

10/20/00

a new, permanent outbreak, what should they do? (5 million)
Debate: feasible to go to Palestine? ^{where will they go?}

- Backwater, no real economic development.
- Had certain virtues: falsely believed that land was essentially empty. If it could be done, no friction with ^{considerable} non-Jewish population.
- Virtue of having romantic & spiritually elevated place in hearts of observant Jews — offered renewal.

America — burgeoning industrial power, magnet for immigrants; capacity to absorb huge # of Jews

- means, infrastructure already existed.
- different spiritual possibilities — escape from poverty
- seemed to offer enticement of liberation from burdens of collective identity — more individual.

C. The Jewish Intellectuals

- ponderers of problems affecting Jews; strongly ideological
(example: Peretz Smolenskin)

→ 1881 confirmed his longstanding impression that European Jews had been on the wrong track since M. Mendelssohn — assimilation — not possible. Represented misreading of reality

- non-Jews not abandoned hostility (pogroms)
- misunderstood what being a Jew is all about. For Smolenskin — this was a function of a NATIONAL identity: Haskalah —

Reform Jewish view misguided

Leo Pinsker — prominent Russian-Jewish physician. Esteemed rep of Haskalah in Russia — second half of 19th C — president of St. Petersburg Society of Russia Jews. Consequence of 1848 and other brewing ideas, he wrote Auto-Emancipation —

- had previously looked toward Gentile gods for emancipation
- self-emancipation — self-governing life of Jewish society —

PALESTINE Book analysis of anti-Semitism — said it was an eternal, permanent condition — Not consequence of economic crisis, Christian doctrines, etc. He defined anti-S as "an incurable disease that most gentiles were afflicted with" →