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978-0-521-44782-9 - The Ruling Class of Judaea: The Origins of the Jewish Revolt against Rome A.D. 66-70

Martin Goodman

Frontmatter

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## THE RULING CLASS OF JUDAEA

This book examines why in A.D. 66 a revolt against Rome broke out in Judea. It attempts to explain both the rebellion itself and its temporary success by discussing the role of the Jewish ruling class in the sixty years preceding the war and within the independent state which lasted until the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. The author seeks to show that important factors such as economic distress and religious ideology were not a sufficient cause of the outbreak of the revolt, and that a crucial factor previously overlooked was the decision of some factions of the ruling class to cut ties with Rome and seek power for themselves. That decision is itself ascribed to the fact that Jewish rulers of Judaea, having been selected in accordance with non-Jewish status criteria, failed to fulfil the role the Romans expected of them and, losing Roman support for their power during the sixties A.D., appealed to latent anti-gentile prejudices in the rest of the local population in order to preserve their own position.

The importance of the subject lies both in the significance of the history of Judaea in this period for the development of Judaism and early Christianity and in the light shed on Roman methods of provincial administration in general by understanding why Rome was unable to control a society with cultural values so different from its own, both in Judaea and, as the last chapter briefly discusses, in the treatment of druids in Gaul.

Dr Goodman is eminently well qualified to write this book, being as at home with the Jewish texts as he is with the Greek and Latin authors. It is a book for ancient historians studying Roman history and Jewish history and will be of interest to theologians studying the background to the life of Jesus.

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THE ORIGINS OF THE JEWISH REVOLT  
AGAINST ROME A.D. 66–70

MARTIN GOODMAN

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and Fellow of the Oxford Centre for Postgraduate Hebrew Studies*



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**For C.J.G. and R.G.**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

- A.J.* Josephus, *Antiquitates Judaicae*  
*b.* Babylonian Talmud  
*B.J.* Josephus, *Bellum Judaicum*  
*BMC* *Catalogue of the Greek Coins in the British Museum*, 29 vols., London, 1873–1927  
*BMCRE* H. Mattingly and R. A. G. Carson, eds., *Coins of the Roman Empire in the British Museum*, 9 vols., 1923–75  
*c. Ap.* Josephus, *contra Apionem*  
*CHJ* W. D. Davies and L. Finkelstein, eds., *The Cambridge History of Judaism*, 4 vols., Cambridge 1984–  
*CIJ* *Corpus Inscriptionum Judaicarum*  
*CIL* *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*  
*CPJ* V. Tcherikover, A. Fuks and M. Stern, *Corpus Papyrorum Judaicarum*, 3 vols., Cambridge, Mass., 1957–64  
*DJD 2* P. Benoit, J. T. Milik and R. de Vaux, *Les Grottes de Murabba'at (Discoveries in the Judaean Desert II)* (Oxford, 1960)  
*E.T.* English translation  
*FGrH*, Jacoby F. Jacoby, *Fragmente der griechischen Historiker*, 1923–  
*Heb.* Hebrew  
*IGR* R. Cagnat, ed., *Inscriptiones Graecae ad res Romanas pertinentes*, vols. I, III, IV, Paris, 1906–27  
*ILS* H. Dessau, *Inscriptiones Latinae Selectae*, Berlin, 1892–1916  
*m.* Mishnah  
*OGIS* W. Dittenberger, ed., *Orientalis Graeci Inscriptiones Selectae*, 2 vols., Leipzig, 1903–5  
*POxy.* *Oxyrhynchus Papyri*, ed. B. P. Grenfell and A. S. Hunt, 1898–  
*1QapGen.* *Genesis Apocryphon*, in K. Beyer, *Die aramäischen Texte vom Toten Meer* (Göttingen, 1984), pp. 165–86  
*4QP<sub>s</sub>* *Commentary on Psalms*, in J. M. Allegro, ed., *Qumran Cave 4 (Discoveries in the Judaean Desert of Jordan V)* (Oxford, 1968), no. 171  
*1QS* *Community Rule*, in E. Lohse, *Die Texte von Qumran hebräisch und deutsch*, 2nd edn (Darmstadt, 1971), pp. 1–43

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<i>RE</i>	Pauly–Wissowa, <i>Real-Encyclopädie der classischen Altertums-wissenschaft</i>
<i>SEG</i>	<i>Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum</i>
<i>t.</i>	Tosefta
<i>TDNT</i>	G. Kittel and G. Friedrich, eds., <i>Theological Dictionary of the New Testament</i> , 10 vols., E.T., Grand Rapids, 1964–76
<i>γ.</i>	Jerusalem Talmud

Abbreviations of titles of tractates in the Mishnah, Tosefta and Talmuds follow H. Danby, *The Mishnah translated from the Hebrew* (Oxford, 1933), p. 806

## JOURNALS

<i>AJAH</i>	<i>American Journal of Ancient History</i>
<i>AJP</i>	<i>American Journal of Philology</i>
<i>ANRW</i>	<i>Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt</i> , ed. H. Temporini <i>et al.</i> , Berlin 1972–
<i>BASOR</i>	<i>Bulletin of the American Schools of Oriental Research</i>
<i>CBQ</i>	<i>Catholic Biblical Quarterly</i>
<i>CPh</i>	<i>Classical Philology</i>
<i>CQ</i>	<i>Classical Quarterly</i>
<i>EI</i>	<i>Eretz Israel</i>
<i>GRBS</i>	<i>Greek, Roman and Byzantine Studies</i>
<i>HSCP</i>	<i>Harvard Studies in Classical Philology</i>
<i>HTR</i>	<i>Harvard Theological Review</i>
<i>IEJ</i>	<i>Israel Exploration Journal</i>
<i>JAOS</i>	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
<i>JBL</i>	<i>Journal of Biblical Literature</i>
<i>JJS</i>	<i>Journal of Jewish Studies</i>
<i>JQR</i>	<i>Jewish Quarterly Review</i>
<i>JRS</i>	<i>Journal of Roman Studies</i>
<i>JSJ</i>	<i>Journal for the Study of Judaism</i>
<i>JSS</i>	<i>Journal of Semitic Studies</i>
<i>JTS</i>	<i>Journal of Theological Studies</i>
<i>NTS</i>	<i>New Testament Studies</i>
<i>PBSR</i>	<i>Papers of the British School at Rome</i>
<i>PEQ</i>	<i>Palestine Exploration Quarterly</i>
<i>TAPA</i>	<i>Transactions of the American Philological Association</i>

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## PREFACE

This has been a most enjoyable book to write not least because so many people have helped me to write it. Many of the ideas were tried out first on final-year students in Birmingham and then on members of Geza Vermes' seminar at Oxford. An invitation to a conference in Israel by the Universities of Haifa and Tel Aviv and by the Yad ben Zvi opened my eyes to a variety of evidence and theories of which I had previously been culpably ignorant. Dr I. Ben-Shalom kindly sent me a copy of his thesis, which is soon to be published. Fergus Millar, Simon Price, Tessa Rajak and Chris Wickham all made detailed comments of the first draft of the book, Benjamin Isaac on the second. Between them they have radically altered the book's structure and caused me to re-examine more ill-founded assumptions than I care to recall; I know that some of them remain sceptical about my rasher arguments and they should not be held responsible for the misjudgements that remain. My greatest academic debt is to Tessa Rajak, who with great generosity allowed me to see her *Josephus* before publication, criticised my typescript with care and acumen, and encouraged me to press ahead with my own views even when they diverged from hers.

I am grateful to the University of Birmingham and the Wolfson Foundation for grants to defray typing costs and to Marie-Christine Keith, Joan Buckland, Valerie Howard and Sylvia Campbell for doing the typing at different stages; also to Harry Buglass, who drew the maps.

I dedicate this book to my parents not least because it was at the cottage in Tideways in September 1982 that its writing was first conceived.

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*April 1987*

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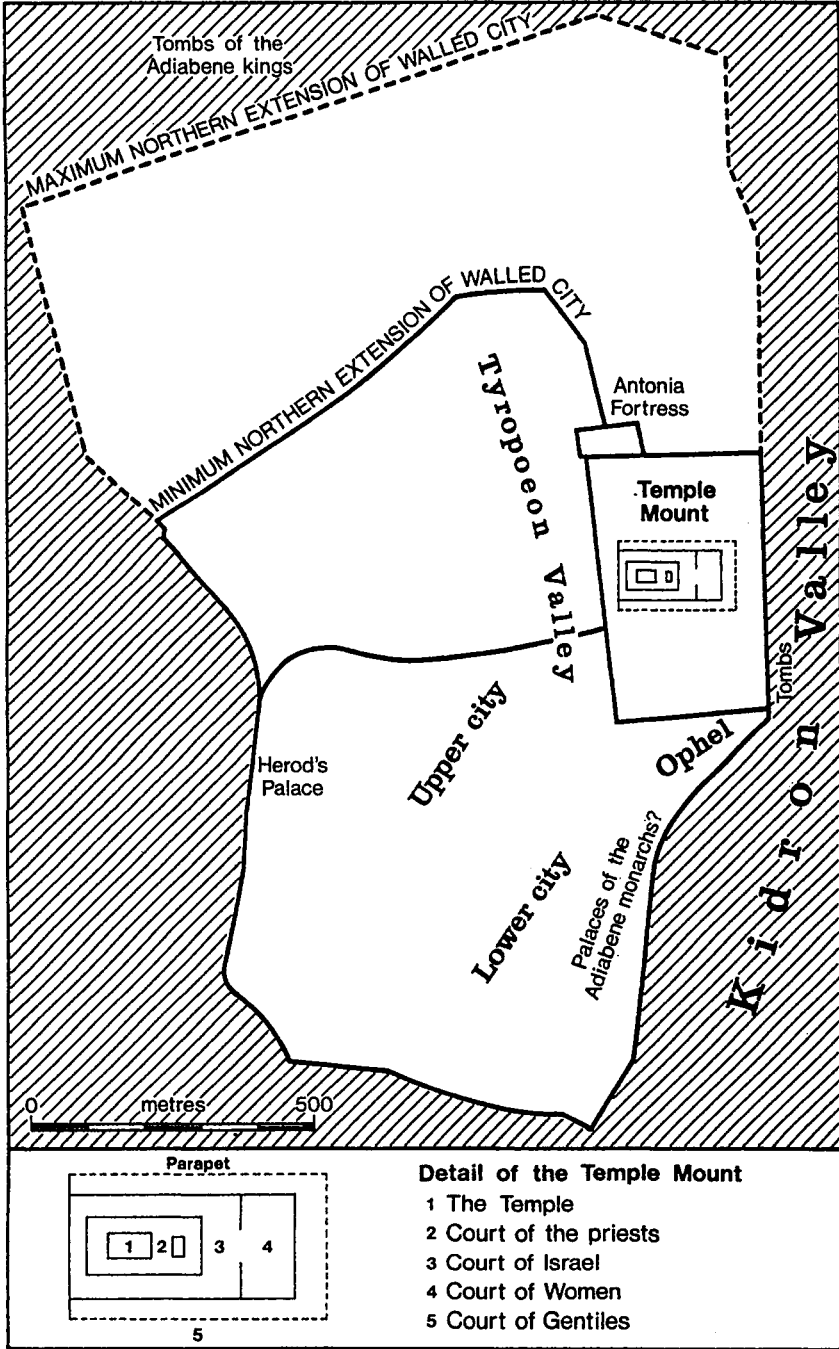
Map 1 Roman Palestine in A.D. 66

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Map 2 Jerusalem in A.D. 66