

Episode 7: The Golden Land

1) Early Settlers (1654-1776) - Timeline 1654

This multimedia presentation emphasizes the diversity in the colonies, and describes the arrival of 23 Jews in New Amsterdam. A segment explores the later arrival of other immigrants in the Colonial period, and then an explorable map allows users to highlight the different nationalities to learn more about their passage to America (including Africans and the fate of the indigenous Indian nations). Then, six historical documents address the Jews of Recife, the Dutch West India Company and Peter Stuyvesant's correspondence about the newcomer Jews.

2) Communal Life/New York, NY/Newport, RI - Timeline 1682

An opening panel talks about the centrality of the synagogue in Jewish communal life. Then, a segment on New York discusses some of the landmark moments of the Colonial period for the Jewish community. The Newport button takes users to an explorable graphic of the interior and exterior of the Touro Synagogue, with fascinating informational displays. Then, seven historical documents present information on the Sephardim and Ashkenazim in Savannah, a fundraising letter, a letter back home to London, and an interesting contract stipulating the duties of the shamash (beadle) at New York's Shearith Israel Congregation.

3) Gaining Civil Rights/The Gratz-Etzing Family - Timeline 1776

The opening panel stresses the gradual progress in Jewish rights. Then a segment expands on this point, showing where Jews gained citizenship and office-holding rights, state by state. It makes the interesting point that only with the 14th amendment (1868) was Federal supremacy in these matters firmly established. Another button takes users to a portrait gallery and notes on an important Jewish-American family. Finally, seven historical documents show glimpses of a Jewish wedding, a Sunday school, some laws about Jewish rights in different states, and a loopy effort to establish a Jewish homeland near Buffalo, NY.

4) Industrial America/The Garment Industry - Timeline 1810

This feature discusses Jewish involvement in the garment trades, accelerated with the invention of the sewing machine in 1846. The three historical documents in this section include one describing the founding of the precursor organization of the National Council of Jewish Women in 1893.

5) Pioneers from Europe - Timeline 1820

This multimedia presentation investigates how the turmoil in Central and Eastern Europe in the middle of the 19th century gave rise to massive migrations to America. The turmoil was, of course, supplemented by numerous draconian decrees against Jews, particularly in the Pale of Settlement. The three historical documents discuss the internal debate about risking the trip to the “unknown” land of America.

6) New Communities - Timeline 1820

This feature presents interesting demographic data on American Jewry as it joined the westward migration. Five panels provide more information on the emergence of communal institutions like synagogues, fraternal orders, YMHAs, charities and Jewish newspapers. Finally, four historical documents include an 1843 founding document of Bnai Brith, information about itinerant peddlers, and a memoir written by a local bishop about San Francisco’s first rabbi.

7) Civil War/Jewish Civil War Images - Timeline 1861

This presentation explores the debate between abolishing or limiting slavery, and also the economic issues that divided the north and south. An image gallery presents Jews on both sides of the question of slavery. Five historical documents expose more of the Jewish debate on the topic, poignantly describe Jewish soldiers’ observances, and present General Grant’s attempt to expel the Jews in 1862 and the heated correspondence that followed.

8) Reshaping Judaism/ American Judaism (1860-1880) - Timeline 1861

The narration describes American Jewry's wrestling with the question of what Jewishness means. From this engagement, Reform and Conservative Judaism were born, although orthodoxy was still dominant at the end of the 19th century. A picture gallery provides interesting examples of the diversity in the Jewish religious experience, showing and discussing a kosher butcher shop, reform and traditional synagogues, and the landmark 1880 Reform prayer book by Rabbi Isaac Mayer Wise. Then, four historical documents detail Reform beliefs and the constitution of the Conservative Jewish Theological Seminary from 1886.

9) Coming to America - Timeline 1881

This presentation opens with a panel stating that unlike other immigrants of the time, late-19th century Jewish immigrants tended to come to America as families, with all intention of staying (rather than making money and returning to Europe). 80% of Jews fleeing Eastern Europe came to America in this period, lured by both the reality and the fantasy of America. Three audio panels expand on this theme, including *The Unkosher Land* (a warning about America), *Pictures of Prosperity* (about photos sent to the old country that made new immigrants look prosperous!), and *American folk culture* (including a Sholom Aleichem poem set to music). Three historical documents give voluminous statistics on immigrations, provide Castle Garden memoirs, and show a HIAS immigrants' pamphlet distributed at Ellis Island in 1912.

10) Tenement Life - Timeline 1881

An opening panel contrasts the consumerism in America with the sweatshop life of the typical immigrant. The multimedia segment describes how the immigrants' kids got better educations, but their parents were concerned about assimilation. Then, an explorable graphic with five pictures offers catchy presentations about inter-generational aspects and conflicts of immigrant life, including wisdom, names, baseball, food, and happiness. The five historical documents discuss Jewish women going wig-less, a description of tenement life, the challenge of Jewish education, and an interesting bit about piecework in the "schmatteh" trade in Chicago.

11) Building Community - Timeline 1881

The opening panel describes how Jews adapted their institutions for life in America. Click Play to see a multimedia piece discussing how Jews organized around their European communities of origin through *landsmanschafften*, held benefit balls to support charitable and community work, and developed afternoon Hebrew schools to supplement public education. Then, a terrific explorable graphic offers an advertising page from the Yiddish daily *Der Tog*, where users can click on the ads for English translation and get a real feel for the texture of early 20th century Jewish sociology. Finally, two historical documents include a description of the Yiddish press, and a humor piece from *The Jewish Daily Forward*.

12) Who Is an American? - Timeline 1881

This presentation describes the American debate about immigration and immigrants. The segment traces the evolution of America from a rural to urban society, and the supplanting of northern European immigrants by immigrants from eastern and southern Europe (i.e., lots of Italians and Jews). The outrageous conditions of slum life gave rise to social activists and government housing laws. In the Jewish community, settlement houses helped new immigrants integrate with education, English instruction, and help in achieving citizenship. In addition to transforming the immigrants, the grass-roots nature of these efforts also gave rise to social crusades. The historical documents include social workers' views on their charges, and a Guide for Immigrants, which tells them "Above all, learn English."

13) Yiddish Culture/American Yiddish Poetry - Timeline 1881

At the start of this presentation, a panel states that by 1920, New York had 1.6 million Jews, providing a vibrant audience for Yiddish culture. The multimedia feature explains that the Czar's banning of Yiddish theater in 1883 meant an exodus of thespians and writers to America, resulting in 20 Yiddish theaters by 1914, and 150 Yiddish periodicals. Most of the papers and journals also carried literary material, providing outlets for outstanding Yiddish authors like Sholem Asch. Then, a button takes users to three panels of genres of Yiddish poetry: sweatshop poets ("the rhyme department of the labor movement"), the young generation of romantics, and the introspectivists with their free verse and experimental forms. Finally, three historical documents depict a daughter's rebellion against her "old-world" father, and memoirs by theater-goers.

14) Trade Unions -Timeline 1881

This presentation looks at the European Bund roots of the trade union movement in America, in which Jews were leaders. The segment describes the rampant socialism among many young Jewish activists, and how the unions provided entire social environments for members. Five text panels provide more information about Socialism at the Ballot Box, the famous Workmen's Circle, founded in 1892, the European Roots of the Labor Movement (especially the immigration from the failed 1905 Russian Revolution), A Better World (setting the context for Marxist utopianism; note that the Yiddish anti-capitalist cartoon here is an explorable graphic), and the Yiddish Press and the Labor Movement, illustrating the moderate socialism of the *Forward* versus the more radical Communist position of the *Freiheit*.

15) The Statue of Liberty - Timeline 1886

This feature brings up the interesting point of a difference between the French gift of the statue and its ultimate symbolism. For the French, it embodied the ideals of liberty, fraternity and equality. But for generations of immigrants, it became a symbol of refuge from Europe. Three panel buttons provide more good material: "The New Colossus," an audio of Emma Lazarus' poem which graces the Statue; "Protesting Immigration Restriction," 1920s, which discusses quotas and includes an explorable cartoon; and an "Interview with Arriving Refugees," which includes a radio recording of a shipboard interview with an immigrant family. One moving historical document describes an immigrant's first sighting of America.

16) Hollywood - Timeline 1908

The presentation describes the proliferation of 5-cent nickelodeon theaters around the turn of the century. It points out that immigrants were wildly enthusiastic about the medium: Because you don't need to know English to attend a silent movie! Jews then became heavily involved in filmmaking; the Warner Brothers, for example, started out as theater owners and then opened their famous studio. These early movies reflect the middle-class aspirations of the new immigrants. In a historical document, Abe Burrows weighs in on the famous Jewish film-maker, Samuel Goldwyn.

17) Communal Activism - Timeline 1918

An opening panel describes how American Jewish organizations were increasingly involved in world Jewish affairs and Zionism, both during and after World War I. In many ways, this illustrates the degree to which the Jewish community felt at home in America. Then, three panel buttons describe the roles of Hadassah, the American Jewish Congress, and the Joint Distribution Committee. Two historical documents present the founding of the first Hillel chapter in 1923, and a 1916 fundraising letter to help get relief aid to the 9 million European Jews whose lives were convulsed by the Great War.

18) Into the Mainstream/Timeline of American Judaism - Timeline 1918

The opening panel notes that by the 1930s, most Jews were native-born. The multimedia segment describes how New York held 40% of the country's Jews, who spread out to new neighborhoods in the Bronx, Brooklyn and the Upper West Side. Many were college educated, but the Depression crushed many dreams, and many young Jews turned to Communism. Three panel buttons describe Jewish Home Life, Challenges for Synagogue Judaism, and College. Then a button takes users to a wonderful timeline of key events in the development of Reform, Conservative, Orthodox and Reconstructionist Judaism. The four historical documents include a WPA case record, a 1927 essay on Conservative Judaism, and Mordechai Kaplan setting forth his Reconstructionist notion of Judaism as a "social organism" in his seminal work on his interpretation of the crisis of American Judaism.

Episode 8: Out of the Ashes

1) Rise of the Nazi Party/Early History of the Nazi Party - Timeline 1919

This presentation begins with an opening panel that details unrest after World War I. A button takes users to six text/graphic pages of information about the early history of the Nazi Party, including the Crisis in the Weimar Republic, the Party, the Beer Hall Putsch, Mein Kampf, the Reorganization of the Nazi Party and its Growing Popularity in the Polls. (It is important to remember that Hitler was the *democratically elected* Chancellor of Germany.) The five historical documents amplify the rise to power of the Nazis, including the text of the Nazi anthem “The Horst Wessel Song,” two excerpts from Mein Kampf, and the humiliation of Germany at Versailles, authored by the first Weimar prime minister.

2) Dictatorship/Cult of the Fuhrer - Timeline 1933

An opening panel shows a delighted Hitler and Goering celebrating Hitler’s election in January, 1933. The multimedia segment explains the rapid manipulation of the system by Hitler, such that the republic was all but dead within months of his election. Then, a button takes users to four panels describing the cult of the Fuhrer, including the cult itself, details of Nazi pageantry, the Hitler Youth, and the Nazification of religion. The eight historical documents show the cultic manipulations from various viewpoints: a math textbook, a book-burning chant, the ten commandments of marriage, a Hitlerian grace before and after meals, and an excerpt from the Hitler Youth manual. It also includes the Nazi view on women, which blames the Jews for creating gender equality for women.

3) Ghettos/The Lodz Ghetto - Timeline 1940

This presentation opens with a panel that explains the proliferation of Nazi ghettos -- not as residential quarters, but as prisons. Then, a narrated segment discusses life within the ghetto, and the false hopes the ghettos raised among Jews. A button takes users to an explorable map of the Lodz ghetto, which allows users to see and hear information about key sites in the ghetto and about its leadership. Audio memoirs provide personal perspectives. Three historical documents include a ghetto sermon, a young girl’s memoir and, astonishingly, jokes from the Warsaw Ghetto.

4) Murder Squads - Timeline 1941

This chilling presentation begins with a panel describing the invasion of the death squads (einsatzgruppen) behind the Wehrmacht in Hitler's invasion of Russia in the summer of 1941. The segment shows the killing techniques, and notes that within five weeks of the invasion, the Germans had killed more Jews than they had from 1933-41. Then, three panel buttons take users to Babi Yar, explain the humiliation of victims, and describe the killers, which included German, Polish, Ukrainian and Baltic police forces. Oral testimonies personalize the information. Six historical documents provide a key Hitler speech from 1939, ghetto rumors, tales of massacres, and Nazi reports that simply defy description.

5) Death Camps/Industrialized Murder - Timeline 1942

This feature begins with an opening panel that names the six Nazi camps in Poland, including most infamously, Auschwitz/Birkenau, and gives their grisly result: 3.5 million Jews, plus many others. A multimedia segment then shows how the death camps were conceived as an industrial model of "manufacturing death." Then, a picture gallery of seven panels traces the assembly line of death: railways, selection, looting of possessions, extermination in gas chambers, removal of hair and gold teeth, disposal of corpses, and secrecy and deception. Seven spine-chilling historical documents present Hess' testimony at Nuremberg, comments by an SS doctor and engineer and the warden of Treblinka, as well as inmate testimony.

6) What the World Knew/American Response - Timeline 1942

This presentation begins with an opening panel that claims quite forthrightly that by 1942/3, the US was aware of the genocide. Then, five panels describe Pressure on the Government of the US, Publicity and Mass Meetings, the War Refugee Board (formed only in 1944), Rescue and Aid, and Urging Bombing of Auschwitz. Two historical documents provide crucial proof that warnings went unheeded in 1941 and 1942.

7) Ghetto Fighters/Vilna Partisan Song/Warsaw Ghetto Uprising - Timeline 1942

This section includes an opening panel that details uprisings and Jewish partisans. The narrated segment describes how ghetto fighters and partisans had a virtually impossible task in obtaining arms, and being on guard against anti-Semitic fellow fighters. Buttons then take users to the Vilna partisan song, and to a sequence of four panels describing the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, entitled *The Uprising Begins*, *Street by Street*, *The Uprising Continues for 28 Days*, and *The Uprising Inspires Other Revolts*. It is a powerful tale. Five historical documents provide a rabbi's advice, a call to arms, the testimony of a participant, and a grisly one about partisan revenge.

8) Survivors - Timeline 1945

An opening panel notes that the number of Jewish refugees greatly increased in the years following the war, as Jews fled from the USSR and Poland. By the summer of 1947, there were 200,000 Jewish refugees in the US/UK sector of central Europe. The feature describes how the DP's (displaced persons) languished for years in their new makeshift homes, denied entry to Palestine and to the US, yet building a civil society within the camps. Then, six buttons take users to topics including *Reunions and New Families*, *Religious Revival*, *Rebuilding a Culture*, *Vocational Training and Education*, *Political Activism* (there was actually an elected council representing all the camps), and *Commemorations and Testimony*, including a stirring partisan song. Finally, three historical documents describe the tragic but hopeful lot of World War II's Jewish refugees in the months following the end of the war.

Episode 9: Into the Future

1) Jewish Settlement/Revival of Hebrew (Palestine) - Timeline 1897

This presentation begins with an opening panel that describes the waves of Jewish immigration to Ottoman Palestine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Then, a button takes users to an audio presentation with three choices of the most delightful form of Hebrew vernacular in 1959 Israel: the playing and chants of Israeli children. An accompanying panel gives some information about the revival of Hebrew. Then, three historical documents include memoirs of the early pioneers in Palestine, including a wonderful one about the founding of Tel Aviv.

2) Hope and Despair/Soviet Jewry - Timeline 1917

The opening panel of this presentation depicts the situation of Jews, many of whom were early advocates and supporters of the Soviet revolution. Successive repressions by Stalin and his successors culturally and physically killed much of Soviet Jewry, culminating in the “refusenik” movement, which flourished from the late 1960s until the demise of the Soviet Union. Two large buttons take users to five topical panels on each of the periods 1917-1941 and the 1940s-80s. In the prewar period, the panels provide information on Civil War in Eastern Europe (1918-21), Suppression of Political Activity, Campaign Against Religion, Jewish Colonization in Ukraine and Birobidzhan, and Soviet Yiddish Culture. The other button takes users to panels about Soviet Jews in World War II, Initial Soviet Support for Israel, Persecution and Terror (1948-53), the Jews Under Khrushchev, and the Defiance of Refuseniks. Finally, four historical documents present notes on Jewish support for the Revolution, Soviet Jewry’s welcome of Golda Meir as the first Israeli ambassador to the USSR, the murder of Jewish writers, and an Elie Wiesel piece on the plight of the Refuseniks in the mid-1960s.

3) At Home in America/The Fight Against Prejudice/Jews in the Civil Rights Movement - Timeline 1945

This presentation begins with a panel describing America's emergence as the largest demographic center of world Jewry after the devastation of the Shoah. Then, two buttons take users to two interesting presentations: the Fight Against Prejudice includes a portion of a 1944 newsreel, entitled "Americans All," which made the case against bigotry; Jews in the Civil Rights Movement includes an audio of Rabbi Joachim Prinz' inspiring speech at the March on Washington in 1963. Six historical documents provide insight into the fight against discrimination in America, including a 1954 Chicago survey of anti-Jewish employment practices, reflections on being fully Jewish and fully American, the impact of Israel on American Jewish identity, reflections of the first woman rabbi, and Rabbi Schulweis' thoughts on chavurot (fellowships).

4) Independence and War/Shaping the Future of Israel - Timeline 1948

The opening panel of this presentation gives the basic picture of newly-declared Israel being invaded by a coalition of Arab armies. Then, a button take users to a rich video depicting the critical early decisions that defined much of the future of Israel, including the birth of the Palestinian refugee problem, Ben Gurion's consolidation of government power, the legacy of messy democracy, and compromises over issues at the border-line between religion and state. Four historical documents include the Proclamation of Israel, a battlefield memoir by Rabin, a classic war poem by Nathan Alterman, and a memoir by a Palestinian refugee.

5) Waves of Immigration/Operation Magic Carpet/A Polyglot Nation - Timeline 1949

Here, an opening panel describes the flood of 684,000 new immigrants in Israel's first three years. Then, two buttons take users to audio presentations, including one that describes the exodus of Jews from Yemen in Operation Magic Carpet, and one that, through a multilingual train-station recording, shows the variety of tongues of the early immigrants to Israel. Two historical documents include David Ben Gurion and Levi Eshkol's thoughts on the Law of Return and the immigration challenges it created.

6) Israeli Society/Israeli Political Scene - Timeline 1996

The opening panel describes the various political tensions besetting Israel in the 1990s, including Russian absorption, the Oslo process, and secular/religious issues. Then, a brief narrated segment takes users to an explorable graphic of Israeli campaign paraphernalia which “translate” into English as users roll over the graphic. Five historical documents include Rabin’s last speech, Amos Oz’ thoughts on argumentative Israelis, and the problems of minority populations in Israel.

7) Arab-Israeli Conflict/Felafel is the Same in Any Language - Timeline 1998

The opening panel of this presentation summarizes the last few decades of Arab/Israeli strife, as well as the peace initiatives of that period. A button takes users to a delightful excerpt from the joint Palestinian/Israeli version of Sesame Street, in which Muppets, at least, seem to find a loving common ground. Four historical documents include the producer of the Middle Eastern Sesame Street show reflecting on its challenges, as well as speeches by Sadat, Rabin, Arafat, and Netanyahu.

8) Into the Future/Meaning of the Past - Timeline 1998

This presentation begins with a panel noting the challenge of drawing from tradition to shape a vital Judaism of the future. Then, a button takes users to four button-panel segments presenting the views of four experts on the Meaning of the Past. These include Rabbi Joy Levitt, a Reconstructionist Rabbi and member of Americans for Peace Now; Rabbi Irwin Kula, the director of CLAL, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership; Yale Professor Paula Hyman; and Rabbi David Hartman, director of Israel’s Shalom Hartman Institute. They reflect on issues in Jewish heritage that include bondage and freedom; joy and loss; covenantal commitment; engagement with the world; and the conviction that dreams of a better future can be realized.

Note: On the timeline, many of historical documents included in the various multimedia presentations are separately indicated. Remember also to search the index to find out more on any topic from the Concise Encyclopedia Judaica, the maps, and Abba Eban, guide to the video series.