

10/20/06

1881 ~ Pogroms

I. Causes + nature of Pogroms

Causes - building anti-semitism

- doctrines/propaganda from Eastern Europe
- rather than just citing economics - economic changes under Alexander
- freed the serfs (conditions did not nec. improve)
- obligated Russian landowners from taking care of their serfs in a minimal sort of way.
- Loss of protection led to uprooting, wandering, looking for employment.
- Industrialization (even on limited level) started taking place
- W. Russia - factory - lucky workers - difficult jobs

A. The Social and Economic Situation

Factor of anti-Jewish violence of 1881 - why?

> Pogromniks - all followed train tracks - town to town - introduction of trains important to economic modernization - breaks trad. agricultural society - uprootedness

B. The Government's Role

- state-sponsored anti-Jewish riots = not true
- riots represented beginnings of political/social revolutions that would only swallow Russia - gov't tried to stop riots
- why did the gov't do such a bad job stopping the riots?
- ineffectively implemented at the local levels, admin. + bureaucratic difficulties; but gov't did seek to do so
- Police either unable or unwilling to stop riots
- Historians had documentation in early 1900s that said government didn't support riots, but said they did. Assumption - anti-S Czarist government (untrue)

Geslo
Gefman
↓
one Jewish member
of People's Will

II. Varieties of Jewish Reactions

- shock value - terrorized Jews of Eastern Europe, although limited

A. Initial Reaction - upsurge in immigration - increased considerably by 40-50%. Great deal of discussion in newspapers about leaving Pale of Settlement. Where should they go.

B. Palestine versus America - rush of many. If this represents