

Zionism and Contemporary Israeli Society

I Introduction: Israel as a Jewish State – Reality, History and Ideology

Secondary Reading:

1)Gidon Shimoni: *The Zionist Ideology*, Hanover 1995, Cap. I ("The Social Origins of Jewish Nationalism") p. 3 - 51.

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Vital, David, *The Origins of Zionism*, Oxford U. Press, Great Britain 1975, p. 233 – 266.

3) Uzi Rebhun, "Major Trends in the Development of Israeli Jews: A Synthesis of the Last Century", in *Jews in Israel: Contemporary Social and Cultural Patterns*, ed. by Uzi Rebhun and Chaim I. Waxman, Hanover 20004, p. 1 – 19.

II Zionism: Visions and Ideology

Topics:

A. The Normalization of World Jewry in Herzl's Vision of a Jewish State

B. Ahad Ha'am's Vision of the Land of Israel as a Jewish Cultural Center

C. A.D. Gordon's Philosophy of Man, Nature and Homeland

D. Martin Buber's Dream of the Jewish Homeland as a 'Light Unto The Nations'

E. Nahman Syrkin's Conceptions of Socialism and the Future Jewish State

Primary Readings for Part II (in order of topics):

Theodore Herzl, *The Jews' State*, Trans. by Hank Overberg, Northvale N.J. & Jerusalem 1997, p. 123 – 150.

- Old-New Land, New York 1960, p. 113 – 126, 247 – 254.

Ahad Ha'am, "Slavery in Freedom"; "The Jewish State and the Jewish Problem"; "Pinsker and Political Zionism", in: *Nationalism and the Jewish Ethic: The Basic Writings of Ahad Ha'am*, ed. by Hans Kohn trans. by Leon Simon, New York 1962, p. 44 – 124.

Aaron David Gordon, "Human Nation"; "The Work of Revival in the Diaspora"; "Rules for the Small Holders' Settlement", in: *A.D. Gordon: Selected Essays*, trans. by Frances Burnce, New York 1938, p. 4 – 28, 77 – 82, 263 – 267.

Martin Buber, "Renewal of Judaism"; "The Holy Way: A Word to the Jews and the Nations"; "Herut: On Youth and Religion", in: Martin Buber, *On Judaism*, ed. by Nahum Glatzer, New York 1995, p. 34 – 55, 108 – 17

- "Hebrew Humanism", in: *Israel and the World: Essays in a Time of Crisis*, New York 1963, p. 241 – 252.

***Nahman Syrkin, *Essays on Socialist Zionism*, Young Poalei Zion Alliance of America, New York 1935, p. 5 – 64.

Secondary Readings (for Part II):

Gideon Shimoni, *The Zionist Ideology* (above), p. 85 – 96.

Steven Zipperstein, *Elusive Prophet: Ahad Ha'am and the Origins of Zionism*, Berkley 1993, p. 67 – 179.

Shimoni,, p. 104 – 112.

***Shalom Ratzaby, "Israeli Identity and Mission in Buber's thought", in: *Jewry between Tradition and Secularism: Europe and Israel Compared*, ed. by Eliezer Ben-Rafael, Thomas Gergely and Yosef Gorney, Leiden 2006, p. 85 – 92.

Eliezer Schweid, *Jewish Thought in the 20'th Century*, Trans. by Amnon Hadary, Scholars Press 1992, p. 176 – 184, 192 – 201.

Jonathan Frankel, *Prophecy and Politics: Socialism Nationalism and the Russian Jews*, Cambridge 1981, p. 288 – 328.

Shimoni, p. 170 – 177.

III Social, Cultural and Political Realities in Contemporary Israel

Topics:

A. Religion and Culture

B. Identity and Education

C. Ethnic Diversity and Social Justice

D. Israel and the Jewish People

E. Israel, the Mid-East and the World

Secondary Reading for Part III:

Chaim I. Waxman, "Religion in the Israel Public Square" in *Jews in Israel*, p. 221 – 237.

Gabriel Sheffer, "Individualism vs. National Coherence: The Current Discourse on Sovereignty, Citizenship and Loyalty", *Israel Studies* 2.2, 1997, p. 118 – 145.

Daniel J. Elazar, "Education in a Society at a Crossroads: An Historical Perspective on Israeli Schooling", *Israel Studies* 2.2, Spring 1996, Indiana U. Press, Bloomington, p. 40 - 65.

Gabriel Sheffer, "Individualism vs. National Coherence: The Current Discourse on Sovereignty, Citizenship and Loyalty", *Israel Studies* 2.2, 1997, p. 118 – 145.

Ruth Gavison, "Jewish and Democratic? A Rejoinder to the Ethnic Democracy Debate", *Israel Studies* 4.1 1999, p. 44 – 72.

Shlomit Levi, Hanna Levinsohn and Elihu Katz, "The Many Faces of Jewishness in Israel", in: *Jews in Israel*, p. 265 – 284.

Ephraim Yuchtman-Yaar, "Continuity and Change in Israeli Society: The Test of the Melting Pot", *Israel Studies* 10.2, Summer 2005, p. 91 – 128.

Ilan Peleg, "Israel's Constitutional Order and the Kulturkampf: The Role of Ben-Gurion", *Israel Studies* 3.1, Spring 1998, p. 230 – 250.

David Newman, "From Hitnachalut to Hitnatkut: The Impact of Gush Emunim and the Settlement Movement on Israeli Politics and Society", *Israel Studies* 10.3, Fall 2005, p. 192 – 224.

Gabriel Sheffer, "The Israelis and the Jewish Diaspora", *Jews in Israel*, p. 419 – 444.

III Conclusion: Contemporary Israel in the Context of Zionist Ideology – A Look to the Future

*** Photocopy to be distributed in the course of the semester

Course obligations:

A – readings

B – active class participation

C – 2 papers due: 1 - Oct. 21, 2 – Dec. 9.