

## Notes for The Medieval Period in the West

Jews come in to Europe slowly

Often invited in, as with Charlemagne (early 800s)

well-integrated into the society (at first) until the first crusade, that is.

Ritual murder accusations/blood libel become common in the 1100s

Pope Innocent III- a big consolidator of papal power. In 1215 he convened a church council, the 4th Lateran Council which, among other things, enacted a number of laws designed to segregate Jews from the larger population, and mark them as the second-class citizens that they were. Some of these included that Jews should pay taxes to churches, that Jews should wear distinctive clothing marking them as Jews- in practice this meant the special pointed Jews' hat, sometimes with horns, and a yellow badge, obviously the forerunner of the yellow star that Jews were forced to wear during the Nazi regime of the 20th century.

Jews were forbidden to go out in public at all for three days before easter.

Jews were not allowed to hold public office.

Other practices of the period were that Jews were obligated to listen to Christian sermons at various times of the year, and sometimes were compelled to send a representative to debate or dispute with Christian authorities.

There were also the occasional forced or compelled baptisms- this was a problem because even if forced, they were irrevocable.

Expulsions:

Expelled from England in 1290

From France repeatedly

Various places repeatedly- cities and towns etc.

Biggest one- 1492, from Spain

1497 from Portugal

Rashi (1040-1105) R. Shlomo Yitzhaki

ibn Ezra (1089-1164)

Rambam (1135-1204) R. Moshe ben Maimon, Maimonides

Ramban (1194-1270) R. Moshe ben Nachman, Nachmanides

Moshe de Leon (1250-1305)

The Zohar- major work of Jewish mysticism/Kabbalah.

Further reading:

*A History of the Jewish People* by H.H. ben-Sasson

*The Jew in the Medieval World, a sourcebook*, Jacob Marcus ed.

*Church, State, and Jew in the Middle Ages*, Robert Chazan, ed.

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