CRISIS, REVOLUTION, AND RUSSIAN JEWS

This collection of essays examines the politicization and the politics of the Jewish people in the Russian empire during the late tsarist period. The focal point is the Russian revolution of 1905, when the political mobilization of the Jewish youth took on massive proportions, producing a cohort of radicalized activists – committed to socialism, nationalism, or both – who would exert an extraordinary influence on Jewish history in the twentieth century in Eastern Europe, the United States, and Palestine. Jonathan Frankel describes the dynamics of 1905 and the leading role of the intelligentsia as revolutionaries, ideologues, and observers. But, elsewhere, he also looks backward to the emergent stage of modern Jewish politics in both Russia and the West and forward to the part played by the veterans of 1905 in Palestine and the United States.

Jonathan Frankel is Saveli and Tamara Grinberg Professor of Russian Studies and Professor of Modern Jewish History, both emeritus, at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He has published many scholarly articles and authored or edited many books, including The Damascus Affair: “Ritual Murder,” Politics and the Jews in 1840 (1997). He is coeditor of Studies in Contemporary Jewry.
Crisis, Revolution, and Russian Jews

JONATHAN FRANKEL

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
To our grandchildren, with love:
Ariel, Eviatar, Dora (Dvorah), Daniel, and Yarden (Jordan)
Acknowledgments by Edith Rogovin Frankel  

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Acknowledgments

On May 7, 2008, Jonathan Frankel passed away. He had managed to prepare this collection of his articles focusing on Russian Jews in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and had already arranged for one of his doctoral students to put together the index, under his supervision. It is a matter of great sadness that he did not live to see the publication of this volume.

The first set of proofs arrived during the traditional week of mourning, and the second set in August. A number of people helped me with problems large and small so that I could put the material in good order. The largest job was that of organizing the index, for which I thank Samuel Barnai, who did a careful and thorough job and showed great patience in checking it over with me. Malka Jagendorf – a close friend of our family – volunteered to go over every single page after I had completed the first reading and picked up many of those errors that I had missed. Others to whom I am grateful for help are Abraham Ascher, Laurie Fialkoff, Israel Getzler, Rachel Frankel Heller, Hannah Koevary, Syrell Rogovin Leahy, and Eli Lederhendler.

The editor assigned to the publication process – Russell Hahn – has been the soul of patience and clarity, and of course Jonathan would have wanted to mention his special thanks to Frank Smith, who has been his editor at Cambridge University Press for decades.

As this volume is the sum of a number of articles that appeared in various publications, the policy has been to retain the internal editing and spelling rules of each essay and not to establish a consistent editing policy for the book as a whole. Therefore, some variations in transliteration and the spelling of names will be noticed.
Acknowledgments

Inevitably, errors will be found or insufficiencies noted, but bear in mind that they are my responsibility and not Jonathan’s. The beauty and clarity of his work will nevertheless shine through.

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EDITH ROGOVIN FRANKEL