

**Jewish Life From the Enlightenment:
The 200 years that brought us where we are
Reactions in Germany and Poland (but mostly Germany)**

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.....**In the West**.....

..... **Israel Jacobson (1768–1828)**

By 1801, Jacobson is wealthy enough to found a school for Jewish-Christian dialog in Seesen. His school becomes famous.

In 1810, he adds a temple to his school grounds, placing therein an organ. He adds German prayers to the Hebrew prayers. He creates a ceremony of Jewish “confirmation.”

Jacobson becomes president of the Jews in the newly-created Kingdom of Westphalia.

In 1815, Jacobson moves to Berlin, where he opens a “hall of worship.”

..... **Samuel Holdheim (1806–1860)**

Kantian idealist. (Kant: 1724–1804.)

In 1847, elected leader of Judische Reformgenossenschaft.

In 1845, writes *Vorschlag zu einer Zeitgemässen Reform der Jüdischen Ehegesetze*, suggesting an updating of the Jewish marriage laws. He later goes on to perform intermarriages.

He also moves Shabbat to Sunday, because the essential characteristic of Shabbat is rest.

..... **Abraham Geiger (1810-1874)**

Born in Frankfort-on-the-Main.

In 1835, founds *Wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift für Jüdische Theologie*.

On July 21, 1838, preaches at the Breslau synagogue, in spite of Rabbi Tiktin who doesn't want him. (Chief of Police Heineke goes to hear the sermon.)

Later in 1838, elected Rabbinatsassessor in Breslau.

In 1858, publishes *Urschrift und Übersetzungen der Bibel*, examining the nature of reform movements.

His movement becomes the American Reform Movement.

..... **Zachariah Frankel (1801-1875)**

In 1845, secedes from rabbinical conference in Frankfort-on-the-Main, because they want to make Hebrew desirable, but not necessary.

In 1854 becomes first president of JTS in Breslau, Germany. (Geiger had convinced Jonas Frankel to found the institution.)

Conservative Judaism is retroactively traced to Frankel.

.. **Samson Raphael Hirsch (1808–1888)** ..

Father of modern Orthodoxy.

In 1836 publishes *Nineteen letters on Judaism*, defending classical Judaism.

In 1851, Hirsch becomes rabbi of separatist group in Frankfort-on-the-Main.

..... **Chatam Sofer (1762–1839)**

“Hechadash asur min hatorah”: “the new is forbidden from the Torah.” Anything not in the Torah is forbidden.

..... **In the East**

..... **The Pale**

Established in 1791. Abolished in 1917.

.... **Eliezer Ben Yehudah (1858–1922)**

Born in Lithuania.

Left the Yeshiva for a Russian gymnasium.

Foresaw the breakup of empires, the return of lands to their ancient peoples, and thus the return of Israel to the Jewish People.

..... **The Arbeiter-Bund**

In 1897, the Jewish Labor Federation of Lithuania and Poland is organized.