

# Zionism

February 11, 2011

# Israel: The three themes

- A state born out of an idea
- A state shaped through the implementation of the idea (immigration, nation building)
- The effect of one aspect of implementation: security concerns

Why does the “idea”  
matter in the Israeli case?

# Why does the “idea” matter in the Israeli case?

- Explains identity
- Explains preferences
- Explains behavior
- Explains culture

# The central idea: Zionism

- Zionism as an ideology (What is an ideology anyways?)
- Zionism as Nationalism (What is nationalism anyways? Ethnic vs. civic)
- Cause: material conditions, or perhaps ideational?

# Ideology

- 1) A set of ideas about reality
- 2) Followed by a set of ideas about behavior

# Nationalism

- An ideology with beliefs about:
  - 1. Collective identity
  - 2. Tied to a political project
  - 3. Modern phenomenon
  - 4. Organic vs. constructed
  - 5. Ethnic vs. civic

# The ancient origins of a modern ideology:

- What is Judaism?
  - - Collective
    - God idea
    - National-political idea

# More on the ancient sources

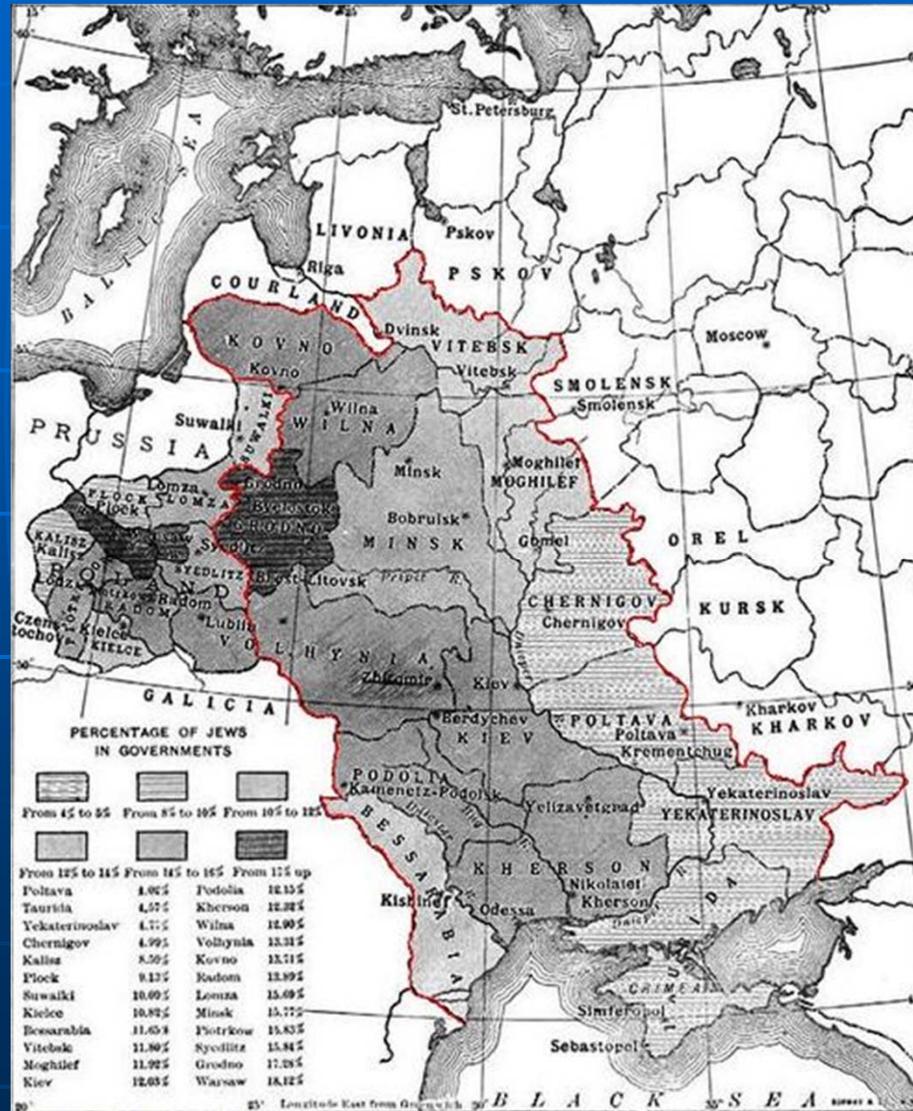
- Common sovereign past (power, temple based religion)
- Religious transformation after loss of sovereignty: texts, community

# Connection over the generations

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[The Lost Tribe](#)

# The Pale of Settlement (1791-1917)



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# The Failure of Emancipation

- Eastern Europe
- Western Europe

# Theodor Herzl 1860-1904



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# Alfred Dreyfus Affair

- Video on the Alfred Dreyfus Affair- Theodore Herzl and Zionism

# Zionism: Four Varieties, Two approaches

Approaches:

1) Political

2) Practical

Varieties:

1) Labor

2) Revisionist

3) National Religious

4) General

# Initial Positions

	<b>Labor</b>	<b>Rev.</b>	<b>Reli</b>	<b>Gen.</b>
<b>Power</b>	1933- 1977	First 1977	No	No
<b>Strategy</b>	Practical	Political		Political?
<b>Socio- Econ</b>	Soc- dem	Free Market	?	Free Market
<b>Territory</b>	Minimal	Max	?	?

# David Ben Gurion (1886-1973)



David Ben-Gurion (right) with Albert Einstein. This image is in the public domain.

# David Ben Gurion

- Video: Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel.

# Competition

- Individual solution 1: immigration
- Individual solution 2: Universal deliverance (Communism, liberalism)
- Collective solution 1: Orthodoxy and the Shadow of Shabtai Zvi
- Collective solution 2: Local nationalism (the Bund)

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