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

- This image have been removed due to copyright restrictions. Please click on the link below to view the image.

The Lost Tribe
The Pale of Settlement (1791-1917)
The Failure of Emancipation

- Eastern Europe
- Western Europe
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

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Rev.</th>
<th>Reli</th>
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<td><strong>Power</strong></td>
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<td>Max</td>
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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)