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# Cambridge Elements<sup>≡</sup>

Elements in Religion and Violence  
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## ENGLAND AND THE JEWS

*How Religion and Violence Created the First Racial  
State in the West*

Geraldine Heng  
*University of Texas, Austin*

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**How Religion and Violence Created the First**  
**Racial State in the West**

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**ABSTRACT:** For three centuries, a mixture of religion, violence, and economic conditions created a fertile matrix in Western Europe that racialized an entire diasporic population who lived in the urban centers of the Latin West: Jews. This Element explores how religion and violence, visited on Jewish bodies and Jewish lives, coalesced to create the first racial state in the history of the West. It is an example of how the methods and conceptual frames of postcolonial and race studies, when applied to the study of religion, can be productive of scholarship that rewrites the foundational history of the past.

**KEYWORDS:** Jews, Anti-Semitism, race, England, Europe

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