Ideologies of Change: Europe 1815-1914

Long Depression and Rise of Anti-Semitism (Russia)
Rise of Anti-Semitism

**Jews in Europe:**

- History of discriminated: Post-1948: conditions improved
- Legal reforms improved rights, status of Jews many parts of Europe

- France: 1830 Judaism recognized as an official religion (Catholic, Protestant Christianity)

- German states, Russia (*more below*): Jews granted economic, legal rights -- permitted to enter into legal contracts, purchase land, businesses

**Jews flourished:** involved in banking, finance, law, medicine, higher education, theatre and the arts
Rise of Anti-Semitism

Jews in Europe:

- By 1870s: a generation of Jews whose lives and especially economic conditions had improved notably existed Germany, Austria, France
‘The Long Depression’

Victims of Economic Crisis: ‘The Long Depression’ 1873-96

- Era 1848-1873 ‘Age of Capital’ growth industry, railroads, capital investment

- Unification Germany (especially gaining Alsace-Lorraine), reparations payments from France: economic surge forward

- Britain’s export economy rose multi-fold; cotton industry flourishing
‘The Long Depression’

Crash of 1873: Vienna Stock Market ‘crashed’

- Banks closed, major companies bankrupt, domino effect throughout Europe (and America)

- ‘bubble burst’: first real failure of new Capitalism, not understood

- Felt all the more for the rapidity and exponential growth of economy after 1848

- [see ‘The Long Depression’, Add’l Reading]
Rise of Anti-Semitism

Scapegoats of Depression

- Those who had benefited ‘suddenly’ were easy scapegoats: Jews

- Jews had long-standing financial networks: ‘boom’ allowed them to exploit networks, facilitate growth of economy as financiers

- Now charged with controlling – and therefore ‘causing’ – breakdown of economy
Rise of Anti-Semitism

History of anti-Semitism aided in its resurrection

- [Text] notes position particularly ‘popular’ among conservatives and ‘extreme nationalists’

- Conservatives: resented success of Jews when their own power (economic and political) was constantly challenged)

- Nationalists: saw ‘Jews’ as threatening to nationalist unity (‘competing culture, language, religion; ‘plots’ to undermine) [see ‘Antisemitism. . . Era of Nationalism, Add’l Rdgs]

Does not completely explain extent and depth of anti-Semitism in last part of 19th century
Rise of Anti-Semitism

France: Jewish Banker Rothschild       Germany: Bismark with leading antisemite
Rise of Anti-Semitism

“The Dreyfus Affair”
France (1898-99)

[Text p. 245]
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

Russia: worst Anti-Semitism in Europe

- Largest Jewish population (5 million c.1890)
- As elsewhere: resentment for ‘sudden’ successes
- Associated with various ‘ideologies’: socialism, anarchism (denial of role for government)
- 1881: Czar Alexander II ‘reformist’ -- assassinated
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reformist Russia’: 1855-81

- Crimean War 1853-56: Russia fought Western Europe and Ottomans in bid for expansion into Ottoman territories (and access to Mediterranean through Bosphorous Straits, Istanbul)

- Badly defeated: revealed weakness of military, economy

- ‘fallen behind Europe’
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reformist Russia’: 1855-81

- Czar Alexander undertook reforms similar to those occurring Western Europe

- Abolition of the Serfdom (1861): land made available but had to be purchased—limited impact; much urban migration [see ‘Charter of Freedom or Act of Betrayal, Add’l Rdg]

- Government investment in Industry, Railroads: rapid transformation economy, beginnings working class
Emancipation of the Serfs

1873 Painting: ‘Peasants Reading the Emancipation Manifesto’ - romanticized
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reformist Russia’: 1855-81

- Legal reform widespread: ‘liberal’ – equality before the law, independent courts

- Improved position for Jews: legally, economically
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reactionary Russia’: 1882 -- 1905

- Czar Alexander assassinated by ‘anarchist’ but association of Jews with anarchism allowed for blame to be transferred

- means of articulating resentments various classes: reflected in policies of new Czar, Alexander III
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reactionary Russia’: 1882 -- 1905

- Alexander III: new restrictions for all Jews
  - prohibited from buying land, businesses
  - excluded from certain professions
  - expelled from some cities
  - Quotas restricted number Jews in state schools, universities
  - State-run newspapers printed anti-Jewish propaganda

- [see ‘A Little Jewish Girl’, Add’l Rdgs]
“The Pale”: Jewish settlement
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

‘Reactionary Russia’: 1882 -- 1905

- ‘Black Hundred’ -- reactionaries who supported czar, incited violence against Jewish communities

- early 1880s, 1903-5: several thousand Jews killed in pogroms (race riots targeting Jews and their property)

- Nicholas II (Czar 1894) anti-Semite: blamed most significant problems on the Jews, their influence.
Pogram 1905 (Ukraine)
Anti-Semitism: Jews in Exile

Jewish ‘New Year’ Card from early 20th Century

Depicts massive fleeing Jewish families from Russia to United States

Over 2 million between 1881-1914

Few ever returned

[see also ‘postcard’, Text. P747]
Rise of Anti-Semitism: Russia

Sergei Witte (architect of modernization 1890s - Text. P732):

“The Emperor [Nicolas II] was surrounded by avowed Jew-haters...
. . .and the leaders of the Black Hundreds.

As for his personal attitude towards the Jews, I recall that whenever I drew his attention to the fact that anti-Jewish riots could not be tolerated, he either went silent, or remarked

‘But it is the Jews themselves who are to blame’ ”.
Rise of Zionism

**Outcome: ‘Zionism’**

- Extent of ‘hatred’, persecution led some to look for safe homeland for Europe’s Jews
  
- Theodor Herzl drew on ‘Nationalism’ -- in support of country for Jews
  
- Appalled by treatment Jews in native Austria, neighbouring France (‘Dreyfus Affair’); moved to Britain 1896
The Jewish question persists wherever Jews live in appreciable numbers. Wherever it does not exist, it is brought in together with Jewish immigrants. We are naturally drawn into those places where we are not persecuted, and our appearance there gives rise to persecution. This is the case, and will inevitably be so, everywhere, even in highly civilised countries—see, for instance, France—so long as the Jewish question is not solved on the political level.
Rise of Zionism

*Der Judenstaat “The Jewish State”* (1895)

... The Jews who wish for a State will have it. We shall live at last as free men on our own soil, and die peacefully in our own homes. The world will be freed by our liberty, enriched by our wealth, magnified by our greatness. And whatever we attempt there to accomplish for our own welfare, will react powerfully and beneficially for the good of humanity.”
Rise of Zionism

Theodor Herzl (1860-1904):

Sketch of Jewish Flag from Herzl’s Diary
Rise of Zionism

Following limited:

- Few Jews attracted to idea initially but Herzl ‘political’: worked to gain support key politicians

- Approached Ottomans: offering to help repay debts if they would allow settlement in Palestine

- Attempt failed – but ultimately was able to leverage same goal through British in WW1

Consequences late 19th C. Anti-Semitism escalate 20th C.
'The Long Depression’: ends

‘Long Depression’:

- Described as ‘long but not deep’

- As Conservatives ‘negotiated’ with liberals, socialists and anti-Semitism grew new and long roots...

- Attempts to revive economy slowly had impact
‘The Long Depression’: ends

- Varied by region: Russia most successful (under Sergei Witte) – argument was that government investment could enable Russia to ‘skip’ early stages of capitalism experienced by Europe, move from end of serfdom to rise of industrial economy

- Germany, Russia: also acquired new resources

- Germany: Alsace-Lorraine (from France, 1870-71)
‘The Long Depression’: ends

- Russia: expansion in Caucuses (Ottomans too weak to resist, Western Powers no interest), eastern Siberia

- And into Asia – northern China ‘Manchuria’

- Japanese interests in same territory led to disastrous war 1904-5: Russian defeat

- shocked Europe: Russia no longer the power it had been
Russian 19th C. Expansion

Russian Expansion 1533 - 1894
Russia in Manchuria
‘The Long Depression’: ends

- **At home: led to Revolution 1905**

- New working class took advantage of moment to protest outside Winter Palace: Czar’s troops killed over 100 on ‘Bloody Sunday’

- Led to strikes by other workers, uprising by peasants, mutinies by military troops: result -- October Manifesto

- Similar to earlier reforms across Europe: Czar retained power, limited representation middle-class – short lived
‘The Long Depression’: ends

Main point:

- ‘nationalism’, economic growth (industrialization) drawing on conquest of new territories both within Europe but also ‘outside’

- Even as Russia moving into Asia, Western Europe doing the same – in fact had even longer history

- 1880s: ‘Scramble (by Western Europe) for Africa

Accelerated Imperialism and Colonialism was part of the answer to ending Depression