

The History of European Antisemitism - Graphic Organizer with Guided Questions



Background - Ancient Historical Context

1. In what ways were Jews seen as “other” in the ancient Mediterranean world? How did the creation of the Jewish diaspora further impact Jews’ status as “other”?
2. What was one of the ways that early Christianity differentiated itself from Judaism?
3. Why was the Roman Empire’s enactment of the Theodosian Code so significant for Jews? How were these policies perpetuated even after the fall of the Roman Empire?

Four Forms of Antisemitism

Religious: *prejudice against Jews based on the perception that Jewish religious beliefs and practices are harmful or pose a threat to society.*

How were Jews depicted as a threat within Medieval Christian society?

What social restrictions were put in place that marginalized Jews?

What impact did the blood libel myth have on the perception of Jews?

How were Jews depicted in art, and what impact would this have?

Economic: *the belief that Jews perform harmful economic activities or that economic activities become harmful when performed by Jews.*

How did money lending and finance become associated as “Jewish” occupations? What was the effect of this association?

What is one well-known depiction of the “Jewish money lender/merchant”?

Who helped spread antisemitic myths through the US during the early 1900s?

Reflection - what information from this section stands out to you the most?

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Political: *the belief that Jews wield excessive power and influence and that they exploit it to advance their own hidden political agenda.*

What was the “Jewish Question”?

What did Jewish Emancipation mean for Jews in Western/Central Europe?

How did the political situation differ for Jews in Eastern Europe?

In Western Europe, what were some of the backlash effects of emancipation?

What was the significance of “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion”?

Racial: *prejudice or hatred of Jews as a supposed racial group that is perceived to be a “biological” threat to a more “superior white race.”*

How did antisemites misuse ideas of evolution and natural selection to support their views?

How did racial antisemitism influence Nazi ideology?

What were some of the outcomes of the Nuremberg laws?

In what way did racialized antisemitism present itself in the United States?

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