

**SYDNEY
JEWISH
MUSEUM**

WHERE HISTORY HAS A VOICE

A photograph of a blue and white striped fabric, possibly a piece of clothing or a bag. A black button is visible on the left side. A piece of fabric with the number '15390' printed on it is lying on the right side. The fabric appears to be made of a coarse, woven material.

ANTISEMITISM

What is Antisemitism?

What is antisemitism?

Hatred of Jews

Persecution of
Jews

Prejudice
against Jews

Hostility
towards Jews

Racism against
Jews

'The oldest
hatred'

Write the definition in your notes: *Antisemitism is hostility, prejudice, or discrimination against Jews.*

The origins of antisemitism

- There are examples of antisemitism from across the ancient world, in Egyptian, Mesopotamian and Greco-Roman societies
- Usually, these arose from rivalries between different nations and groups, each asserting the superiority of their gods over that of their neighbours
- **Optional extension study: Research one of the following examples of ancient antisemitism:**
 - Manetho's inversion of Exodus story
 - The Alexandrian Pogrom
 - 19CE Expulsion of Jews from Rome
 - 70CE Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem

The Medieval Period

- During the Medieval Period, as Christianity spread across Europe, negative stereotypes of Jews became common
- Jews became the victims of discrimination



Image of a Jew from Worms, Germany, late 16th century

The Medieval Period

1215 – Pope Innocent III decrees Jews must wear distinguishing attire

1218 – King Henry III issues Royal Decree requiring Jews to wear a badge on their outer clothes at all times

1227 – Synod of Narbonne decrees Jews must wear an oval badge

Yellow Badge

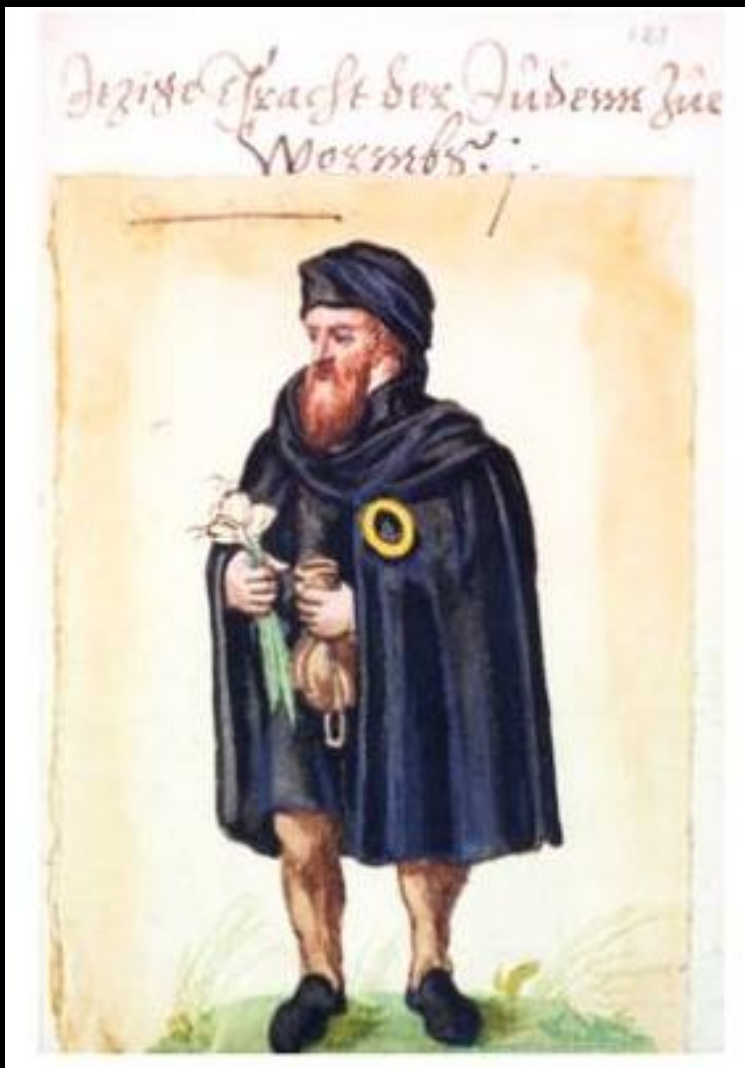


Image of a Jew from Worms, Germany, late 16th century

The Medieval Period

Compare and contrast the two sources below.

Jew wearing
the yellow
disc in
Worms,
Germany,
late 1500s



Jews wearing
the yellow
star in Nazi-
occupied
Vienna, 1941



The Medieval Period

- What is this man holding?
- What messages are these items sending?
- What effect might such stereotypes have?

?

?



Image of a Jew from Worms, Germany, late 16th century

Let's explore three flawed bases of antisemitism

1. The myth that Jews killed Jesus



14th century fresco depicting a Jew nailing Jesus to the cross.

- Jewish 'deicide' is the antisemitic trope that holds all Jews responsible for the death of Jesus
- This is false: The Nicene Creed confirms it was Pontius Pilate, a Roman governor, who sentenced Jesus
- The Catholic Church expressly repudiated the deicide myth in the 1964 Nostra Aetate

Let's explore three flawed bases of antisemitism

3. The stereotype of Jews and money



Depiction of two Jews counting money
From the Wellcome Library, London

- In Christian Europe in the Medieval and Early Modern periods, Jews were banned from most trades, with exceptions such as moneylending
- Christians were banned from moneylending
- So Jews became associated with money even though the great majority lived in poverty

Let's explore three flawed bases of antisemitism

STUDENT TASK:

"Hatred of Jews has evolved in response to some key myths and lies."

Discuss with reference to the sources provided. Your response should be one to two paragraphs in length.

Antisemitism in Interwar Germany

- **After WWI, conditions in Germany were poor.**
- **The population was suffering from the combined effects of:**
 - War losses from WWI
 - The conditions imposed by the Treaty of Versailles
 - Inflation and
 - The Great Depression
- **So they looked around for someone to blame...**



Image from a 1919
Austrian postcard

- Who are the two figures represented here?
- How are they each portrayed?
- What is the overall message of the cartoon?
- Is this message fact, opinion or propaganda? Explain.

AN DIE
DEUTSCHEN
MÜTTER!



Christliche und jüdische Helden haben gemeinsam gekämpft und ruhen gemeinsam in fremder Erde.

12000 Juden fielen im Kampf!

Blindwütiger Parteihasse macht vor den Gräbern der Toten nicht Halt.

Deutsche Frauen,

duldet nicht, dass die jüdische Mutter in ihrem Schmerz verhöhnt wird.

Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten E.V.

Translation: 72,000 Jewish soldiers died on the battlefields for the Fatherland.
Christian and Jewish heroes fought together and rest together in foreign soil.
12,000 died in battle! Blind and savage party hatred does not stop at the graves of the dead.
German women, do not allow the suffering Jewish mother to be mocked in her pain.

- The National Union of Combat Veterans



- What is the overall message of the cartoon?
- Is this message fact, opinion or propaganda? Explain.



AN DIE
DEUTSCHEN
MÜTTER!



72000
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sind für das Vaterland
auf dem Felde der Ehre
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Christliche und jüdische Helden haben gemeinsam gekämpft und ruhen gemeinsam in fremder Erde.

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Reichsbund jüdischer Frontsoldaten E.V.

Consider the two cartoons together:

- How do you account for the difference in their messages?
- Which source is more reliable? Explain your response.

Finishing Up...

Complete this cloze paragraph using the words in the box.

Antisemitism is a form of _____ directed specifically at Jewish people. It has existed for thousands of years and can be seen in _____, words, and thoughts. In ancient times, Jews were often targeted due to _____ and cultural differences.

During the _____ period, laws forced Jews to wear special clothing, such as the _____ badge, to mark them as different. Dangerous myths, like the _____ (the false claim that Jews used Christian blood in rituals), and stereotypes about Jews and _____, helped spread hatred.

These ideas were used again in _____ Germany, where Jews were blamed for the country's problems after World War I. Understanding these lies and their impact helps us recognise and challenge _____ today.

- Medieval
- actions
- money
- racism
- antisemitism
- Blood Libel
- yellow
- Nazi
- religious

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THANK YOU