

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649744824

The history of the Jews by Gotthard Deutsch

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

GOTTHARD DEUTSCH

**THE HISTORY
OF THE JEWS**

THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS

BY

Gotthard Deutsch, Ph.D., D.D.

PROFESSOR OF JEWISH HISTORY AND LITERATURE,
HEBREW UNION COLLEGE, CINCINNATI, O.



SECOND EDITION
Revised and Enlarged

NEW YORK
BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY
"THE JEWISH BOOK CONCERN"

1921

COPYRIGHT, 1910, 1921,
BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY

Press of
J. J. Little & Ives Company
New York, U. S. A.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. FROM THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY, 586 B.C., TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE, 70 C.E.	9
II. FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, 70, TO THE COMPLETION OF THE MISHNAH, 200	23
III. ERA OF THE TALMUD, 200-600	32
Religious History of the Era	34
IV. FROM THE RISE OF ISLAM, 622, TO THE ERA OF THE CRUSADES, 1096	40
Literary Activity of the Period	44
V. THE JEWS OF EUROPE, 1040-1215	52
Spiritual Life of the Period	54
VI. PERIOD OF OPPRESSION, 1215-1492	59
Jewish Literature, Thirteenth to Fifteenth Century	70
VII. THE PERIOD OF IMPROVEMENT, 1492-1791	77
Intellectual and Literary Life	93
VIII. THE PERIOD OF EMANCIPATION FROM 1791	100
Culture in the Nineteenth Century	117
INDEX	135

PREFACE TO FIRST EDITION

THERE are two main difficulties confronting the historian, when he attempts to write history. He must always ask himself, First: Are the facts which I find recorded really facts, and second: Do I interpret them correctly? Thiers, in his "Histoire du Consulat," Paris, 1851, Vol. XI, p. 71, speaks of the enthusiasm with which the Jews of Portugal, who numbered 200,000, received the French troops in 1809. There were perhaps not two hundred Jews living in Portugal at that time, and they played no part in public affairs. In an address to the convention of the Order Brith Abraham, Mayor Gaynor, of New York, said on May 15, 1910: "The great Frederick issued a general privilege, and declared it as a maxim, that oppression of the Jews never brought prosperity to any state, and Napoleon not only followed the same course but convoked the Sanhedrin." The facts are in the main correct, but the presentation is all wrong. Frederick issued his "Revidierte Generalprivilegium" of April 17, 1750, for the Jews of Prussia, but it is based on the mediæval idea of restrictions in the most elementary rights of human beings. His sentiment with regard to the Jews is evident from a letter which he wrote to the Minister von Hoym, May 17, 1780, in which he says: "If the Jews were expelled and Christians would take their places as innkeepers, it would be for the good of the country, and we would have more human beings and less Jews" (*Monatsschrift fuer die Geschichte und Wissenschaft des Judentums*, 1895, p. 379). Napoleon had by the convocation of the "Assembly of Jewish Notables" and the subsequent Sanhedrin, 1806-1807, insulted the Jews. The law of September 27, 1791, had declared them as citi-

zens, and he asked them whether they considered France as their fatherland, and when these and similar questions were answered in the affirmative with emphatic protestation of loyalty, Napoleon nevertheless reintroduced the mediæval principle of Jewish disabilities by issuing laws restricting Jews in doing business on credit. The facts quoted by Mayor Gaynor prove the opposite of what he wished to prove by them.

These instances taken from Jewish history could be multiplied endlessly from every period and every section of the world's history. Jewish history has to contend with two additional difficulties. It extends over every part of the civilized world, but it lacks chronological sequence, at least until we come to modern times. Another difficulty is that it deals with almost every known spiritual activity of mankind. The student, in order to understand Jewish history, should know the constantly shifting boundary lines of the Italian states from mediæval times until 1870, and he should know something of the morphological theories of Hebrew grammar and of scholastic philosophy.

These difficulties make themselves especially felt in a brief manual, and, no doubt, every teacher of Jewish history must have had such an experience. The Rabbis (Sanhedrin 93, b) find fault with Nehemiah for having spoken ill of his predecessors in office (Neh. V, 15). I do not wish to incur the same censure. It remains for the student and the teacher who use my book to judge whether I improved upon my predecessors. My object was to place in the hand of the student, who is guided by a capable teacher, a concise and yet readable manual of the whole post-biblical history. The biblical period I intentionally omitted, in order to avoid contested ground and to allow the book to be used in all schools regardless of dogmatic differences.

GOTTHARD DEUTSCH.

CINCINNATI, O., July, 1910.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

It is not frequent that an author on any Jewish subject receives the encouragement of a demand for a second edition of his book. My volume of Jewish history which is again submitted to the public, intended primarily as a manual of instruction, is revised chiefly by being brought up to date. This revision became necessary owing to the great changes which the World War has produced in Central and Eastern Europe. Desiring not to enlarge the book too much, I have added merely the most important facts and names in modern Jewish history. In the chapters dealing with the older epochs, only a few insignificant additions have been made. Other changes are merely textual. It still remains for the intelligent teacher to explain the facts given in the book which, by the very nature of its intention, makes dry reading for the uninitiated.

Every history, no matter how large, is bound to be selective. My book, therefore, like every other on the subject, will be open to criticism in regard to omissions. In the modern period especially, I have no doubt that some one will find certain names omitted, but I have conscientiously weighed the question in every instance and believe to have been impartial and to have deserved from fair-minded critics the Talmudic compliment—that an author is to be commended both for what he includes and for what he excludes.

GOTTHARD DEUTSCH.

CINCINNATI, O., November, 1920.