

HISTORY 283
JEWISH STUDIES 235

JEWS
IN MODERN TIMES

Movie

- “Magician of Lublin” based on a novel by I. B. Singer

Reading for Sections

- Solomon Maimon autobiography
- the edited version is attached to the syllabus in two places; please use the full text and scholarly introduction in McKeldin
- Questions will be posted Thursday to guide you in preparation for the quiz
- Paper should include overview and analysis

Doctrines of Toleration

- more than one approach
 - government policies (mercantilism; centralizing state)
 - religious change (reformation....)
 - political theory (division of Church and State)
 - humanitarian attitudes
 - changing conception of the Jews and Judaism
- not yet emancipation

(I) Economic Usefulness

- precedes ideological change
- Jews “resettle” areas from which they were long absent
- papal precedent (Ancona, 1514) and new legal terminologies
- mercantilist state picks up the notion
- new image of Jews as useful, wealthy

Spokesmen

- Simone Luzzatto
- Manasseh ben Israel
- Thomas Munn (laissez-faire capitalism)
- John Toland 1714

Reformation/Counter-Ref.

- short run decline
 - Luther's about face
 - spread of ghettos in Italy
 - expulsions
 - hostile popular literature
- long run: groundwork for toleration
 - state contains more than one faith
 - Jews aren't the only religious deviants

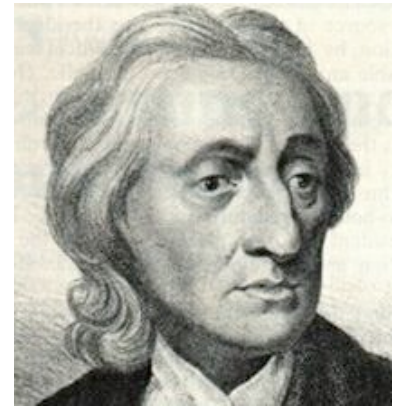
Political Theory

- Jean Bodin: natural law
 - weakens canon law; rational basis for law
 - Old Testament precedents
- Hugo Grotius
 - 1615 argues for Jews to be tolerated
 - cause for Jewish hatred in Christian actions



In England & the Colonies

- debate over religious toleration spills over and applies also to Jews
- Roger Williams (1644)
 - separation of church and state
- John Locke
 - “On Toleration” 1689



Jewish Learning

- Protestant emphasis on O.T.
- Christian Hebraism (John Selden)
- conversionary biases (Buxdorf father and son)
- J.C. Wagenseil
 - attacks blood libel and Judaism (*Tela Ignea Satan*)
- Johann Andreas Eisenmenger
 - *Entdecktes Judentum*
- Jacques Basnages
 - 7 volume history (1706; 1716-20)

Enlightenment

- G.E. Lessing
 - “The Jews” (1749)
 - “Nathan the Wise” (1779)
- Jew as representative of natural religion
- Voltaire
 - attacks on Judaism with a new vengeance
 - Arthur Hertzberg, *The French Enlightenment and the Jews: the Origins of Modern anti-Semitism* (1968)

W.C. Dohm

- at Mendelssohn's request, he writes an argument "On the Civil Betterment of the Jews" (1783)
- humanitarian arguments for toleration
- history has made the Jews what they are!
- slow developments leading to full equality

Developments in Practice

- Holland
 - Amsterdam since 1593
 - Italian precedents and initial restrictions
 - defend Jewish interests as “subjects” (1657)
- Britain
 - 1655 Manasseh ben Israel
 - “admit” Jews through legal back door

Colonial Practice

- Surinam 1655
 - Jews given full citizenship within colonial context
 - not “required” to serve in public office
 - maintain separate courts
- Plantation Acts 1740
 - Jews exempted from Christian oath to become citizens

Limits

- 1753 Jew Bill revoked within a year

Austrian Innovations

- Maria Theresa's harsh policies
- Joseph II -- great emancipator
- *Toleranzpatent* 1781–2
- allows Jews to make a living
- makes the Jews useful to the State
- limitations
- imposed Germanification

Summary

- arguments for toleration still explicitly or implicitly assume a Jewish alienness and inferiority
- Jewish rights require acculturation
- expectations on both sides very high