

more on the
Politicalization of the Jews

Why were they attracted to socialism?

- > Socialism apparent "cure-all" for anti-Semitism
- > ~~Nationalist~~ ^{Internationalist} orientation of the working class - Universal Quality
- "Workers of the world unite" (Marx)
 - possibility of overcoming anti-Semitism
- > demographic & economic condition - Jews located in traditional sectors of middle-class part of economy of Pale of Settlement (commercial/artisanal/craft)
- > combination of factors increasingly displaces Jews - where they can live/work
 - Many passionate adherents to socialism - displaced artisans
- ⇒ old Testament/Biblical trad. serves as bridge - after the fact.

How Socialists Viewed Jews

end of 19th C - change/evolution

(including Jewish Socialists)

- > Classical Marxists didn't have any special message to give to Jews re: anti-Semitism, racism, etc. - No special factors - CLASS cause of all problems. Proletariat - destined to transform - start revolution that changes society. Owning class - bourgeoisie - wants to keep workers ununited, so they feed racism, anti-Semitism, hate, etc. - racism in US unions - white/black divisions

Where did Jews fit into the economy? Not really proletariat (only a small percentage in factory work). On the whole, they were located in areas of the economy that Marxists thought were dying out and part of the "old organization" economy. No Jewish class identity. Marx had a hard time fitting Jews into their class structure model. Many Jews (socialists) thought pogroms were a good thing - first step toward Revolution. Next step: Russian ruling classes.

1881

1880-1882 - Jewish socialists - did not identify themselves as Jews. They identified as socialists. Not very sympathetic to Jewish suffering

