

Jewish Life From the Enlightenment: The 200 years that brought us where we are

Setting the Stage

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early 1700s	BeShT of Hasidism
1717	Poland starts taxing Jews heavily
1720-1790	Vilna Gaon of the Mitnagdim (Misnogdim)
1726	First blood pressure measurements
1729	Methodism is born in England
1729-1786	Moses Mendelssohn
1730	First Synagogue built in New York
1750	J. S. Bach dies
1750	Smelting of iron developed
1764	Polish government closes council of the Four Lands
1770	Beethoven born
1772	First Polish partition
1773	Boston Tea Party
1776	American Revolution
1783	Moses Mendelssohn publishes German translation of Torah
1789	French Revolution
1793	Second Polish partition
1795	Third Polish partition
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1800	Napoleon conquers Spain
1800	About two million Jews in Europe, four thousand in America
1804	Napoleon crowned Emperor of the French (by himself)
1806	Napoleon convenes "assembly of Jewish notables."
1806	Moses "Chatam" Sofer (1762–1839) becomes chief rabbi of Pressburg, Hungary
1807	Napoleon's Jewish Grand Sanhedrin convenes in Paris
1808	Napoleon orders Jews to assume family names

- 1814 Napoleon defeated at Waterloo
- 1824 Beethoven's 9th symphony completed
- 1827 Czar Nicolas I starts drafting Jews for 25-year terms
- 1836 Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808–1888) publishes *Nineteen Letters on Judaism*
- 1838 Rebecca Gratz invents Sunday School in Philadelphia
- 1838 Abraham Geiger (1810–1874) elected Rabbinate assessor in Breslau
- 1843 B'nai B'rith founded in NY
- 1847 Lionel Rothschild is elected to Parliament in Britain
- 1847 Samuel Holdheim (1806–1860) elected leader of Judische Reformgenossenschaft
- 1854 Zachariah Frankel (1801–1875) opens JTS in Breslau, Germany
- 1858 Lionel Rothschild, First Jewish MP in Britain, is sworn in
- 1860s Levi Strauss starts selling jeans
- 1868 Benjamin Disraeli (1804–1881) becomes Britain's first (and only) Jewish PM
- 1871 German states united – full rights given to Jews
- 1879 Eliezer Ben-Yehudah publishes "An Important Question"
- 1881–4 Russian pogroms
- 1882 First Aliyah begins
- 1883 Emma Lazarus writes *The New Colossus*
- 1891 Baron de Hirsch sets up Jewish Colonization Assoc. to bring Jews to the New World
- 1896 Theodor Herzl publishes *The Jewish State*
- 1897 Bund (Jewish socialist party) formed
- 1897 First Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland
- 1897 Cairo Geniza (re)discovered
- 1898 Emile Zola publishes *J'accuse*