

Soc188I/Poli124:
The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Jewish and Arab Histories

- A. Mark Tessler's plea
- B. Congruence and symmetry:
 - 1. Political communities with codified religion
 - 2. Golden era, followed by long decline
 - 3. Conflicting intellectual responses to European modernity: radical v orthodox
 - 4. Under threat of colonialism, nationalist reconstruction of political communities.

Timeline I

Jewish history

■ 11th c. BCE-70CE

Golden Era

■ Diasporic life

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Arab history

■ -----

■ 622 start of Islam -
Golden Era until
16th c.

Timeline II

Jewish History

- 18th c. Enlightenment
- 19th c. Rise of anti-Semitism
- Pinsker & *Haskala*
1882
- Herzl & Zionism
1897

Arab history

- Napoleon's invasion
- European colonialism & capitulations
- Al-Afghani's *asabiya*
- Arab nationalism
(Egyptian National Party 1907)

A few lessons

- Both Jews & Arab's nationalisms are responses not to each other but defensive reactions to European aggressiveness.
- Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not only modern but is between the respective modern wings of the revivalist , nationalist, movements.
- Tessler: “commonalities...might lead each people to recognize the legitimacy of each other's aspirations.” (5)

A few problems

- A-symmetry of periodization
- What happens to dormant tradition? (may turn revolutionary)