

Episode 6: Search for Deliverance

VI-1: Atlas: Mediterranean: 1812

Europe at the end of the 18th century was a patchwork of peculiar environments for Jews. The status of the Jews was anchored in the difficult past and yet that status was poised for dramatic changes of both positive and negative sorts. In the next session, we will look at eastern Europe and Russia, where a restricted area for Jewish settlement was about to be established.

Our focus now is to the west: France, where a post-revolutionary French Empire was about to be established; England, where liberal ideals were taking root; and Germany, the hotbed of the *haskalah*, the Jewish Enlightenment. Note too the controlling and central position of Austria and its capital, Vienna.

- Point out these places.

VI-2: Atlas: Mediterranean: 1789

In 1789, the large but weak Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was in the process of its dismemberment. Large numbers of Jews had lived there for many centuries, in alternating periods of prosperity and persecution. Great Jewish centers existed in most of the major cities, and the recently formed Chasidic movement was creating vibrant centers of Jewish life in places like Chernobyl, Lubavitch, Vitebsk, and Mezerich.

- Point out the places mentioned above.
- Then, using the time-slider on the left, time-progress the map to the year **1812**.
- Indicate the area of the Pale of Settlement, following the Russian annexation of the vestiges of Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine.

VI-3: Atlas: Mediterranean: 1885

At the turn of the century and the coming Great War and Russian Revolution, every Russian Jew had to make painful decisions. Most chose to stay. Some of these involved themselves in radical movements to overthrow the government. Some heeded the call of Zionism. And about one in three sought the American Dream in the *Goldene Medinah*.

- Point out the places discussed, using the navigation tool to show Palestine, and the **Zoom Out** feature to show the path to America (at the left of the map) through German and British ports.