The “Golden Period”: King David kingdom, circa 1000 BCE

Zionist “cognitive map”

of “Greater Israel”
The Zionist Movement’s Metanarrative

**Jewish roots:**
David’s son, King Solomon, builds in Jerusalem a Temple to God. Thus began the *First Temple Period*
The Zionist Movement’s Metanarrative

• **Jewish roots (cont.):**
  
  • 586 BCE -- The First Temple is destroyed by the Babylonians. Jews are going into exile to Babylon.
  
  • Persian rule (538-332 BCE). *The Second Temple* is built. Jews have only an autonomy in Eretz Yisrael

• Hellenistic rule (332-167 BCE) followed by the short-lived independent Hasmonean kingdom (140-37 BCE)
• **Jewish roots (cont.):**
  - Roman rule (37 BCE-330 AD), destruction of the Second Temple (70 AD).

• Jews are going to exile once again
Jewish roots (cont.):

Consequently, Jewish religion is being constructed in a more spiritual manner, detached from the daily religious services that took place at the Temple. Since then Jews have been praying three times a day to God, asking Him to ingather the exiles, rebuild Jerusalem, reinstate His rule in the Holy Land, and rebuild the Temple.

During the Middle Ages two major Jewish religious traditions emerged: Sephardi, of Jews who lived under Muslim rule, especially in Spain [=Sepharad in Hebrew]; Ashkenazi, of Jews who lived under Christian rule in Europe.

Maimonides

The Vilna Gaon

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TALMUD

Compilation finished around 6th Century CE [=AC]

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TORAH

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In the meantime in the Holy Land…

- **Byzantine (Eastern Christian Church) rule** (330-637 AD). The Church of the Holy Sepulcher (Jerusalem) and the Church of the Nativity (Bethlehem) are built.

- **Islamic rule** (637-1918 AD). 690-700 – the Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque are built

- **Crusader rule** (1099–1187 AD)
The Zionist Movement’s Metanarrative

- **European roots:**
  - During the Middle Ages Jews lived as a tolerated minority under both Islam and Christianity. They were culturally, socially and politically colonized. Jews were expelled from many Christian countries, like Spain in 1492.
  
- Modernization in Europe in the 18th-19th centuries brought about the *Emancipation and modernization* of the Jews. However, much like African-American after Emancipation, Jews too found it very hard to be accepted to the general society.
  
- 1860s – the dawn of a Jewish national consciousness: Hebrew as a national language; secular history of the Jewish people; national attachment to a homeland -- “the Land of Israel”
  
- 1881-82 – Riots against Jews in the Russian Empire. Mass immigration of Jews: Up to 1914 around 2 million immigrated to the USA; others moved to Canada, Argentine, South Africa. Only about 40,000 came to Palestine.
  
- 1881-1897 – the "Lovers of Zion" movement period; First Zionist immigration to and colonization in Palestine [the First Aliyah]. *Aliyah* in Hebrew -- ascent. In Jewish tradition Jews did not just immigrate to the Holy Land [the Land of Israel] but rather *ascended* to it.
19th Century Russian Nationalism
Jewish emigration from Eastern Europe, 1882-1914
The Zionist Movement

Theodor Herzl: The Founder of the Zionist movement

1894 – The Dreyfus Affair

Alfred Dreyfus stripped of rank by Henri Mayer. Source: Bibliothèque nationale de France. This image is in the public domain.

1896 – The Jews’ State

Image by E.M. Lilien. Source: Wikimedia Commons. This image is in the public domain.

1897 – The First Zionist Congress

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