, 2014

A Jewish fraternity at Atlanta's Emory University was spray painted with swastikas Sunday morning -- shortly after the end of one of the holiest days in Judaism. The university said campus police are investigating and have stepped up patrols after the incident at the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity house. The swastikas and other graffiti were discovered early Sunday morning, hours after the end of Yom Kippur, or the day of atonement.



...Last month, someone drew swastikas inside the campus library.

The fraternity has been a fixture at Emory since 1920.

EUROPEAN ANTISEMITISM FROM ITS ORIGINS TO THE HOLOCAUST

[HTTP://WWW.USHMM.ORG/CONFRONT-ANTISEMITISM/EUROPEAN-ANTISEMITISM-FROM-ITS-ORIGINS-TO-THE-HOLOCAUST](http://www.ushmm.org/confront-antsemitism/european-antsemitism-from-its-origins-to-the-holocaust)



ANCIENT CULTURAL ANTISEMITISM: A GROUP APART

Hostility toward Jews dates to ancient times.

From the days of the Bible until the Roman Empire, Jews were criticized and sometimes punished for their efforts to remain a separate social and religious group - one that refused to adopt the values and the way of life of the non-Jewish societies in which it lived.



ANTISEMITISM IN HISTORY: FROM THE EARLY CHURCH TO 1400

In the first millennium of the Christian era, Catholic leaders taught that:

- All Jews and their future generations were responsible for the crucifixion and death of Jesus
- The destruction of the Temple, diaspora and the harsh conditions in which Jewish people lived was punishment for past sins and failure to accept Christianity.

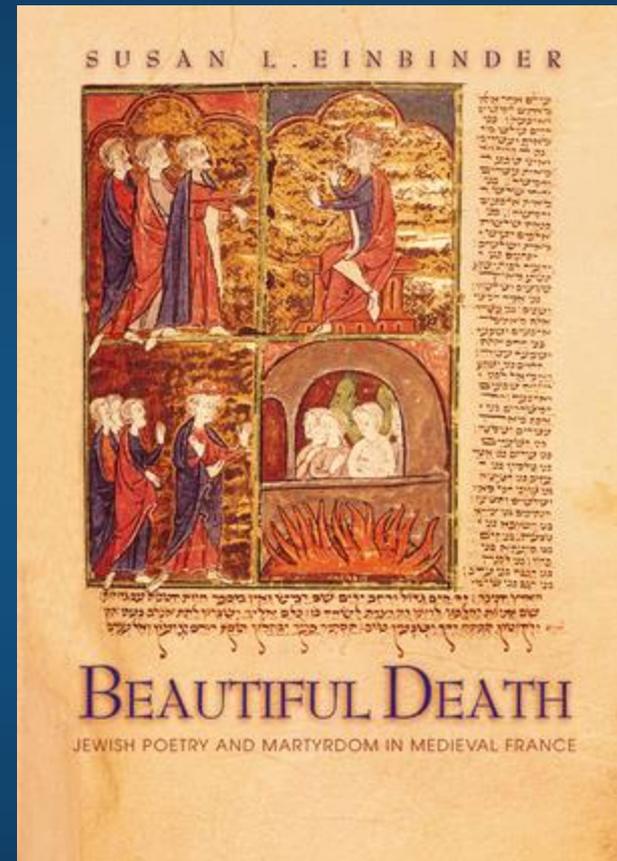
DEICIDE
SUPERCESSION –
REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY



Ecclesia

Synagoga

In the tenth and eleventh centuries, Christian antisemitism became increasingly virulent...

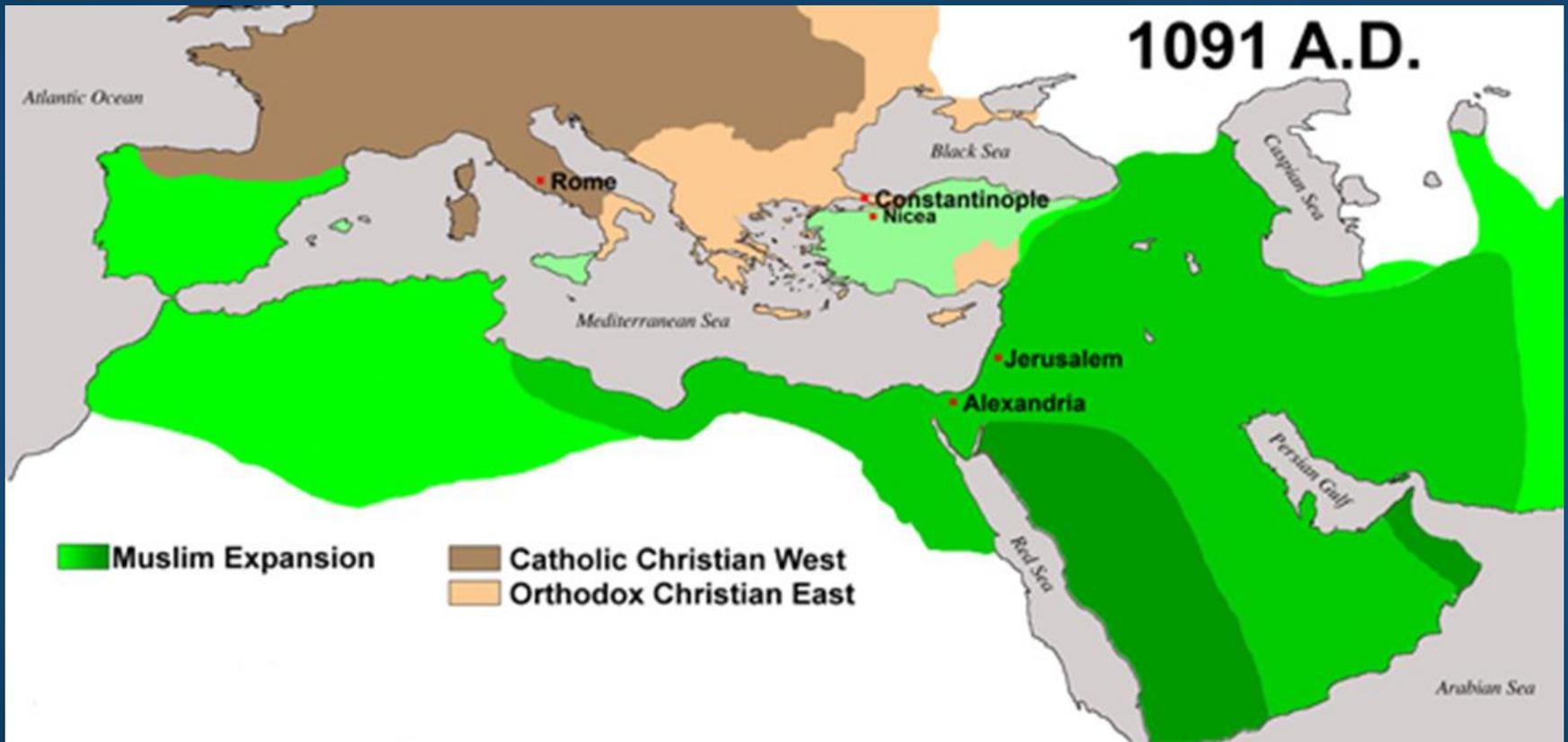


THE GREAT SCHISM - 1054



Threat to the Church from the split between Roman Catholicism and Greek Orthodoxy (1054)

WAVES OF MUSLIM CONQUEST



CONVERTING THE HEATHENS

THE "BAPTISM OF POLAND" IN 966



ZEAL OF THE CRUSADES
THE FIRST CRUSADE: FROM 1096 TO 1099



JEWS IDENTIFIED AS OUTSIDERS





Jews were objects of stereotyping and endured violence against their persons and their property. Jews identified by yellow badges are portrayed being burned at the stake in this medieval manuscript.

MYTHS

BLOOD LIBEL

HOST DESECRATION

SERVICE TO THE DEVIL

DISLOYALTY

INSINCERE CONVERSION



In England in 1144 Jews of Norwich were accused of ritual murder after a boy, William of Norwich, was found dead with stab wounds in the woods.

In 1239 Pope Gregory orders the Talmud to be put on trial because it allegedly contains lies. The Talmud is ordered confiscated and burned.





Jews went from defenseless victims to be considered powerful agents of the Devil.



1346–53

Because Jews were less susceptible to the Black Plague than their neighbors Jews were accused of poisoning Christian wells and were thought to be the source of the plague.



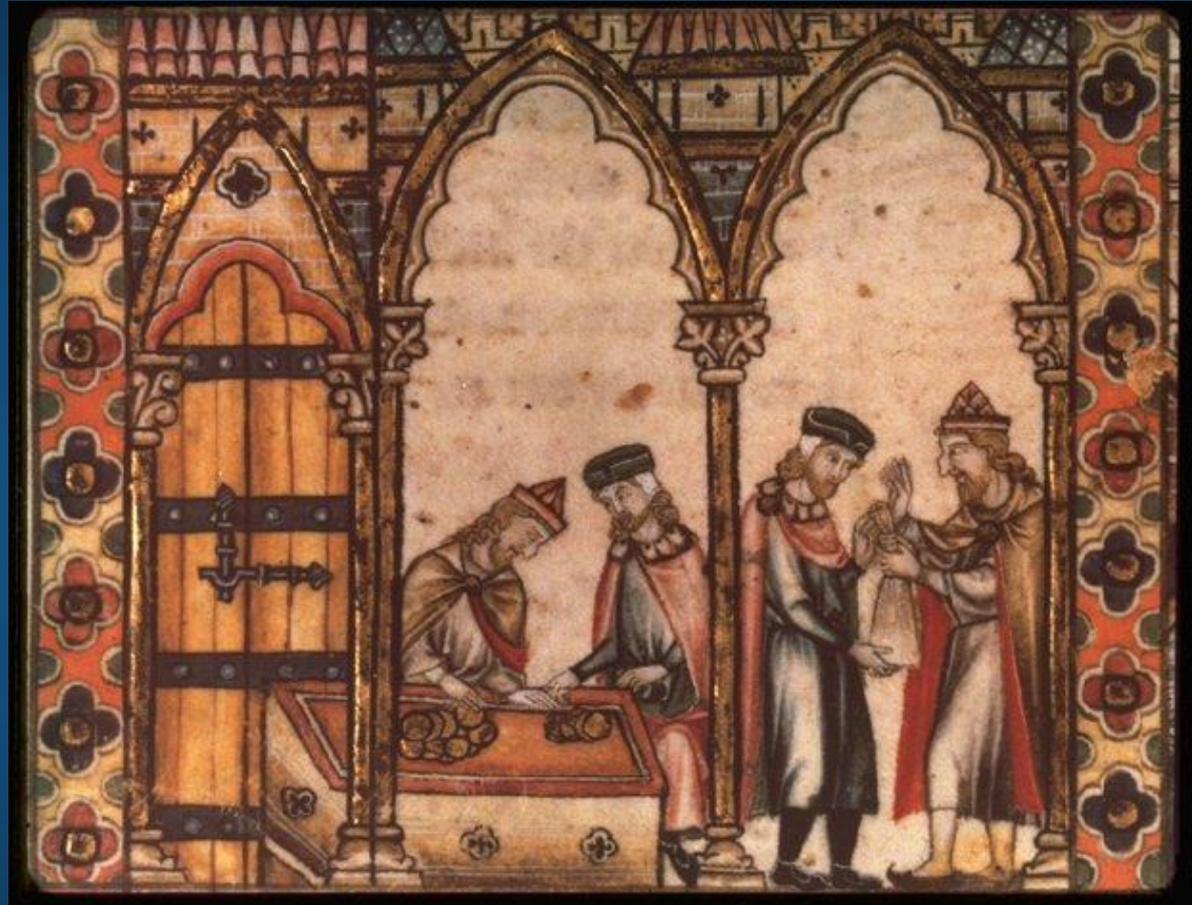
An alleged desecration of the host by Jews in Sternberg, Germany, in 1492. As a result, 26 Jews were burned. German woodcut, 1492.

ANTISEMITISM IN HISTORY:
THE EARLY MODERN ERA, 1300–1800

Especially after the Enlightenment of the nineteenth century, antisemitism changed in ways that reflected new cultural, intellectual, and political realities. During the early modern era in Europe, Jews were invited to settle in central and eastern Europe—and to return to western Europe after expulsion from time to time—with certain permissions and protections as well as restrictions on residence and occupation.

Under the "protection" of early modern rulers, Jews were permitted and encouraged to perform business tasks for the ruling classes.

Since the churches banned usury, Jews came to fill the vital (but unpopular) role of moneylenders for the Christian majority.



English: Illuminated manuscript of Jewish money lenders in France at the time of Louis XI



The Reception of the Jews in Poland in the Year 1096. Painting by Jan Matejko

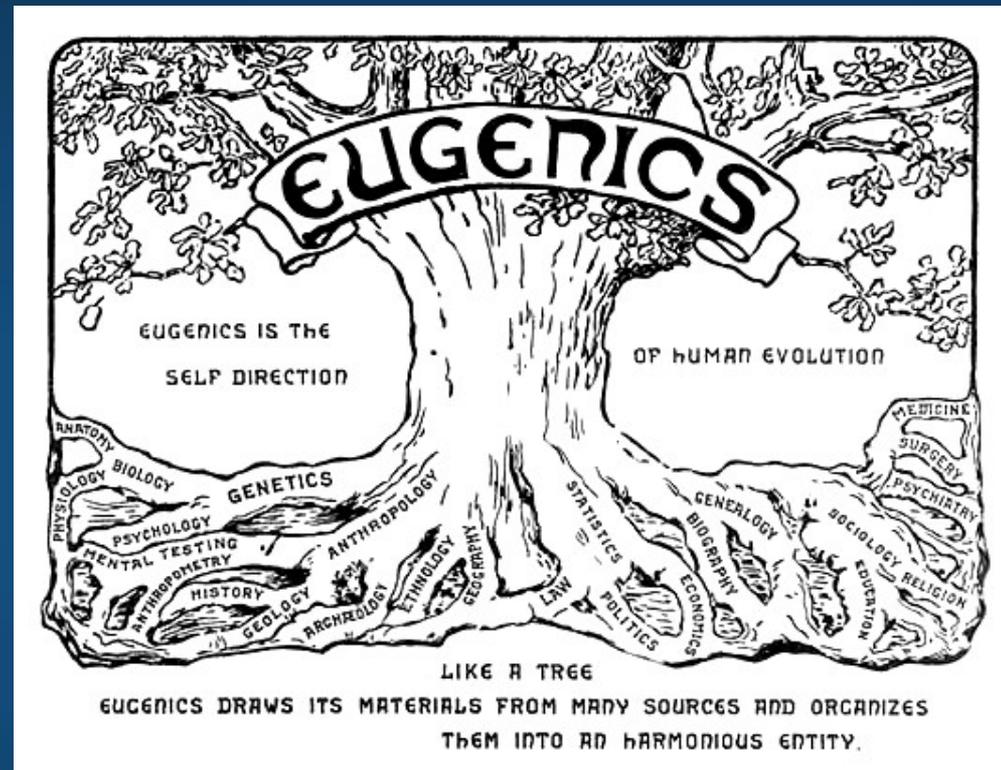
Antisemitism in the 19th Century

The character of Modern Antisemitism was different from Classical or Christian Anti-Semitism in that it was based on racist rather than religious considerations. Anti-Semitism flourished despite the intellectual liberation of the Enlightenment period.

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion and anti-Semitic theorists promoted hatred of the Jews which served as the prelude to the Nazi views about them.

ANTISEMITISM IN HISTORY: RACIAL ANTISEMITISM, 1875–1945

With the development during the last third of the nineteenth century of technological progress and scientific knowledge, especially about human biology, psychology, genetics, and evolution, some intellectuals and politicians developed a racist perception of Jews. This perception developed within a broader racist view of the world based on notions of "inequality" of "races" and the alleged "superiority" of the "white race" over other "races."



Modern antisemitism is based on the theory that Jews comprise an inferior race.. A Jew is a Jew not because he or she practices any particular religion, but because it is a character of his or her blood.

ÉLECTIONS LÉGISLATIVES
du 22 Septembre 1889

Gaï! Gaï! serrons nos rangs
— Espérance de la France
Gaï! Gaï! serrons nos rangs
En avant, Gaulois et Français

AD. WILLETTE
CANDIDAT ANTISÉMITES
IX^{ème} Arrond.
2^{ème} Circonscription

Électeurs.

Les Juifs ne sont grands que parce que
vous serrez à genoux!.....
LEVONS-NOUS!

Ils sont cinquante mille à bénéficier
seuls du travail acharné et sans espérance
de trente millions de Français devenus leurs
esclaves tremblants.

Il n'est pas question de religion, le
Juif est d'une race différente et ennemie
de la nôtre.

Le JUDAÏSME voilà l'ennemi!
En me présentant, je vous donne l'occasion
de protester avec moi contre le tyranisme
Juive, faites le donc, quand ça ne serait
que pour l'honneur!

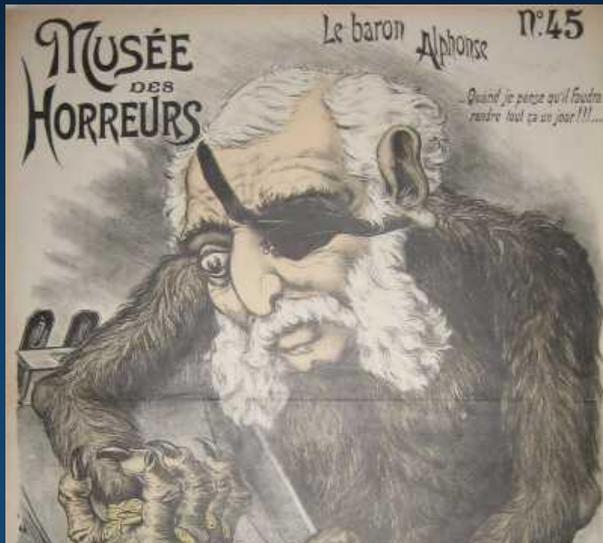
A. Willette
Dessiné par Pierré

LE TALUD

Nationalism

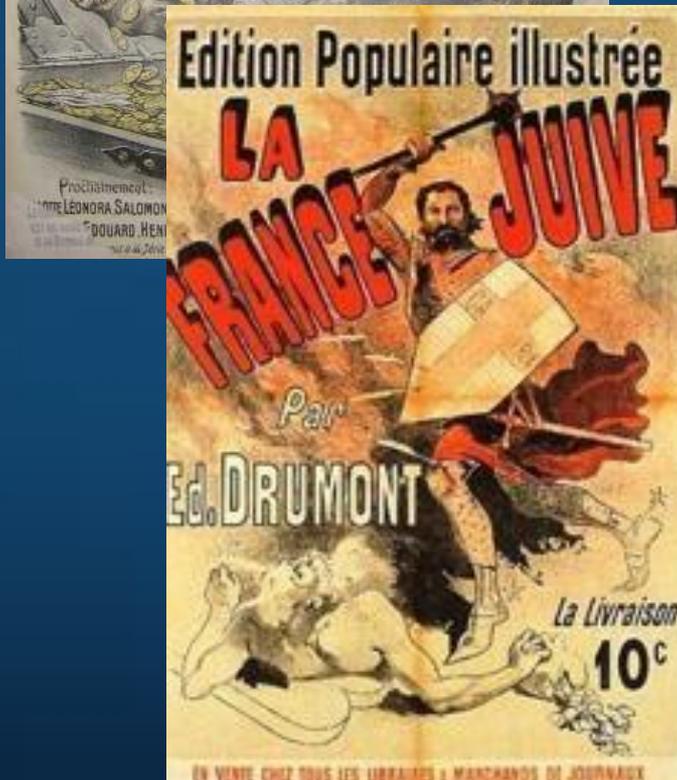
During the Enlightenment, there was a rise in nationalistic feelings. People with a shared culture, language, history, race and value systems, bonded together into political, economic, and social entities with distinct geographical boundaries which we refer to as nations.

Jews, as outsiders who did not share the common language, culture, religion, and values, were seen as a threat. As such, they became the targets of antisemitic persecution.



FRANCE

In France during the mid-19th century, Jews were attacked by socialists, who opposed Jewish ownership of businesses and capital and Catholics, who condemned Jews on racial and religious grounds, claiming they were not loyal to the French government.



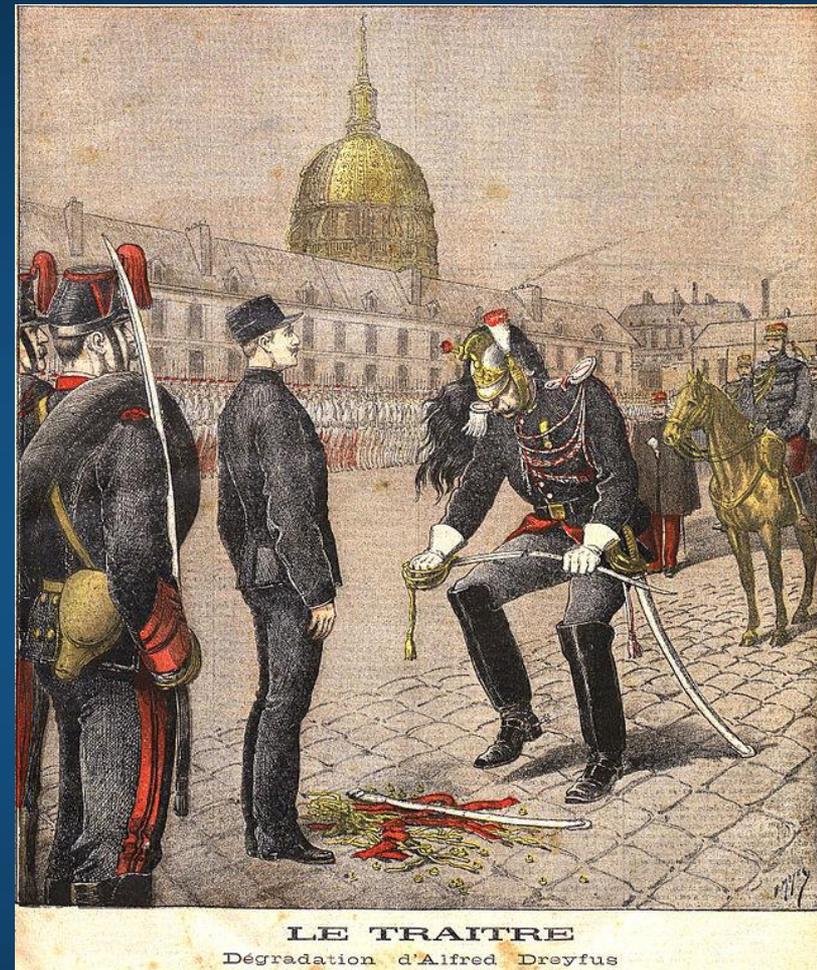
The 'French Anti-Semitic League', formed in 1889, distributed propaganda and organized riots and violent pogroms against local Jews.

Edouard Drumont, was a nationalist politician who spread anti-Jewish conspiracy theories, including claims of corruption and bribery against other politicians and the prominent Jewish banking mogul Rothschild.

A French, Jewish military officer, Captain Alfred Dreyfus, was arrested and charged in 1894 with selling state secrets to Germany. Dreyfus was convicted on the basis of trumped up evidence, and he was deported.

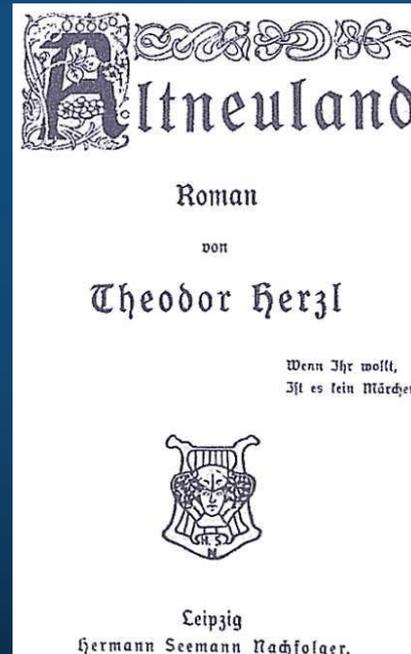
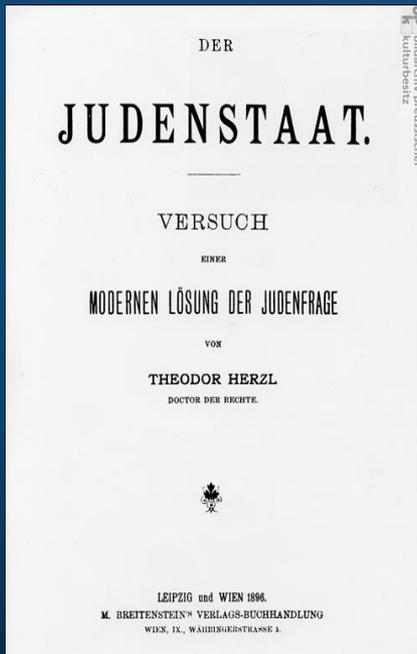
After his trial, evidence surfaced which proved that Dreyfus was innocent, and his conviction was eventually overturned.

However, the Dreyfus case inflamed the hatred for the Jews of many French conservatives and reactionaries. The case divided the country politically, and anti-Jewish violence erupted.



At his public court martial, crowds screamed, "Death to the Jew!"

Ironically, the antisemitism unveiled by the Dreyfus case served as the motivation for an Austrian journalist, Theodor Herzl, to organize the Zionist movement. This movement culminated in the establishment of a Jewish national homeland, the State of Israel, in 1948.



RUSSIA

In Russia, antisemitism became state policy. Most Jews were confined to the Pale of Settlement. This Pale was established by the Russian government in 1792 and consisted of parts of Russian Poland, Belorussia, the Crimea, Bessarabia, and the Ukraine.



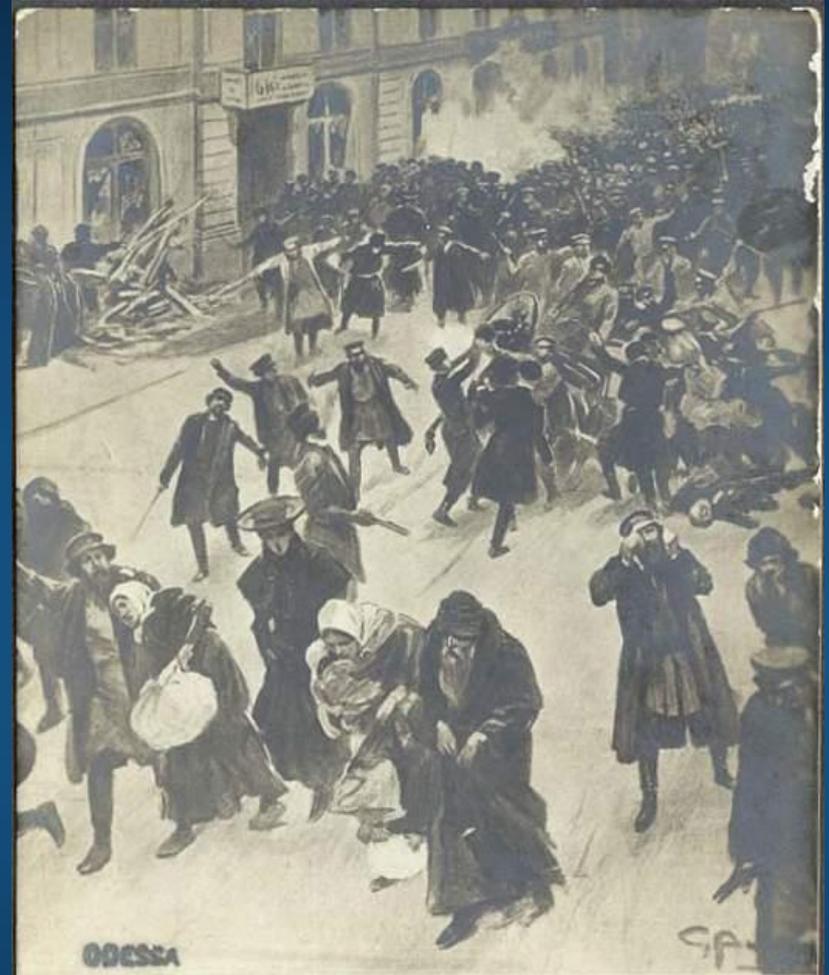


Temporary permit to travel for business outside the Pale of Settlement, 1885.



Jacob Marateck (left) and his brother Abe in Tzarist dress uniforms, about 1904.

His military career included a period in the front lines during the Russo-Japanese war, two death sentences, and escape by way of China to the United States.

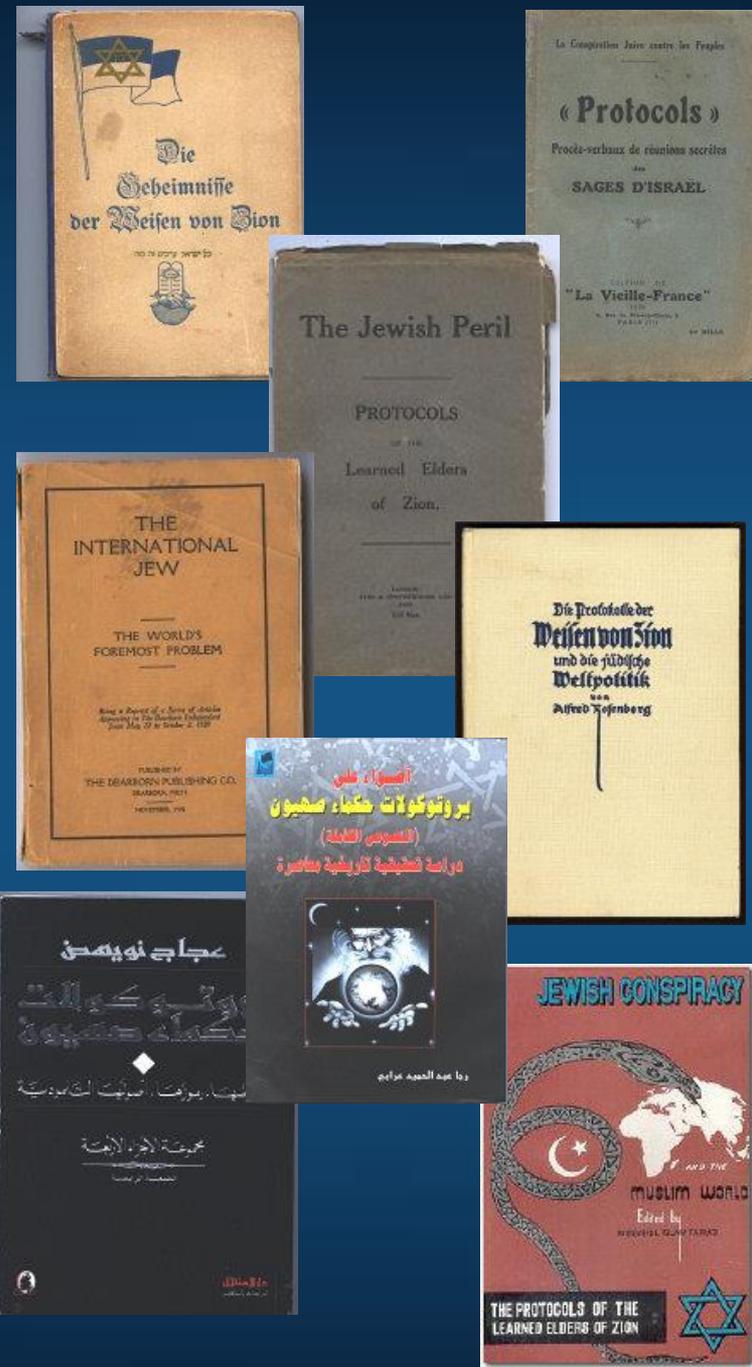


Postcard of 1905 Odessa Pogrom

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is the most notorious and widely distributed antisemitic publication of modern times. Its lies about Jews continue to circulate today, especially on the Internet. The individuals and groups who have used the Protocols are all linked by a common purpose: to spread hatred of Jews.

The Protocols is a work of fiction, intentionally written to blame Jews for a variety of ills. Those who distribute it claim that it documents a Jewish conspiracy to dominate the world. The conspiracy and its alleged leaders, the so-called Elders of Zion, never existed.

In 1921, the London Times presented proof that the Protocols was a "clumsy plagiarism." The Times confirmed that the Protocols had been copied from a French political satire that never mentioned Jews—Maurice Joly's Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu (1864). Other investigations revealed that one chapter of a Prussian novel, Hermann Goedsche's Biarritz (1868), also "inspired" the Protocols.

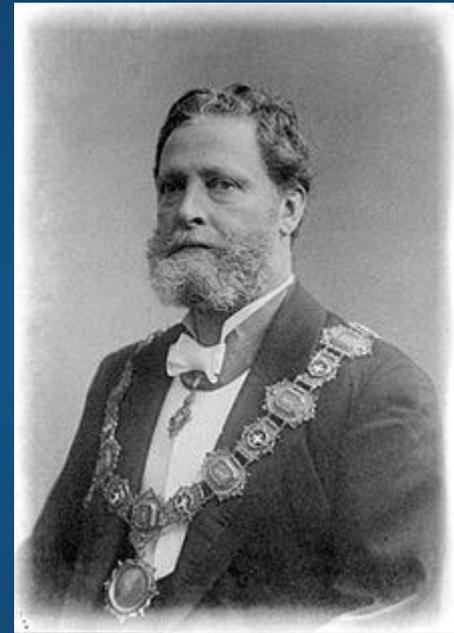


GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

In the late nineteenth century in Germany and Austria, politicians took advantage of traditional and racist antisemitism to gain votes.

In his writings during the 1920s, Hitler named two Austrian politicians who influenced his view of politics: Georg von Schönerer (1842–1921), and Karl Lügner (1844–1910).

Lügner was elected mayor of Vienna, Austria, in 1897, because of his antisemitic rhetoric, which for him was primarily a political tool, and his oratorical skills and charisma that helped him communicate his message to broad sectors of the population.



GERMANY

During World War I, when the German war effort began to deteriorate, anti-Semitism was the response as Jews became the popular scapegoat. They were accused of profiteering, not participating in combat, and causing food shortages.

Germany's military defeat in 1918 was blamed on the Jews and the Socialists. The hyper-inflation, the harsh terms of the Versailles Treaty which set the terms for peace after the war, and widespread misery created an atmosphere which promoted anti-Semitism.

In 1922, Walter Rathenau, the Jewish foreign minister of Germany, was assassinated. Volkisch movements and parties sprang up, including the German Worker's Party (which later evolved into the Nazi party), which Hitler joined in 1919.



An illustration from a 1919 Austrian postcard showing a caricatured Jew stabbing the German Army in the back with a dagger. The capitulation was blamed upon the unpatriotic populace, the Socialists, Bolsheviks, the Weimar Republic, and especially the Jews.

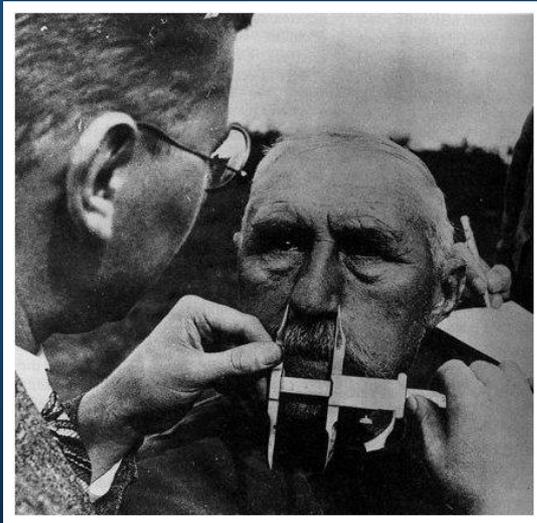
ASSOCIATING JEWS WITH THE “COMMUNIST THREAT”

Second, the Bolshevik Revolution, the establishment of the Soviet Union, and short-lived experiments with communist dictatorship in Bavaria and Hungary frightened the middle classes all over Europe and even across the Atlantic in the United States. The prominence of individual communists of Jewish descent in the revolutionary regimes (Leon Trotsky in the Soviet Union, Béla Kun in Hungary, and Ernst Toller in Bavaria) confirmed to antisemites the "natural" attraction of Jews and international communism.

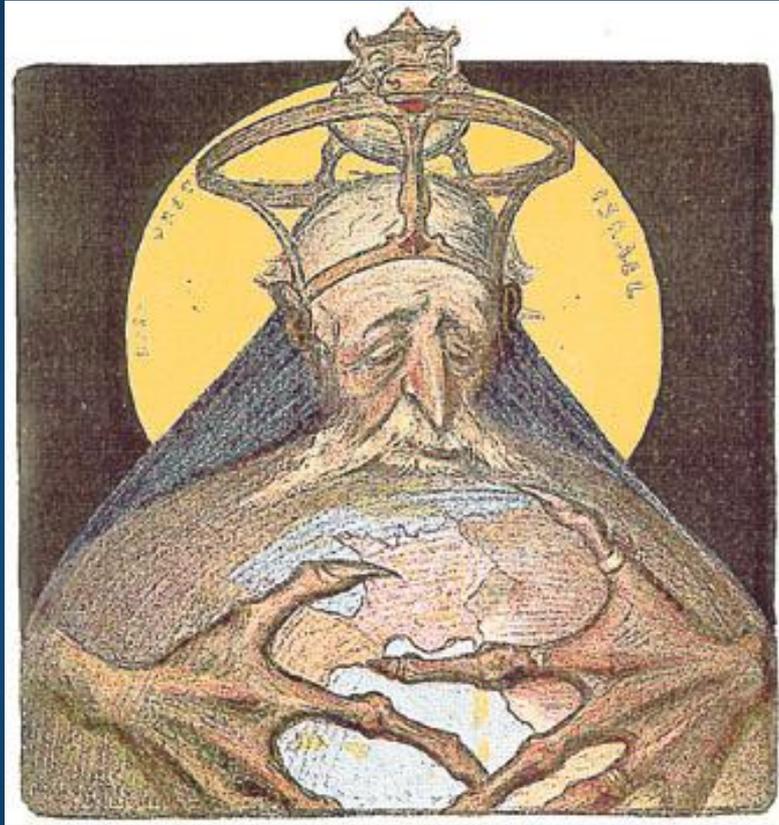


Belief in the superiority of the "white race" was inspired by "social Darwinism." "Social Darwinism" postulated that human beings were not one species, but divided into several different "races" that were biologically driven to struggle against one another for living space to ensure their survival.

Only those "races" with superior qualities could win this eternal struggle which was carried out by force and warfare. Social Darwinism has always been the product of bogus science: to this day, despite a century and a half of efforts by racists to find it, there is no biological science to support social Darwinist theory.



These new "antisemites," as they called themselves, drew upon older stereotypes to maintain that the Jews behaved the way they did—and would not change—because of innate racial qualities inherited from the dawn of time.



Drawing on the pseudoscience of racial eugenics, they argued that the Jews spread their so-called pernicious influence to weaken nations in Central Europe not only by political, economic, and media methods, but also literally by "polluting" so-called pure Aryan blood by intermarriage and sexual relations with non-Jews. They argued that Jews did this deliberately in order to sap the will and ability of Germans or Frenchmen or Hungarians to resist a biologically determined "Jewish drive" for world domination.

Though secular racists drew upon religious imagery and stereotypes to define hereditary Jewish "behavior," they insisted that alleged Jewish "traits" were handed down from generation to generation. Since "Jews" did not form a religious group, but a "race," the conversion of an individual Jew to Christianity did not change his racial "Jewishness" and was therefore by nature an insincere conversion.



Inspired by Adolf Hitler's theories of racial struggle and the "intent" of the Jews to survive and expand at the expense of Germans, the Nazis, as a governing party from 1933-1938, ordered anti-Jewish boycotts, staged book burnings, and enacted anti-Jewish legislation. In 1935, the Nuremberg Laws defined Jews by race and mandated the total separation of "Aryans" and "non-Aryans." On November 9, 1938, the Nazis destroyed synagogues and the shop windows of Jewish-owned stores throughout Germany and Austria (Kristallnacht). These measures aimed at both legal and social segregation of Jews from Germans and Austrians.





Kristallnacht, the initiation of World War II in 1939, and the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 marked the transition to the era of destruction, in which genocide would become the key focus of Nazi antisemitism. To justify the murder of the Jews both to the perpetrators and to bystanders in Germany and Europe, the Nazis used not only racist arguments but also arguments derived from older negative stereotypes, including Jews as communist subversives, as war profiteers and hoarders, and as a danger to internal security because of their inherent disloyalty and opposition to Germany.

In the half-century since World War II, public anti-Semitism has become much less frequent in the Western world. While stereotypes about Jews remain common, Jews face little physical danger. The hatred of Jewishness and the conspiracy beliefs of past eras are for the most part shared only by tiny numbers of those on the fringes of society (although as the World Trade Center and Oklahoma bombings showed, even a handful of extremists can carry out acts of great violence). There are exceptions, of course: disagreement over policy toward the State of Israel has created opportunities in which the expression "Zionist" - support for Israel as the Jewish homeland - is often used as an anti-Semitic code word for "Jew" in mainstream debate.



2005

“

They have created a myth today that they call the massacre of Jews.”

AFP

HISTORICAL REVISIONISM AS ANTISEMITISM

Holocaust denial and other recent re-writings of history - such as the false claim that Jews controlled the Atlantic slave trade - lie about the events of the past in order to make Jews seem underhanded and evil.

HUNGARY

More seriously, many nations in Europe and in the former Soviet empire are struggling, mostly due to unsettled or chaotic economic and social conditions, with movements opposing "foreigners" - including recent immigrants and traditional enemies. These movements champion racial or national supremacy, and call for the type of charismatic, authoritarian leader that historically persecuted Jews and other minorities.

But while parts of Europe remain caught up in racial unrest, the Middle East is home to the harshest anti-Semitism in the world today. Nazi-like language is regularly expressed by the media and governments in the countries that oppose Israel and the West. And as dozens and dozens of terrorist incidents have demonstrated, there are many in Middle Eastern countries willing to act on these beliefs.











Al-Watan, September 30, 2011 (Qatar).

New Anti-Semitism

The most recent major version of antisemitism, which has radically intensified in the last few decades, targets Israel, the Jewish state. This variant of Jew-hatred is now commonly referred to as "new anti-Semitism." Its perpetrators often call themselves anti-Zionists. They aim to isolate Israel and portray it - in the words of the Berlin Technical University's Center for Research on Antisemitism - "as a state that is fundamentally negatively distinct from all others, which therefore has no right to exist."

As Canadian Justice Minister Irwin Cotler observed: "Traditional anti-Semitism denied Jews the right to live as equal members of society, but the new anti-Jewishness denies the right of the Jewish people to live as an equal member of the family of nations."

Former Swedish Deputy Prime Minister Per Ahlmark pointed out:

Anti-Zionism today has become very similar to antisemitism. Anti-Zionists accept the right of other peoples to national feelings and a defensible state. But they reject the right of the Jewish people to have its national consciousness expressed in the State of Israel and to make that state secure. Thus, they are not judging Israel with the values used to judge other countries. Such discrimination against Jews is called antisemitism.