

SOURCES OF RELIGIOUS OPPRESSION

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Integration of Church & State – A Source of Religious Oppression for the Past 2000 Years

(Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance, 2008)

- ❑ The Church of England, headed by the Queen, is the official Church of England. Any changes in doctrine must be approved by the House of Lords.
- ❑ 19th Century Russia had an allegiance with the Russian Orthodox Church. With the Soviet regime, atheism became the official religion in Russia
- ❑ In Germany, prior to 1919, the State subsidized the Lutheran and Catholic Churches. In 1919 the Weimer Republic outlawed this state support of religion. In the years of Hitler's rise to power, the Lutheran and Catholic Churches presented strong opposition to his insane political agendas. However, in 1933, Hitler restored the state support of Churches in return for their agreement to not oppose his National Socialist power. For all intents and purposes, this NAZI era agreement continues to this day. Recently, other religions have been included in the state support. On the government income tax withholding statement, if you identify allegiance to one of the state supported religious tax groups, a special religious tax is withheld from your pay.
- ❑ Colonial America largely followed this intermingling of State and Religion. Following the American Revolution, the laws of various states contained religious discriminatory language:
 1. Loyalty oaths for legislators and government employees requiring an expression of belief in the Trinity and the new Testament.
 2. Prohibitions of clergy from holding office
 3. Only those expressing Christian beliefs could become legislators.
 4. State tax revenue support of Christian religions.
 5. Religious and other human rights were only granted to those professing a belief in the Christian God.
 6. The Protestant religion was the state religion.
 7. All citizens must observe the Christian Sabbath.

“Truth is heavy, therefore few care to carry it.”

(From the Talmud or Shas: Hebrew abbreviation of Shisha Sedarim or six orders of the Mishnah, the first written book of oral Jewish laws)

The conversion from religiously-based to racially-based persecution of the Jews

- ❑ Before the beginning of the 19th Century, Jewish persecution and oppression was based on religious beliefs, commonly referred to as anti-Judaism. The early Jews could escape persecution by converting to Christianity. Until very recently, the Christian churches have consistently maintained that Jews, past, present and future are responsible for the death of Christ. Therefore they supported many policies depriving Jews of their rights and livelihood.
- ❑ As we entered the 19th Century there was an increasing emphasis on Nationalism in the west and in the Arab worlds. Persecution morphed into a persecution of the Jewish “race.” This is characterized as anti-Semitism, a word of dubious meaning created by an anti-Semite, Wilhelm Marr in 1879. He was seeking to replace the word “Judenhaas” (Jew hater in German) with a term sounding more politically correct. However, from an etymological perspective the term is mis-applied. The term “Semitic” refers to a group of languages, not a people, nation or race. Unfortunately, persistence of use has distorted it’s original meaning.
- ❑ Subsequent attacks against Jews now are (incorrectly?) perceived as racially motivated. People of the Jewish faith came to be perceived as a race.
- ❑ The following presents a condensed historical picture of Jewish oppression.

Christian & Muslim Myths against Jews

- ❑ Blood libel accusations: In the mid 12th century in Norwich, England, a never proven rumor was circulated by a Jew that had become a Christian monk, that Jews had kidnapped a child, stabbed his head to mimic the crown of thorns, nailed him to a cross, drained his blood and mixed it with matzo and ate it during Passover. The rumor had Jews secretly sacrificing a Christian child once a year during Passover. All Jewish leaders in Norwich were subsequently hunted down and executed. It didn't seem to matter to the oppressors that the Torah forbade the drinking or eating of blood in any form.
- ❑ From 1144 to the present day, at least 150 more blood libel accusations were made. In most cases, Jews in the area were hunted down and murdered. This was even after Pope Innocent IV in 1247, along with four subsequent Popes concluded that the accusations were a hoax, perpetrated to justify persecution of the Jews. In 1817 Czar Alexander I of Russia declared the blood libel accusation a myth. Yet the blood libel accusations continue.
- ❑ In Blois, France in 1171 all Jews in the town were burned alive after such an accusation.
- ❑ In Vienna, Austria in 1181 three Christian boys disappeared while playing on a frozen river. Jews were accused of the blood ritual. 300 Jews were burned alive at the stake, as a result. With the spring thaws, the bodies were recovered from the river.
- ❑ At some point the blood libel accusations morphed into a host desecration myth. In the year 1215, the Catholic Church in Rome established the Transubstantiation ritual. Since that time, at least 100 host desecration accusations are recorded. Many resulting in murder and torture of accused Jews.
- ❑ In 1243, in Berlitz, Germany all Jews in the town were burned alive after being accused of torturing a stolen host.
- ❑ In 1389 all Jews in Prague were accused of attacking a monk carrying a wafer. They were all tortured and burned alive after refusing to convert to Christianity.
- ❑ Hitler used the blood libel myth to support the holocaust, etc, etc., etc.

Persecution and Oppression of the Jews, subtle and not-so-subtle continues to the present day.

- ❑ In the latter part of the 19th Century, Pope Pius IX restored all the previous restrictions against Jews, confining all under papal control to the Rome ghetto.
- ❑ In 2000, Pope John Paul II beautified Pope Pius IX, making this one step before sainthood claiming that this step “points him out for his veneration and his virtue.”
- ❑ In 1881 Alexander II of Russia was assassinated by radicals. The innocent Jews were accused. More than 200 pogroms (Russian, meaning devastation or riot) followed. Many Jewish owned businesses were sacked and burned. Some pogroms were organized by the government.
- ❑ In 1894 Captain Alfred Dreyfus, an officer on the French General staff was set up by French anti-Semitic officers and sentenced for treason to life in prison. This stimulated the writing of a book by Theodore Herzl, *The Jewish State, a modern solution to the Jewish question*. The book led to the beginning of the Zionist movement to argue for a Jewish State. 50 years later, Israel was established.
- ❑ In 1895 the Russian secret police reconstructed an earlier anti-Semitic fictional novel. In 1905 it was republished by a Russian Orthodox priest as the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion*. The book was promoted as a record of secret Rabbinical conferences whose aim was to exterminate the Christians. The subsequent secret police propaganda campaign resulted in the Czarist pogroms of 1905.
- ❑ In 1915, 600,000 Jews were forced to move from the border to the interior of Russia. 100,000 died of exposure or starvation.
- ❑ In 1917 during the civil war following the Bolshevik revolution, the White army made use of the *Protocols* to insight slaughter. 200,000 Jews were murdered in the Ukraine, not to mention many thousands of others, elsewhere in Russia.

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