Kyiv Mohyla Academy

The International Center for University Teaching of Jewish Civilization The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

CONFLICTS IN JEWISH HISTORY
in the Early Modern Period

Minicourse 12-15 October, 2015

Instructor: Professor Moshe Rosman
Bar-Ilan University, Israel
Lecture 1:

JEWISH HISTORY IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD, 1500-1800
Jewry Ca. 1700: Geography
Geography

- Village and Small Town Jews
- Ghetto Jews
- Big City Jews
KRAKOW + KAZIMIERZ
Geography

Mobility

Refugees and Expellees

Entrepreneurs, Rabbis, Opportunity-Seekers

Ideas
Jewry Ca. 1700: Demography

- European Population ~ 100M
- Jewish Population ~ 1.1M
  - Western Europe 180K
  - East Eur & Balkans 540K
  - Asia 200K
  - Africa 175K
  - America/Oceana 5K
Economy

Kuznets Thesis
Economy
Economy

• Moneylending
• Commerce
• Leasing
• Artisanry
• Communal Service
Politics

Corporate Structure

Autonomy
- Double Authority (Lay and Rabbinic)
- Responsibilities

Shtadlanut
Culture

- Print (David Darshan)

- Law Codification
New Cultural Capital

From Observers to Performers

From Facilitators to Informed Facilitators
Religion

- Mysticism
- Pietism
- Rationalism
- “Jewish Syncretism”
Heresy

Shabbetai Zvi

Jacob Frank

Baruch Spinoza
A PEOPLE THAT DWELLS ALONE?

What Metaphor?
CONFLICT
DIALOGUE
EMBEDDED
Jews and Non-Jews

- Servi Cameræ Tradition
- Privileges
- Persecution
- Practicality
Jews and Non-Jews

- Scepticism
- Secularizing Trends
- Secular Intolerance
Jews and Non-Jews

Jewish Apologetics

Simone di Luzzatto
Menasseh ben Israel
Isaac Cardozo
Jews on Christians

- “Respect but suspect”
- “For the sake of peace”
- Ethnocentric Expressive Hostility
- The Semi-Neutral Society
  - Beckoning Bourgeoisie
  - Court Jews
  - Maskilim
Boundary Crossing

Business Associates

Conversos

Christian Hebraists

Frankists
UKRAINE

War of Independence

Civil War

Gezeirot Tah-Tah (Persecutions of 1648-49)
What Was An Early Modern Jew?
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Medieval Religious Heritage

“Do not kill them lest my people be unmindful; with your power subdue them and bring them low.”

אַל תַּהַּרְגֵם פֶּן יִשְכְחוּ עַּמִי הֲנִיעֵמוֹ בְחֵילְךָ וְהוֹרִידֵמ

Psalms 59:12