

Swarthmore College  
Spring 2008

History 32 (Jewish Nationalisms and Identities)  
and  
Religion 60 (Zionisms: History, Religion, and Politics)

Nathaniel Deutsch  
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Office Hours:  
Thursdays 9-10:30

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Office Hours:  
Mondays 11-12  
Tuesdays 1:30-3:30  
Thursdays 1:30-3:30  
By Appointment

This course examines Zionism as a phenomenon of modern nationalism and Jewish identity. Through close reading and analysis of the key texts of Zionism from the mid-nineteenth century to the establishment of Israel in 1948, we hope to uncover the fundamental characteristics of Zionism by paying close attention to the political, ideological, cultural, and religious contexts in which Jewish nationalism emerged, developed, and matured.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Active Participation  
Two five-page papers  
One ten-page research paper

All students are expected to read the College's policy on academic honesty and integrity that appears in the Swarthmore College Bulletin. The work you submit must be your own, and plagiarism will be penalized. We will submit papers suspected of containing plagiarized materials to the College Judiciary Committee. Finally, unexcused absences will result in a lower final grade.

The following books are on reserve in McCabe and available for purchase:

Arthur Hertzberg, ed, *The Zionist Idea*

Theodor Herzl, *Old New Land*  
Vladimir Jabotinsky, *The Five*  
Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*

**January 23:** What is a Jew? What is a Nation?

Ernest Renan, "What is a Nation?" (Blackboard)

**January 30:** Precursors to Zionism

Rabbi Yehuda Alkalai, "The Third Redemption" (In Hertzberg)  
Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Kalischer, "A Natural Beginning of the Redemption" and  
"The Holiness of Labor on the Land" (In Hertzberg)  
Moses Hess, *Rome and Jerusalem* (In Hertzberg)  
Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapters 1 and 2

**February 6:** Proto-Zionism

Peretz Smolenskin, "It is Time to Plant," "Let Us Search Our Ways," and  
"The Haskalah of Berlin" (In Hertzberg)  
Moses Leib Lilienblum, "The Way of Return," "Let Us Not Confuse the  
Issues," and "The Future of Our People" (In Hertzberg)  
Eliezer Ben-Yehudah, "A Letter of Ben-Yehudah" (In Hertzberg)  
Leo Pinsker, "Auto-Emancipation: An Appeal to His People by a Russian  
Jew" (In Hertzberg)

**February 13:** Despair in the Diaspora

Vladimir Jabotinsky, *The Five*

**February 20:** The Birth of Political Zionism

Theodor Herzl, "The Jewish State" and "First Congress Address"  
(In Hertzberg)  
Max Nordau, "Speech to the First Zionist Congress" and "The New  
Zionism" (In Hertzberg)  
Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 3

**February 27:** Zionist Dreaming

Theodor Herzl, *Old New World*

### **March 5:** A Spiritual Critique of Herzl

Ahad Ha'am, "The Law of the Heart," "Flesh and Spirit," "On Nationalism and Religion," "The Jewish State and the Jewish Problem," and "The Negation of the Diaspora" (In Hertzberg)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 3 (to 166)

### **March 19:** The Rabbis Throw in Their Two Cents

"Statement by the Lubavitcher Rebbe on Zionism" (On Blackboard)

"Statement by the Holy Gerer Rebbe on Zionism" (On Blackboard)

Rabbi Samuel Mohilever, "Message to the First Zionist Congress" (In Hertzberg)

Yehiel Michael Pines, "On Religious Reforms" and "Jewish Nationalism Cannot be Secular," "Religion is the Source of Jewish Nationalism," And "Jews Will Accept Hardship Only in the Holy Land" (In Hertzberg)

Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, "The Land of Israel," "The War," "The Rebirth of Israel," and "Lights for Rebirth" (In Hertzberg)

Jacob Klatzkiin, "Boundaries" (In Hertzberg)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 7 (407-414).

### **March 26:** Zionism Meets Marxism

Ber Borochoy, "The National Question and the Class Struggle" and Our Platform" (In Hertzberg)

Aaron David Gordon, "Logic for the Future," "People and Labor," "Our Tasks Ahead," "Yom Kippur," and "Final Reflections" (In Hertzberg)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 6

### **April 2:** Zionism and the American Dream

Louis Brandeis, "The Jewish Problem and How to Solve It" (In Hertzberg)

Horace Kallen, "Jewish Life is National and Secular," "Zionism and Liberalism," and "Jewish Unity" (In Hertzberg)

Judah Magnes, "Like All the Nations?" (In Hertzberg)

Mordecai Kaplan, "The Future of the American Jew" (In Hertzberg)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 8 (384-407)

## **April 9: The Bi-National Solution**

Martin Buber, *A Land of Two Peoples* (On Blackboard)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 3 (166-171)

## **April 16: Zionism under Communism**

David Ben-Gurion, “The Imperatives of the Jewish Revolution” (In Hertzberg)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 8 (416-437)

## **April 23: Zionism between Wars**

Lord Balfour, “The Balfour Declaration” (On Blackboard)

The Mandate for Palestine (On Blackboard)

Vladimir Jabotinsky, “Evidence Submitted to the Palestine Royal Commission” (In Hertzberg) and “What the Zionist-Revisionists Want” (On Blackboard)

Chaim Weizmann, “On the Report of the Palestine Commission” (In Hertzberg)

White Paper of 1939 (On Blackboard)

Debate in the United Nations (On Blackboard)

Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, chapter 3 (171-205), chapter 4, chapter 7, and chapter 9

## **May 1: Final Reflections: Who is a Jew? What is Zionism?**

Law of Return (On Blackboard)

The Strange Case of Brother Daniel (On Blackboard)