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Session I

From Christian anti-Judaism to Medieval Demonization

Assignments:

- Jeremy Cohen, *Christ Killers: The Jews and the Passion from the Big Screen* (2007), pp. 15-36.
- Mel Gibson, “The Passion of the Christ,” Icon Productions, selections shown in class, 2004.
- Magda Teter, *Blood Libel: On the Trail of an Antisemitic Myth* (2020), pp. 1-13.

Guiding Questions:

- On what grounds do the Gospels lay the blame for Jesus’ death on the Jews, a charge often known as ‘deicide’ (the murder of God)?
- Why was this accusation made not merely against some Jews at one time but against all Jews for all time?
- How did the charge that Jews are Christ killers inspire the later slander that Jews murdered Christian children, known as the blood libel?
- What is the line between Christian anti-Judaism and Christian antisemitism?

Session II

Antisemitic Conspiracies of Jewish Power

Assignments:

- Norman Cohn, *Warrant for Genocide: The Myth of the Jewish World-Conspiracy and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion* (1981), pp. 66-83.
- Deborah Lipstadt, “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion on the Contemporary American Scene,” *The Paranoid Apocalypse* (2001), pp. 172-185.
- Marc Levin, “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion,” THINKFilm, selections shown in class, 2005.

Guiding Questions:

- What kind of work is the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and how does it compare to earlier antisemitic conspiracy theories?
- On what basis does the Protocols accuse the Jews (at the time a dispersed and often persecuted minority with no overt political power of their own) of wielding sinister control over all the nations of the world?
- How has the conspiracy theory of the Protocols inspired generation after generation of antisemites, from Henry Ford and Adolf Hitler to the far right and far left of our own time?

Session III

The Invention of Race and Nazi Ideology

Assignments:

- Paul Rose, *German Question/Jewish Question: Revolutionary Antisemitism from Kant to Wanger* (1992), pp. 279-295.
- Doris Bergen, *Key Concepts in the Study of Antisemitism*, ed. Sol Goldberg (2011), pp. 173-186.
- Eberhard Taubert, “The Eternal Jew,” Terra Film, selections shown in class, 1940.

Guiding Questions:

- What are the origins of the term ‘antisemitism’?
- What is the novel racist theory of the German antisemitic movement and how does it compare to earlier forms of Christian anti-Judaism?
- What qualities did Nazi propaganda claim belong to the Jews as a race?
- German society was one of many to be infected by antisemitic conspiracies over the generations. Why do you think the Holocaust emerged in this country at this time?

Session IV

Contemporary Antisemitism on the Right

Readings:

- Deborah Lipstadt, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory* (1993), pp. 103-121.
- “Translate Hate: Stopping Antisemitism Starts with Understanding It,” *American Jewish Committee* (November 2019).
- Jonathan Sarna, “‘White genocide’ and other horrific myths driving Jew-hating Capitol rioters,” *The Times of Israel* (January 2021).

Guiding Questions:

- How is Holocaust denial a creature of far right antisemitism?
- Familiarize yourself with the symbols and codes used by neo-Nazis and white supremacists in the AJC glossary. What patterns do you notice that might help us explain their ideology?
- How has social media complicated the underworld of far right antisemitism even further?
- In what ways has contemporary neo-Nazism sought to step off its online platforms into the real world?

Session V

Contemporary Antisemitism on the Left

Assignments:

- Cary Nelson, *Dreams Deferred: A Concise Guide to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict & the Movement to Boycott Israel* (2016), pp. 37-48, 57-65.
- “What is Antisemitism? Non-Legally Binding Working Definition of Antisemitism,” *International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance* (2018).
- “The Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism,” *Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism* (2020).
- Andrew Goldberg, “Viral: Antisemitism in Four Mutation,” PBS, selections shown in class, 2020.

Guiding Questions:

- Martin Luther King Jr. once said: “When people criticize Zionists, they mean Jews; you are talking anti-Semitism.” Is anti-Zionism (opposition to the right of the State of Israel to exist) by definition antisemitic? What reasons would you give to support your answer?
- What makes far left antisemitism different from its far right counterpart? Why do you think some people, who have no trouble identifying antisemitism on the right, have difficulty recognizing antisemitism on the left?
- What are some of the arguments advanced by advocates of boycotts against Israel (most often under the direction of BDS, the campaign to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel)? Would you characterize (any or all of) these arguments as antisemitic? Why or why not?
- Compare the IHRA working definition of antisemitism with the critique and alternative advanced by the JDA. What is the key disagreement between the two approaches? Why does this disagreement over the definition of antisemitism matter in the real world?