

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
ANTISEMITISM

This Companion examines the history, culture, and literature of anti-semitism from antiquity to the present. With contributions from an international team of scholars, it covers the long history of antisemitism starting with ancient Greece and Egypt, through the anti-Judaism of early Christianity, and the medieval era in both the Christian and Muslim worlds when Jews were defined as outsiders, especially in Christian Europe. This portrayal often led to violence, notably pogroms that often accompanied the Crusades, as well as to libels against Jews. The volume also explores antisemitism in art and literature, the roles of Luther and the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the debate over Jewish emancipation, Marxism, and the social disruptions after World War I that led to the rise of Nazism and genocide. Finally, it considers current issues, the rise of the “New Antisemitism,” the dissemination of hate on social media and the internet, and questions of definition and method.

**Steven T. Katz** is the Alvin J. and Shirley Slater Professor of Jewish & Holocaust Studies in the Department of Religion at Boston University. Editor of the journal *Modern Judaism*, he is the author of many prize-winning books, most recently *The Holocaust and New World Slavery: A Comparison*. He serves on the academic committee of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum and from 2011 to 2017 acted as academic advisor to the thirty-six-country International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance.

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

## CAMBRIDGE COMPANIONS TO RELIGION

This is a series of companions to major topics and key figures in theology and religious studies. Each volume contains specially commissioned chapters by international scholars, which provide an accessible and stimulating introduction to the subject for new readers and nonspecialists.

*Other Titles in the Series*

- THE COUNCIL OF NICAENA Edited by Young Richard Kim  
APOSTOLIC FATHERS Edited by Michael F. Bird and Scott Harrower  
AMERICAN CATHOLICISM Edited by Margaret M. McGuinness and  
Thomas F. Rzeznick  
AMERICAN ISLAM Edited by Juliane Hammer and Omid Safi  
AMERICAN JUDAISM Edited by Dana Evan Kaplan  
AMERICAN METHODISM Edited by Jason E. Vickers  
ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN RELIGIONS Edited by Barbette Stanley Spaeth  
APOCALYPTIC LITERATURE Edited by Colin McAllister  
AUGUSTINE'S CITY OF GOD Edited by David Vincent Meconi  
AUGUSTINE'S "CONFESSIONS" Edited by Tarmo Toom  
KARL BARTH Edited by John Webster  
THE BIBLE, 2ND EDITION Edited by Bruce Chilton  
THE BIBLE AND LITERATURE Edited by Calum Carmichael  
BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION Edited by John Barton  
BLACK THEOLOGY Edited by Dwight N. Hopkins and Edward P. Antonio  
DIETRICH BONHOEFFER Edited by John de Gruchy  
JOHN CALVIN Edited by Donald K. McKim  
CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE Edited by Colin Gunton  
CHRISTIAN ETHICS Edited by Robin Gill  
CHRISTIAN MYSTICISM Edited by Amy Hollywood and Patricia Z. Beckman  
CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY Edited by Charles Taliaferro and  
Chad V. Meister  
CHRISTIAN POLITICAL THEOLOGY Edited by Craig Hovey and Elizabeth Phillips  
THE CISTERIAN ORDER Edited by Mette Birkedal Bruun  
CLASSICAL ISLAMIC THEOLOGY Edited by Tim Winter  
JONATHAN EDWARDS Edited by Stephen J. Stein  
EVANGELICAL THEOLOGY Edited by Timothy Larsen and Daniel J. Treier  
FEMINIST THEOLOGY Edited by Susan Frank Parsons  
FRANCIS OF ASSISI Edited by Michael J. P. Robson  
THE GOSPELS Edited by Stephen C. Barton  
THE GOSPELS, SECOND EDITION Edited by Stephen C. Barton and Todd Brewer

*(continued after the index)*

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

THE CAMBRIDGE COMPANION TO  
**ANTISEMITISM**

Edited by

Steven T. Katz  
*Boston University*



Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

## CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA

477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia

314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre,  
New Delhi – 110025, India

103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

[www.cambridge.org](http://www.cambridge.org)

Information on this title: [www.cambridge.org/9781108494403](http://www.cambridge.org/9781108494403)

DOI: 10.1017/9781108637725

© Cambridge University Press 2022

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2022

Printed in the United Kingdom by TJ Books Ltd, Padstow Cornwall

*A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library.*

ISBN 978-1-108-49440-3 Hardback

ISBN 978-1-108-71452-5 Paperback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party internet websites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such websites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.

## Contents

*List of Contributors* page xi  
*Acknowledgments* xv

Introduction I  
 STEVEN T. KATZ

### **Part I** *The Classical Period*

- 1 Antisemitism in the Pagan World 25  
 ERICH S. GRUEN
- 2 New Testament Origins of Christian  
 Anti-Judaism 42  
 ADELE REINHARTZ
- 3 Anti-Judaism in Early  
 Christian Writings 57  
 PIERLUIGI PIOVANELLI
- 4 Church Fathers and Antisemitism from the  
 2nd Century through Augustine (end of  
 450 CE) 66  
 JOSHUA GARROWAY
- 5 Christians, Jews, and Judaism in the Eastern  
 Mediterranean and Near East,  
 c. 150–400 CE 83  
 ANDREW S. JACOBS
- 6 Christianizing the Roman Empire: Jews and  
 the Law from Constantine to Justinian,  
 300–600 CE 100  
 ANDREW S. JACOBS
- 7 Antisemitism in Byzantium, 4th–7th  
 Centuries 118  
 STEVEN B. BOWMAN

**Part II** *Medieval Times*

- 8 The Medieval Islamic World and  
the Jews 137  
REUVEN FIRESTONE
- 9 Medieval Western Christendom 158  
ROBERT CHAZAN
- 10 Christian Theology and Papal Policy in the  
Middle Ages 176  
JEREMY COHEN
- 11 Crusades, Blood Libels, and  
Popular Violence 194  
EMILY M. ROSE
- 12 Jews and Money: The Medieval Origins of a  
Modern Stereotype 213  
JULIE MELL
- 13 Jews and Anti-Judaism in Christian  
Religious Literature 232  
MIRI RUBIN
- 14 Antisemitism in Medieval Art 248  
DEBRA HIGGS STRICKLAND

**Part III** *The Modern Era*

- 15 Martin Luther and the Reformation 273  
DEBRA KAPLAN
- 16 The Enlightenment and Its  
Negative Consequences 291  
ALLAN ARKUSH
- 17 Modern Antisemitism in Western Europe:  
Romantic Nationalism, Racism and  
Racial Fantasies 307  
SHULAMIT VOLKOV
- 18 Antisemitism in Late Imperial Russia and  
Eastern Europe through 1920 325  
LAURA ENGELSTEIN
- 19 Marxism, Socialism,  
and Antisemitism 340  
JACK JACOBS
- 20A Antisemitism in Modern Literature and  
Theater: French Literature 358  
MAURICE SAMUELS



## CONTENTS

ix

- 20B Antisemitism in Modern Literature and  
Theater: German Literature,  
18th–21st Century 367  
MICHAEL MACK
- 20C Antisemitism in Modern Literature and  
Theater: English Literature 377  
BRYAN CHEYETTE
- 21 Antisemitism in America, 1654–2020 392  
JONATHAN D. SARNA
- 22 Antisemitism in the Weimar Republic and  
the Third Reich 412  
STEVEN T. KATZ
- 23 New Islamic Antisemitism, Mid-19th to the  
21st Century 430  
ESTHER WEBMAN
- 24 Anti-Zionism as Antisemitism 448  
DINA PORAT
- 25 New Issues 465  
DEBORAH E. LIPSTADT
- 26 Antisemitism in Social Media and on  
the Web 481  
MARK WEITZMAN
- 27 Theories on the Causes  
of Antisemitism 497  
BRUNO CHAOUAT
- Appendix* 517  
*Index* 519

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

## Contributors

**Allan Arkush** is Professor of Judaic Studies and History at Binghamton University. He is the Senior Contributing Editor of the *Jewish Review of Books*.

**Steven B. Bowman** is Emeritus Professor of Judaic Studies, University of Cincinnati. He is author of *Jews of Byzantium 1204–1453* (1985) and *The Agony of Greek Jewry 1940–1945* (2009).

**Bruno Chaouat** is Professor of French and Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota. His recent book, *Is Theory Good for the Jews?* (2016), explores the responses of French thought to the rise of antisemitism since the beginning of the millennium.

**Robert Chazan** is the Scheuer Professor of Hebrew and Judaic Studies Emeritus at New York University. His most recent books are: *From Anti-Judaism to Anti-Semitism* (2016) and *Refugees or Migrants: Pre-Modern Jewish Population Movement* (2018).

**Bryan Cheyette** is Professor of English Literature at the University of Reading. He has published four books on literary antisemitism including *Constructions of “the Jew” in English Literature and Society: Racial Representations, 1875–1945*. His most recent book is *Ghetto: A Very Short Introduction* (2020).

**Jeremy Cohen** is the Spiegel Family Foundation Professor of European Jewish History at Tel Aviv University. His publications focus on theological perceptions of the “other,” historiography, and the history of biblical interpretation, from late antiquity until the onset of modernity.

**Laura Engelstein** is Henry S. McNeil Professor of Russian History Emerita at Yale University and Professor Emerita of History at Princeton University. She is the author most recently of *The Resistible Rise of Antisemitism: Exemplary Cases from Russia, Ukraine, and Poland* (2020).

**Reuven Firestone** is the Regenstein Professor in Medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles. His monographs include *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* (1999) and *Holy War in Judaism: The Fall and Rise of a Controversial Idea* (2012).

**Joshua Garroway** is the Sol and Arlene Bronstein Professor of Judeo-Christian Studies at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion in Los

Angeles, California. Among his recent publications is *The Beginning of the Gospel: Paul, Philippi, and the Origins of Christianity* (2018).

**Erich S. Gruen** is Gladys Rehard Wood Professor of History and Classics, Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley. His most recent book is *Ethnicity in the Ancient World – Did it Matter?* (2020).

**Andrew S. Jacobs** is a Senior Fellow at the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard Divinity School and is editor of the *Elements in Religion in Late Antiquity* series from Cambridge University Press.

**Jack Jacobs** is Professor of Political Science at John Jay College and the Graduate Center, City University of New York. He is the author of *The Frankfurt School, Jewish Lives, and Antisemitism* (2015).

**Debra Kaplan** is Associate Professor of Jewish History and Director of the Halpern Center for the Study of Jewish Self-Perception at Bar-Ilan University. She is the author of *Beyond Expulsion: Jews, Christians and Reformation Strasbourg* (2011), and *The Patrons and Their Poor: Jewish Community and Public Charity in Early Modern Germany* (2020).

**Steven T. Katz** holds the Alvin J. and Shirley Slater Chair in Jewish Holocaust Studies at Boston University and edits the journal *Modern Judaism*. He served as academic advisor to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance from 2011 to 2017. His most recent publication is *The Holocaust and New World Slavery: A Comparison* (2019).

**Deborah E. Lipstadt** is the Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish History and Holocaust Studies at Emory University. Her most recent publication is *Antisemitism Here and Now* (2019).

**Michael Mack** (1970–2020) was Associate Professor in English Studies at Durham University. He is the author of seven books, including *German Idealism and the Jew: The Inner Antisemitism of Philosophy and German Jewish Responses* (2003). His final book is *Disappointment: Its Modern Roots from Spinoza to Contemporary Literature* (2020).

**Julie Mell** is Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University and author of the two-volume work *The Myth of the Medieval Jewish Moneylender* (2017).

**Pierluigi Piovanelli** is Professor of Second Temple Judaism and Early Christianity at the University of Ottawa (Ontario) and Directeur d'études at the École pratique des hautes études, Sciences religieuses, Université Paris Sciences et Lettres, in Paris, France. He is the author of *Apocryphités. Études sur les textes et les traditions scripturaires du judaïsme et du christianisme anciens* (2016).

**Dina Porat** is the Head of the Kantor Center for the Study of Contemporary European Jewry at Tel Aviv University and also serves as chief historian of Yad Vashem. Her most recent book, *To Me Belongeth Vengeance and Recompense* (2019), deals with post-Holocaust attempts to avenge German crimes committed during the Holocaust.

**Adele Reinhartz** is Professor in the Department of Classics and Religious Studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada. Her most recent book is *Cast Out of the Covenant: Jews and Anti-Judaism in the Gospel of John* (2018). She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada in 2005 and served as President of the Society of Biblical Literature in 2020.

**Emily M. Rose** is Research Associate, Department of History, Harvard University. She is the author of *The Murder of William of Norwich: The Origins of the Blood Libel in Medieval Europe* (2015), which won the Ralph Waldo Emerson Award of the Phi Beta Kappa Society and was named a Top Ten History Book of the Year by the *Sunday Times*.

**Miri Rubin** is Professor of Medieval and Early Modern History at Queen Mary College, University of London. Her most recent book, *Cities of Strangers: Making Lives in Medieval Europe*, was published in 2020.

**Maurice Samuels** is the Betty Jane Anlyan Professor of French at Yale University, where he directs the Yale Program for the Study of Antisemitism. His most recent book is *The Betrayal of the Duchess: The Scandal That Unmade the Bourbon Monarchy and Made France Modern* (2020).

**Jonathan D. Sarna** is University Professor and the Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish history at Brandeis University; he also directs the Schusterman Center for Israel Studies. His many books include *American Judaism: A History* (2019).

**Debra Higgs Strickland** is Professor of Medieval Art History at the University of Glasgow. She is the author of *Saracens, Demons, and Jews: Making Monsters in Medieval Art* (2003) and *The Epiphany of Hieronymus Bosch: Imagining Antichrist and Others from the Middle Ages to the Reformation* (2016).

**Shulamit Volkov** is Professor Emerita at Tel Aviv University and a member of the Israeli Academy of Science and the Humanities. She is the author of *Germans, Jews, and Antisemites: Trials in Emancipation* (2006) and *Walther Rathenau: Weimar's Fallen Statesman* (2012).

**Esther Webman** (1947–2020) was a senior researcher in the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies and the Principal Investigator for the Program for the Study of Jews in the Middle East, both at Tel Aviv University. She coauthored the Washington Institute prize winner, *From Empathy to Denial: Arab Responses to the Holocaust* (2009).

**Mark Weitzman** is Chief Operating Officer of the World Jewish Restitution Organization. Previously he was Director of Government Affairs at the Simon Wiesenthal Center and past chair of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's Committee on Antisemitism and Holocaust Denial. His publications include *Jews and Judaism in the Political Theology of Radical Catholic Traditionalists* (2015).

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---

## Acknowledgments

Creating a volume of new essays on a wide variety of topics and covering over 2,000 years of history required advice and assistance from many individuals. In the present case, I received important assistance from Professors David Berger (Yeshiva University) and Paula Fredriksen (Hebrew University), who were especially helpful in advising on which topics should be included in this collection. Second, I must thank all the scholars who wrote the studies that comprise this work. Distinguished scholars all, they cooperated with a smile in bringing the book to fruition. I want especially to thank Dr. Mark Weitzman, who stepped in at the last moment to supply the essential essay on the importance today of the World Wide Web as a disseminator of antisemitism in all its forms.

On a personal level, I am indebted to Professor Stephen Whitfield (Emeritus, Brandeis University), Professor Louis Dickstein (Emeritus, Wellesley College), Dr. Felice Dickstein, and Professor Sander Gilman (Emeritus, Emory University) for reading the Introduction and making helpful suggestions about its final form.

Last but not least, I owe a great deal to three very thoughtful and always helpful individuals: Ms. Lilka Elbaum, my extremely capable, very reliable, and unfailingly cooperative assistant; Ms. Beatrice Rehl, my helpful and attentive editor at Cambridge University Press, who was a pleasure to work with on this project; and my wife Rebecca, who, as always, graciously and good humoredly aided in all the steps that were involved in moving the volume from conception to publication.

To all, a most sincere “Thank You.”

**Steven T. Katz, Editor**

Cambridge University Press & Assessment  
978-1-108-49440-3 — The Cambridge Companion to Antisemitism  
Edited by Steven Katz  
Frontmatter  
[More Information](#)

---