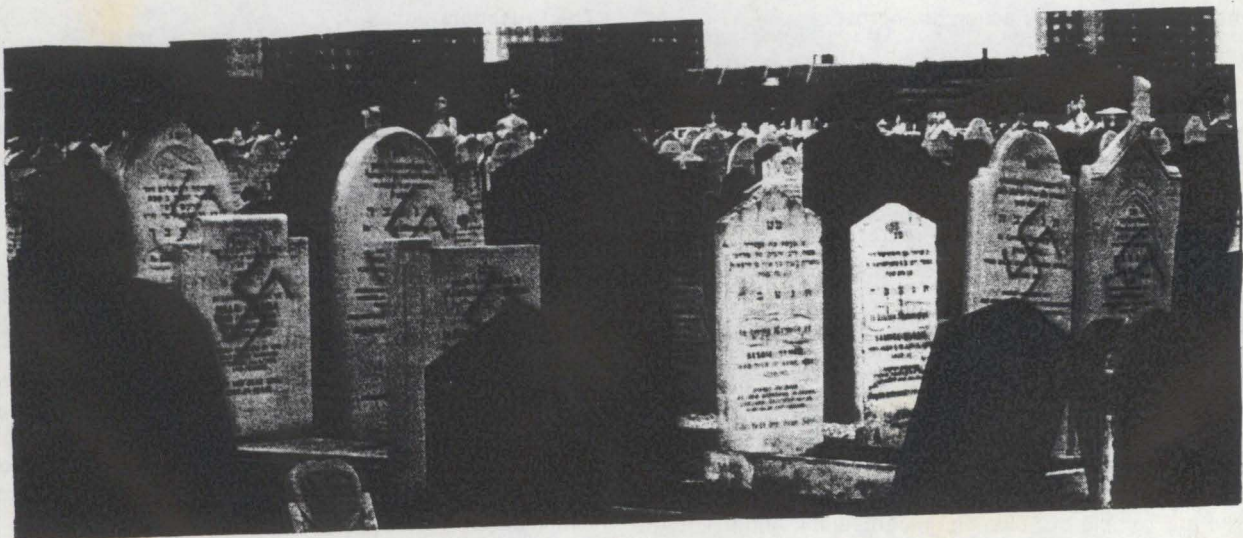


קולנו

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S U P P L E M E N T

THREATS *to the community*



PART 1: ANTI-SEMITISM

Anti-Semitism has been a hot news item recently, raising fears that a new era of Jew-hatred is about to envelop us all. In the next few issues of Kolehnu, we'll take a look at threats to Jewish Communities in the Galut, but firstly a short explanation of terms and then a potted history of Jewish persecution through the ages.

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1. Threats to the Jewish Community

Basically, a catch-all term that encompasses anything that might have a bad effect on Jews. This could be anything from anti-Israel bias in the media, to the establishment of a Nazi Government in Westminster.

2. Anti-Semitism.

Strictly speaking, an anti-Semite is somebody who is prejudiced against Semitic people. A Semitic person (or Semite) is somebody who speaks a Semitic language, such as Hebrew or Arabic. Obviously, we've come to associate anti-Semitism with prejudice against Jews. Interestingly, anti-Zionist and Far Left groups within N.U.S. (National Union of Students) are trying to change it to mean prejudice against Arabs. This should come as no surprise, as denying Jews the right to define their persecution is a natural step in denying Jews the right to self-determination.

3. Jew-Hatred.

This is exactly the same as anti-Semitism, only it sounds more brutal and frightening. Good, this is a brutal subject. It is also a frightening subject.

4. Anti-Semite.

A Jew-hater. Alternatively, somebody who hates, detests, loathes, abhors, abominates, execrates: Jews. (If this seems excessive, read on.)

5. Prejudice.

Derived from the same root as "judgement". The dictionary gives the following definition: (a) A preconceived idea, usually one that is unfavourable. (b) An opinion held in disregard of facts that discredit it. (c) Intolerance of other races, etc. (d) Harm resulting as from one action or another.

JEWISH HISTORY AND PERSECUTION THROUGH THE AGES.

No sociopolitical issue such as anti-Semitism should be examined without reference to historical perspective. The following potted history gives a (hopefully) good idea of what we've gone through to reach today's position (which will be looked at in future issues).

As you can see, there's a lot of words to digest over the next few pages; try to read them.

In the Beginning.

The first Galut came in 722 B.C. (this is a very long time ago) with the Assyrian conquest of the Northern Jewish Kingdom of Samaria. The Bible quotes 27,290 captives as being deported Eastwards to Mesopotamia. Less than 150 years later, the Babylonians took the Southern Jewish Kingdom of Judea, destroyed the Temple of Solomon, in Jerusalem, and exiled the Jews to Babylonia (Iraqish). This is where the famous Boney M track, By the Rivers of Babylon, was first recorded.

Over the next few hundred years, Jews began dispersing into Persia (Iran), and along the Mediterranean. The Temple was rebuilt, and in 168 B.C., the Maccabites (people who go to Maccabi) kicked out the Syrians and a Jewish homeland was secured until 63 B.C., when the Romans took over. In 70 A.D. the Temple was destroyed, and in 73 A.D. Masada fell. Thousands of Jews were killed, and thousands sold into slavery.

In 115 A.D. the Jewish Diaspora revolted against the Romans in Mesopotamia (Iraqish/Jordanish), Egypt, Cyprus

and North Africa. The Jews of Judea joined in, and when the revolt was quelled, the Roman Commander Quietus established an idol on the Temple Mount as an act of provocation.

In 132 A.D. the Bar Kochba revolt began throughout Judea, Samaria, and Galilee. Jerusalem was freed until 135 A.D. when the uprising was ruthlessly ended. Thousands were murdered, Synagogues and prayer meetings were forbidden, Jews were banned from Jerusalem and only permitted to enter once a year on the Fast of Av. The Romans also changed the name of Judea to Syria Palaestina. This is the origin of "Palestine". A lament of the times went as follows:

Why are you being led out to be decapitated? Because I circumcised my son. Why are you being led out to be burnt? Because I read the Torah. Why are you being led out to be crucified? Because I ate unleavened bread.

By 150 A.D., there were over 3,000,000 Jews scattered throughout the Roman Empire. They comprised over 5% of the population. When the Roman Empire fell, the Byzantine (Turkish) Empire demanded that Jews convert to Christianity, or be expelled, perhaps killed. This pattern would be followed throughout the old lands of the Roman Empire for the next nineteen centuries, and still continues.

Spread of Islam.

In the 7th and 8th Centuries, Jews welcomed the spread of Islam from Spain to India as it overcame the Christianity which had been so bitterly hostile to Judaism. Generally, Jews were treated better than they had been under the Byzantine Christians. But, as "Dhimmi" (second-class citizens) they were always susceptible to fanatic Islamic sects. In 1033, the Almo-hades sect massacred over 6,000 Jews in Morocco. In 1066, another 5,000 Jews were killed in Muslim Spain. Jewish second-class citizenship was entrenched, even though in many areas Jews had lived for many centuries before their Islamic overlords.

As Christianity spread, Jews in Spain soon realised that they had been better off under Islam. The Church was often unwilling to allow even second-class citizenship.

By now, Jews had settled in Northern Europe. In the 11th Century these Jews began to feel the persecution of the first Crusaders.

The Crusaders.

The Crusaders had a simple philosophy. Driven by religious Christian zeal, they wanted to free Jerusalem from its Muslim rulers. However, it was also very easy to defend Christianity by ransacking the Jews living round the corner. Why shlep to Jerusalem when you can kill, rape, pillage and loot on your own doorstep? A bit of target practice never did anybody any harm. (Jews weren't anybodies, they were nobodys.)

Thousands of Jews were killed, and thousands fled East, to the marshes of Eastern Europe. Yiddish was consolidated as the "national" language. Jews were expelled from the Crimea in the eleventh Century, Silesia in the twelfth, England in the thirteenth, France and Hungary in the fourteenth. Austria, Bavaria, Saxony and Lithuania in the fifteenth. Expulsion is an "easy" word. Think about it for a moment. Overnight, you are expelled, you are given no legal protection, and leave home to walk to another country. (Remember: no cars, trains, etc.) Also, lots of murdering and robbing as you and your family trek through the countryside.

The Crusaders continued to have a good time, and when they took Beirut they killed all the Jews who lived there. When the Crusaders then took Galilee, Judea, and Samaria, many thousands of Jews were killed and thousands were sold into slavery, or ransomed to the Jewish Community in Egypt. The Crusaders controlled Jerusalem from 1099 to 1187, and expelled the Jews, settling their houses with Christian Arabs.

A particularly telling story of this time concerned the Spanish Jew, Judah Halevi, who trekked to Jerusalem in the 1140's. As he approached the walls of the city he was trampled by death by an Arab horseman. (Some say it was a Crusader.) As

Halevi lay dying he recited his poem, "Zion, shall I not seek thee?".

Scapegoats.

During the 13th Century, Jews were terribly persecuted in Morocco and Tunisia. During the 14th Century they were blamed throughout Christian Europe for the Black Death. Between December 1347 and June 1350, anti-Jewish riots occurred wherever the Black Death appeared. More than three hundred Jewish Communities were attacked by mobs. In Strasbourg in 1349, over two thousand Jews were burned to death in a giant funeral pyre in the local Jewish cemetery. Some Jews escaped by accepting baptism and Christianity; some of these were murdered when the Black Death reached the city at the end of the year. Jews were no longer simply Christ-killers, they were now spreaders of disease and destruction. Many Jews fled East (to Poland etc.), where they were at first welcomed and protected.

Spain.

Yiddish flourished in the East, whilst in the West, the Christians gradually drove the Islamic rule from Spain and Portugal (as previously mentioned). Things rapidly became very bad. In 1355 over 12,000 Jews were massacred by a mob in Toledo. Spanish Courts declared in 1371 that Jews were "evil and rash men, enemies of God and of all Christianity" who caused "numerous evils and sow corruption with impunity". The Spanish Royal Chancellor wrote:

"Here come the Jews all alike ... And present their detailed writing, ... To drink the blood of the poor people ... Promising jewels and gifts to the curators."

50,000 Jews were massacred in Majorca, and by the turn of the century thousands of Jews were forcibly converted. In 1492 Jews were expelled from Spain, in 1497 from Portugal. Approximately 160,000 left altogether. In South America, Jews were burnt at the stake at the turn of the 17th Century for refusing conversion.

In Italy, things were also getting bad. In 1516, the world's first ghetto was forcibly established in Venice. In 1550 Jews were expelled from Genoa. In 1556 "secret" Jews were burnt at the stake in Ancona. In 1567 they were expelled from the Papal States, and in 1597 from Milan.

Martin Luther.

In 1543, Martin Luther (father of Protestantism) published his pamphlet "Of the Jews and Their Lies". Here are some choice extracts:

"First, their Synagogues should be set on fire, and whatever does not burn should be covered or spread with dirt, so that no-one may ever be able to see a cinder or stone of it. And this ought to be done for the honour of God and of Christianity, in order that God may see that we are Christians ...

Secondly, their homes should likewise be broken down and destroyed ... in order that they may realise that they are not masters in our land, as they boast, but miserable captives, as they complain of us incessantly, before God with bitter wailing.

Thirdly, they should be deprived of their prayer-books and Talmuds in which such idolatry, lies, cursing, and blasphemy are taught.

Fourthly, their rabbis must be forbidden under threat of death to teach any more ...

Let them earn their bread by the sweat of their noses ... it is not proper that they should want us cursed Goyim to work in the sweat of our brow and that they, pious crew, idle their days at the fireside in laziness, feasting and display ... We ought to drive the rascally lazy-bones out of our system ... Let us apply the same cleverness (expulsion) as the other nations, such as France, Spain, Bohemia, etc... Let us drive them out of the country for all time."

Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

In 1648, the Jews of Poland, Lithuania, Russia and the Ukraine

- who had fled eastwards, 300 years previously - were viciously attacked by the Cossacks under Chmelnicki. Between 1648-1650, over 100,000 Jews were murdered and over 300 communities wholly destroyed. In 1734 the murders began once more as Christian monks called for the murder of Jews and the confiscation of their homes as acts of piety. Thousands more were killed and forcibly converted over the next thirty years.

In 1821, 5,000 Jews were massacred by Greek Christians as they rose against their Ottoman rulers. In 1840, the Jews of Damascus were accused of killing a Christian monk and his Muslim servant, to use their blood for Matza. (An extremely old accusation, repeated in Britain in 1990.) Jewish adults and children were tortured and killed until protests from Britain, France and the U.S.A. stopped the persecution. Muslim mobs killed up to 500 Jews in Morocco in 1864, and eighteen Jews in Tunisia, in 1869.

19th Century.

Meanwhile, back in Europe, in 1819 the German "Hep! Hep!" riots blamed Jews for the post-Napoleonic War economic crisis. (Jews were chased out of towns by mobs chanting "Hep! Hep!", hence the name.) In 1830, the riots were repeated.

In 1824, more than 20,000 Jews were expelled from Russia, and in 1827, Jewish boys in Lithuania and Ukraine were forced to do 20-25 years military service. In 1845, the Tsar divided the Jews into "useful" and non-useful" categories. "Non-useful" Jews were expelled to the "Pale of Settlement" (stretching from Crimea to the Baltic). With the Crimean War in 1855, Jewish conscription demands were trebled and thousands of Jewish children were kidnapped by the army. (Kidnappers were called "Chappers", hence the derivation of "Chapper".) By the time Tsar Alexander II was assassinated by Socialist revolutionaries, Jews were being scapegoated for all the country's wrongs. The Tsar's assassination made things worse, and pogroms spread throughout the Pale. In May 1882, 750,000 Jews were forced into the cities of the Pale, where poverty and destitution dominated the Jewish ghettos.

Hundreds of thousands fled the Pale, and by 1890, 50,000 Russian-born Jews had settled in Palestine. Jews now comprised 25,000 of the country's 40,000 population. In July 1891, the Turks banned further immigration.

At Easter 1891, over 10,000 Jews were ordered out of Moscow, and the Tsar declared, "We must not forget that it was the Jews who crucified our Lord and spilled his precious blood".

In France, the Dreyfus Trial epitomised Western Europe's "liberal" anti-Semitism.

In 1899, a landmark in literary anti-Semitism occurred with the publication of Houston Stewart Chamberlain's book, "The foundations of the Nineteenth Century". Chamberlain was born in Britain but lived in Germany, where he married Wagner's daughter. Chamberlain's book argued that the "blond" Nordic race were responsible for all that was good and noble in Western civilisation. Naturally, all that was bad stemmed from the "mongrel" Jews. (King David, the Prophets, and Jesus were supposedly of German origin!).

The German Kaiser acclaimed the book, and in later years Chamberlain became a good friend of Hitler.

The same year, August Rohlings published a book in Cairo, entitled "The Talmud Jew", which portrayed Jews as a corruptive and disruptive element throughout history. These books are important as they symbolise shifts in Jew-hatred to where it became an intellectually acceptable position until the horrors of Auschwitz were revealed.

On 19th April, 1903, a blood-libel against the Jews of Kishinev in Southern Russia left 49 Jews dead, killed by the mob. In 1905 pogroms swept the Ukraine, 300 Jews were killed in Odessa, and 120 in Ekaterinoslav. By the year's end, over 800 had been killed. In 1906, 80 Jews were murdered in Bialystock.

In Austria, the journalist Ernst Vergani promoted Jews as anti-Christian paedophiles, and accused the Jews of fomenting

revolution. In 1908 Hitler arrived in Vienna.

Here, for our purposes, history ends, and if you've read this far then Mazal Tov!

Summary of Anti-Semitic Development.

1.The Jewish rejection of Christ as the Messiah establishes anti-Semitism as a unifying force in Christianity. Jews are blamed for crucifying Christ and will pay the price for this, especially at Easter when the Jews celebrate Pesach and are accused of celebrating their killing of Christ. Furthermore, from the 13th Century, Jews are accused of killing Christian children for their blood, an essential ingredient of Matza.

2.The Jewish rejection of Mohammed as the Messiah leads to war between Muslims and Jews, as the Jews refuse to convert to Islam. Jews are second-class citizens and with each upsurge in Islamic fundamentalism comes heightened persecution.

3.The Crusaders kill Jews wherever they find them, because they refuse conversion.

4.Jews are scapegoated for the ills of society. Starting with the Black Death, this scapegoating will eventually become the "International Jewish Conspiracy" which seeks to enslave the world.

5.Jews are confined to ghettos and anti-Semitism is exploited by Martin Luther as he spreads the Protestant ethic.

6.The rise of nationalism leads to Jews being identified as enemies of the State.

7.Nationalist leaders arouse popular Jew-hatred to unify their peoples, and avert their attention from social problems.

In the next issue of ***Koleinu*** we'll look at Hitler, the Nazis, and the Far Right in Britain, Europe, and the World Today.