



A History of Anti-Judaism & Antisemitism: Student Outline

Antisemitism is more than prejudice, racism, or discrimination. It has common features with other hatreds, but it is uniquely complex. Antisemitic accusations are irrational and counterfactual. They often fixate on an apocalyptic logic that seeks to destroy a secret, mythical Jewish power. Often presented in terms of salvation or redemption, antisemites demonize Jews while seeking some sort of vengeful reckoning against the perceived Jewish threat.

Anti-Judaism

1. Name two Greco-Roman anti-Jewish stereotypes that would serve as bedrocks for early Christian hostility towards Jews.
 -
 -
2. Jesus and his followers were observant _____ who followed the _____.
3. Destruction of the 2nd Temple took place: _____ CE
4. After the destruction of the 2nd Temple the Pharisees became the leaders of Judaism. They believed God could be found in the _____ and the _____.
5. A focal point of Judaism after the destruction of 70CE was the Talmud means: _____
6. After 70CE the _____ and _____ traditions developed at the same time.
7. One of the most dangerous _____ (lie) was the Deicide charge. This was the _____ belief that Jews were solely responsible for the death of Jesus (a fellow Jew).
8. Supersessionism (Christians replacing Jews) was often illustrated by the figures of _____ (Church) and _____ (the synagogue).
9. Blood libel
10. *Judensau*
11. A turning point in Christian thought came when the myth of deicide was rejected by the Catholic Church with *Nostra Aetate* (10-28-65) at the Vatican II Council.
12. In _____ the American Lutheran Church _____ Luther's teachings on Jews.

Antisemitism

The 18th century Enlightenment sought to solve the “Jewish problem” by making Jews disappear through assimilation. The Enlightenment rejected authority and religious tradition. Although this restrained some of the false teachings of the churches it ironically opened a new phase of anti-Jewish thought: racist antisemitism. As Europeans controlled new empires in the late 19th century an ideology adopted by many was social Darwinism that believed that nations were in a “struggle for survival.” Not coincidentally, 19th century antisemitism was marked by the idea of “racial” struggle.

13. *The _____ of the Elders of Zion* was invented in Russia in _____ to create a racial view of Jewish “conspiracy.”
14. Nazis loathed Christianity, but were consistent with European _____ imagination.
15. Nazi ideology divided people into those worthy of life vs. _____ and _____.
16. Nazi legacy was the belief of apocalyptic _____ of Jews as self-_____.
17. The newest mutation of antisemitism is “anti-_____” of the demonization of _____.

“By themselves, Christian anti-Judaism and antisemitism did not generate the Shoah. But, they were the indispensable “seedbed” for Nazis.” - John Pawlikowski

“No statement, theological or otherwise, ought to be made that would not be credible in the presence of the burning children (of Auschwitz).” - Rabbi Greenberg

“The absence of clarity is the beginning of complicity.” - Omer Bartov

**“The missionaries of Christianity had said in effect:
You have no right to live among us as Jews.
The secular rulers that followed had proclaimed:
You have no right to live among us.
The German Nazis at last decreed:
You have no right to live.”**

- Raul Hilberg

For those interested in Catholic discussion of these issues:

http://www.bc.edu/research/cjl/meta-elements/texts/cjrelations/resources/education/PASSION_resources.htm