

## Episode 6: Roads from the Ghetto

### VI-1: Jewish Emancipation - Timeline 1800

This presentation begins with a panel showing Napoleon as the benefactor of Jews, and describes how French egalitarian ideals spread across the continent of Europe. The segment balances the spread of emancipation with the slower progress in eliminating social discrimination. A wonderful map shows the spread of equality, and emphasizes that emancipation did not extend into Russia and parts of the Muslim world. An explorable graphic lets users point to the various countries of Europe to see the history of emancipation in each. Finally, three historical documents describe the Napoleonic impact on Jews residing in Padua (Italy), Prussia and Germany.

### VI-2: Innovation in Judaism/Jewish Choral Music/Oranienburgstrasse Synagogue (Germany) - Timeline 1820

An opening panel describes how the Haskalah (Jewish Enlightenment) spawned the Reform movement in Germany. Then, a button takes users to a discussion of new musical forms in the Reform synagogue, including mixed choirs, organ music, and a fusion of European and traditional Jewish styles. Then, listen to a stirring rendition of "Ma Tovu." Another button takes users to a discussion and explorable graphic of an 1866 Berlin synagogue. In the graphic, users can tour both the exterior and interior of the synagogue. Don't miss either one! Then, five historical documents present the tensions with modernity in both Reform and neo-Orthodox German Judaism, featuring writings by Heinrich Heine (on his baptism) and Samson Raphael Hirsch.

### VI-3: Shtetl Life and Culture - Timeline 1800

This lovely multimedia presentation depicts the materials, music and practices of 19<sup>th</sup> century shtetl culture. It shows how shtetl culture blended Jewish tradition with surrounding folk-life. It also stresses that the objective was not isolation from Christians, but rather insulation from Christianity. Then, six panels offer insights into shtetl life in the areas of folktales, synagogue architecture, clothing, food, music and ritual objects. Then, two historical documents present a Yizkorbuch (destroyed-community memoir) entry on making a living, and a woman's memoir on religion in the Pale of Settlement.

### VI-4: Czar Nicholas I/Conscription of Jews into the Czarist Army - Timeline 1825

This narrated segment describes Nicholas I's assault on the structures of Jewish life. Of great interest is the button that takes users to information about his program of Jewish conscription into the Czarist army, including a sad song about a conscript. Then, two historical documents provide the 1827 conscription statute, and a heart-breaking tale of Jewish bounty hunters for the Czar.

**VI-5: Anti-Semitism/Anti-Semitic Images - Timeline 1879**

An opening panel describes the evolution of anti-Semitism toward racial grounds. Then, a button takes users to four panels depicting aspects of the “new” anti-Semitism, including populist politics, stereotypes, conspiracy myths, and the image of the Ostjude (Eastern-European Jew). Then, three historical documents provide sadly familiar examples of both leftist and rightist/racist anti-Semitism of the period.

**VI-6: Zionism (1897-1948) - Timeline 1897**

This multimedia presentation describes how the early Zionist movement was a combination of many factions, united in their zeal to overcome the crisis of the diaspora through the creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. Next, a set of buttons provides further information about the major factions: practical versus political Zionism, cultural Zionism, socialist Zionism, religious Zionism, general Zionism, and revisionist Zionism. Then, three historical documents provide Herzl’s call for a homeland, a religious Zionist manifesto, and A. D. Gordon’s socialist labor vision.

**VI-7: The Jewish Labor Bund/The Bund and Yiddish Culture - Timeline 1897**

This presentation offers insights into “The General Jewish Workers’ Union of Poland and Russia,” a radical anti-Czarist Jewish socialist organization commonly known as the Bund. The segment explores the deportation of Jewish insurrectionists associated with the Bund and their use of study groups to spread their fusion of Jewish autonomy and workers’ revolt. The presentation also explores how their participation in the 1905 Russian Revolt dispersed them across Europe. The much-hoped-for Revolution of February, 1917 resulted in their being banned (with other parties) by the Bolsheviks in 1920, when they re-formed in Poland. A button takes users to a description of the Bund’s impact on Yiddish Culture, including a stirring recording of their anthem, Di Shvue. Then, users will find historical documents, including one by Vladamir Medem, a Bund leader who describes how the Bund represented a merger of Jewish and “class” identities, as well as others showing how Socialist anti-Semitism drove many Jews to the Bund, and another that describes the gender equality of the Bund.

**VI-8: Literary Renaissance (Eastern Europe) - Timeline 1870**

This wonderful narration describes Jewish wrestling with the choice of Hebrew or Yiddish as a creative language, perhaps exemplified best in the contrast between Sholom Aleikhem (Yiddish) and Chaim Nachman Bialik (Hebrew). In a group portrait, users can click to learn more about these literary giants. Then, five historical documents provide further information and examples of the Yiddish/Hebrew division, and the ambivalence of “modern” life in the Pale of Settlement.

**VI-9: End of the Old Order/Jewish Community Enters the 20<sup>th</sup> Cent.  
(Salonika) - Timeline 1875**

The opening panel describes how the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century heralded the end of great empires, including those of Austria-Hungary, Russia and the Ottomans. Then, a button takes users to a presentation on Salonika, where over forty percent of the population was Jewish,

and the whole town closed down on Shabbat. Four frames show how Salonika was transformed in this era by French influence, the Balkan Wars, and the Great Fire of 1917. Then, a historical document describes minority rights in Poland after World War I.