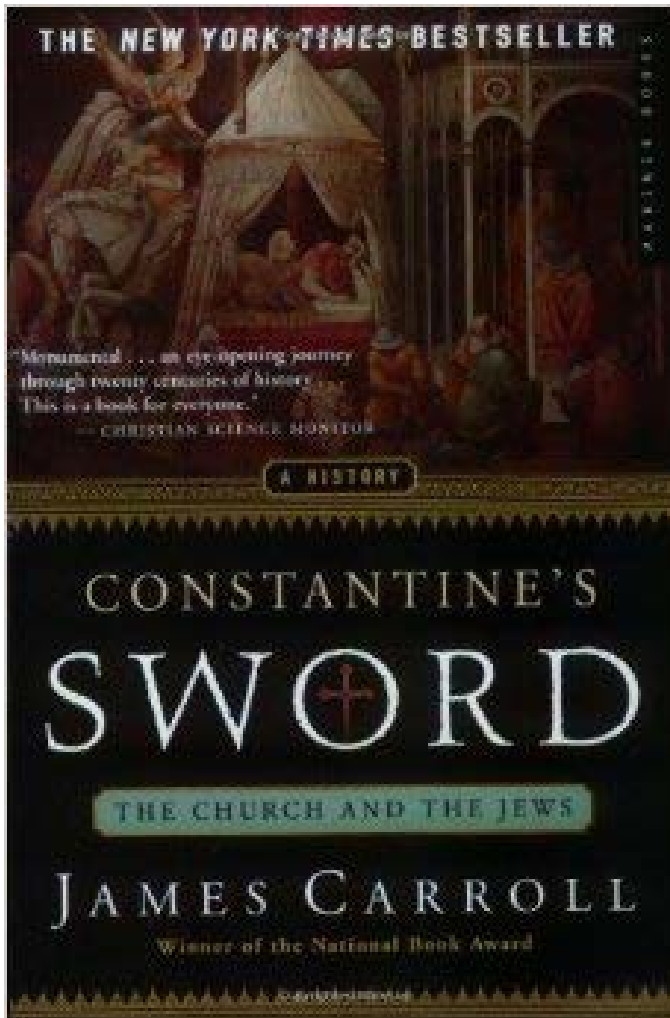




1242 CE: PARIS TALMUD BURNING



I am certain that the first time I would have heard the word “Jew” was from the pulpit of St. Mary’s Church in Alexandria, Virginia, where I lived as a child. My father was an Air Force general working at the Pentagon, but we made our family life in the Old South river port down the Potomac, where the Catholic parish was the oldest in Virginia. It would have surely been one Holy Week when I was six or seven that I heard the mythic words proclaimed: “The Jews cried out with one voice, ‘Crucify him!’”

indicated, was that of the *Servitus Judaeorum*, as the reprobate status of the Jew in history.” (Ruether, *Faith and Fratricide*, p. 209).

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<sup>\*A</sup> Grayzel, *The Church and the Jews*, p. 25, and documents 14, 15, 29, 69, and 104; also conciliar decrees: documents 3, 16, 25, and 33.

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## 1242 CE: PARIS TALMUD BURNING

James Carroll writes the following in his book *Constantine's Sword*, pp. 308–310:

“Only two blocks from Notre–Dame, on the right bank of the Seine, there stands a lovely plaza, spread like an apron before the dignified, mansard–roofed Hôtel de Ville. Not long ago, I spent a quiet afternoon sitting at a small table in one of the sidewalk cafés that line one edge of the square. Visible to my right were the soaring towers of the cathedral, their gargoyles alert. Just beyond was the needle spire of the exquisite Sainte–Chapelle, built as a reliquary for the crown of thorns, which made me think of the Seamless Robe – Helena's legacy was a alive in Paris as in Trier. Anchoring the distance, across the square, was the congested bazaar of the weekend market. Despite this lively scene, my concentration was taken over by the layered history of the place. Near here was the mustering point for the Jews of Paris rounded up on July 16, 1942. Thirteen thousand were taken away that day, four thousand of them children. There was no protest. More than half of the eighty–five thousand Jews deported from France to Nazi extermination camps came from Paris – the streets around me. Their confiscated artworks, bank accounts, and apartments are still being adjudicated.

What is the line between that day and the day in 1242 when up to twenty–four cartloads of books, something like



1242 CE: PARIS TALMUD BURNING

מאמר זה הוא תרגום של מאמר מאת הרב דוד אהרן שניידר, שפורסם בכתב העת "התורה והמצוה" של מוסדות הרבנות הראשית לישראל, חוברת 10, תשס"ב.

ב ימינו, כפי שידוע לנו, אין שום ספק כי המצב הכלכלי והחברתי של ישראל, כפי שהיא היום, הוא המצב הטוב ביותר שהיה לה מעולם. זהו המצב הטוב ביותר שהיה לה מעולם. זהו המצב הטוב ביותר שהיה לה מעולם.

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The first page of the Babylonian Talmud

twelve thousand volumes, were dumped onto the pavement of this same plaza? Those books were all the known copies of the Talmud to be found in Paris and its environs, brought here by the soldiers of King Louis IX, also known as (Saint) Louis. His men had invaded and ransacked Jewish homes and synagogues to get at the books.

“The faculty of the University of Paris, heirs of Peter Abelard and teachers of Thomas Aquinas, had held its trial in the form of a debate, with conscripted Jewish sages speaking for the Talmud and Dominicans speaking against. The faculty rendered its verdict: The Talmud was a work of heresy. The Talmud was the reason Jews were refusing to convert. Destroy the Talmud, and the truth of “fulfillment” arguments from the Old Testament, rationally offered, would be clear to them at last. The king's men took their stations around the mountain of books, to keep back the Jews as the torchbearer approached. The two-sword theory of (Saint) Bernard was here given its first mature expression, as the kind carried out the physical sanction decreed by the spiritual court. The bonfire was lit. The Talmud burned. It would take one and a half days to consume all volumes...”

“Here is an indictment of the Talmud solemnly given by Gregory's successor, Innocent IV (1243–1254):

Ungrateful to the Lord Jesus Christ, who, His forbearance overflowing patiently awaits their conversion, they manifest no shame for their guilt, nor do they reverence the dignity of the Christian faith. Omitting or condemning the Mosaic Law and the Prophets, they follow certain tradition of their elders. In Hebrew they call them “Thalamuth,” and an immense book it is, exceeding the text of the Bible in size, and in it are blasphemies against God and His



**1242 CE: PARIS TALMUD BURNING**

**PAINTER: PEDRO BERRUGUETE**



The Talmud is ordered (by Pope Gregory IX) confiscated and burned (1239–1242).

Christ, and against the blessed Virgin, fables that are manifestly beyond all explanation, erroneous abuses, and unheard-of stupidities – yet this is what they teach and feed their children, and render them totally alien to the Law and the Prophets, bearing patent testimony to the only-begotten Son of God, who was to come in flesh, they be converted to the faith, and return humbly to their Redeemer.”

“The public burning in the great square of Paris was a first indication that a living, growing Judaism would not be allowed to survive in a Europe ever more under the sway of the sword–perverted cross. And what was written on those destroyed pages? Here are lines “picked from the Talmud at random,” as distinguished rabbi Emil Bernhard Cohn put it, ‘...to lift a corner of the veil’:

Love of humanity is more than charity. The value of charity lies only in love, which lives in it. Love surpasses charity in three respects: Charity touches only a man's money; love touches the man himself. Charity is only for the poor; love is for both poor and rich. Charity is only for the living; love is for both living and dead. Love without reproof of errors is no love. He who judges his neighbor leniently will himself be judged leniently by God. Let man always be intelligent and affable in his God–fearing. Let him answer softly, curb his wrath and let him live in peace with his brethren and his kin and with every man, yes, even with the pagan on the street, in order that he be beloved in heaven and on earth, and be acceptable to all men. The kindly man is the truly God–fearing man.”

#### **1247 CE: RETURN OF TALMUDS**

August: Pope Innocent IV orders confiscated Talmud copies to be returned to the Jews.

### LOVE, TRUTH & LAW

A sub-motif of the gospels is that 'LAW' (of Moses) is inherently trumped by 'LOVE.' The Jews, however, believe that the two (LAW – and LOVE) live side-by-side, with both imperatives – Law – and Love/Sensitivity – finding an entente.

Judaism does believe that *LOVE* carries with it, *responsibility*. Judaism would plead guilty to that charge.

Respectfully, it is only if one distorts Jewish Law, that can one trumpet 'insensitivity.'

“This Pauline view fatally distorts Judaism’s understanding of the Way of Torah. Judaism is not letter without spirit, but a way of life which knows the unresolved tension of letter and spirit.”\*

Unfortunately, Judaism is painted and caricatured icon-by-icon in far worse imagery than in the Gospel “*Synagogue-healing mini-saga*.” Judaism and sundry Jewish icons are painted in the brushstrokes of ‘the hellish and hell’.

“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)

So, Moses, according to (Saint) John, alas, was not quite ‘truth.’ Only ‘law.’

Read John 1:17 – and weep.

A simple – but lethal – stratagem: BLACKEN-the-Jews from every conceivable angle. And UNDERMINE everything about them. From days past – to the ‘end of days.’

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\* Rosemary Reuther, Faith and Fratricide, Oregon: WS Publishers, © 1995, Chapter 1, p. 241.

**1250 CE: KOREAN PRINTING PRESS**

Korean Choe Yun–ui invents an iron movable type printing press; Gutenberg does the same 200 years later in Germany. Gutenberg commences printing the Bible and achieves immortality (in the West that is). Iron movable type defines the (printing) revolution.

**1250 CE: MOSES DE LEÓN**

–a.k.a, Moshe ben Shem Tov, born in León, Spain

Rav Moshe De León penned – or redacted – the extant version of the legendary Zohar, the preeminent iconic work of Kabbalah. De León ascribes the themes of his 1700 page opus to traditions from the spiritual giant Rav Shimon bar Yochai of the second century (thereby anchoring the work in highly formidable spiritual legitimacy).

Scholem, the twentieth century kabbalistic historian, believes the work is more de León, and less bar Yochai, meaning, less grounded in quintessential historical legitimacy. Like many kabbalistic works, the reality may very well lie somewhere in–the–middle: part original, part lore.

Note that kabbalistic writings, like much of Jewish philosophy, are more often than not a creative continuum of thought/spirituality and creative hypothesis. Drawing from the past and from the going–wisdom to–date, but with the contemporary author's neo–kabbalistic signature on it. Any philosophical or kabbalistic work not tethered to the past, simply *does not fly* in Jewish tradition. The issue is balance; walking a fine line. Too much anchoring and the new work lacks dynamism; too little tethering, and the



© **1250 CE: MOSES DE LEÓN**



Statue of Moshe ben Shem-Tov a.k.a. Moses de León  
Guadalajara, Spain

work is not taken seriously. De León might have wished to emphasize the tethering if he were afraid of attack from the “right wing” of Judaism.

By contemporary times, however, de León himself, in–any–event, has achieved quite formidable parallel iconic standing.

Note that while the Zohar is penned in Aramaic, de León's other known work, *Sefer ha-Rimon* (The Book of the Lemon) is penned in Hebrew. Meaning, if the Zohar is much more de León than bar Yochai, he (de León) certainly went to very formidable lengths to conceal the fact. Meaning, by writing it in his second or third or fourth language, not in his primary milieu, Hebrew, to incorporate Rav Shimon bar Yochai, De León who was an author in his own right, is investing quite heavily to anchor his works.

In his lifetime De León lived in the Spanish cities of Guadalajara, Valladolid, Avila and Arevalo, among others.

### **1263 CE:** “THE DISPUTATION OF BARCELONA” / RAMBAN

Spain: In front of King James I of Aragon

–between the monk Pablo Christiani (a convert from Judaism), and Rabbi Nachmanides (the Ramban).

At the end of the disputation, the king awarded Nachmanides a monetary prize and declared, according to lore, that never before had he heard “an unjust cause so nobly defended.”

Nevertheless, the Dominicans claimed victory and

 **1263 CE: “THE DISPUTATION OF BARCELONA” /  
RAMBAN**



Disputation between Jewish and Christian scholars.

Nachmanides was exiled and his report of the proceedings was condemned and burned.

Other historic disputations (*disputationes*) include:

1240 CE: Disputation of Paris  
(during the reign of Louis IX of France (St. Louis))

1375 CE: Disputation of 1375 in Burgos and Avila  
(both in Spain)

1413 CE: Disputation of Tortosa, Spain  
staged by the Avignon Pope Benedict XIII

These disputations—under the aegis of powerful Christian personages—tend not to have “happy endings” for Jewish interests.

It is a “lose–lose” proposition for the Jews. If the Jewish advocate prevails in the debate, there are persecutions; if the Jewish advocate does not prevail in the debate, there are persecutions.

Now, back to Nachmanides...

Nachmanides (1194 CE – c.1270 CE), “The Ramban” moves to Jerusalem, where he founds the now–historic Ramban Synagogue. His most famous work is *Commentary on the Torah*.

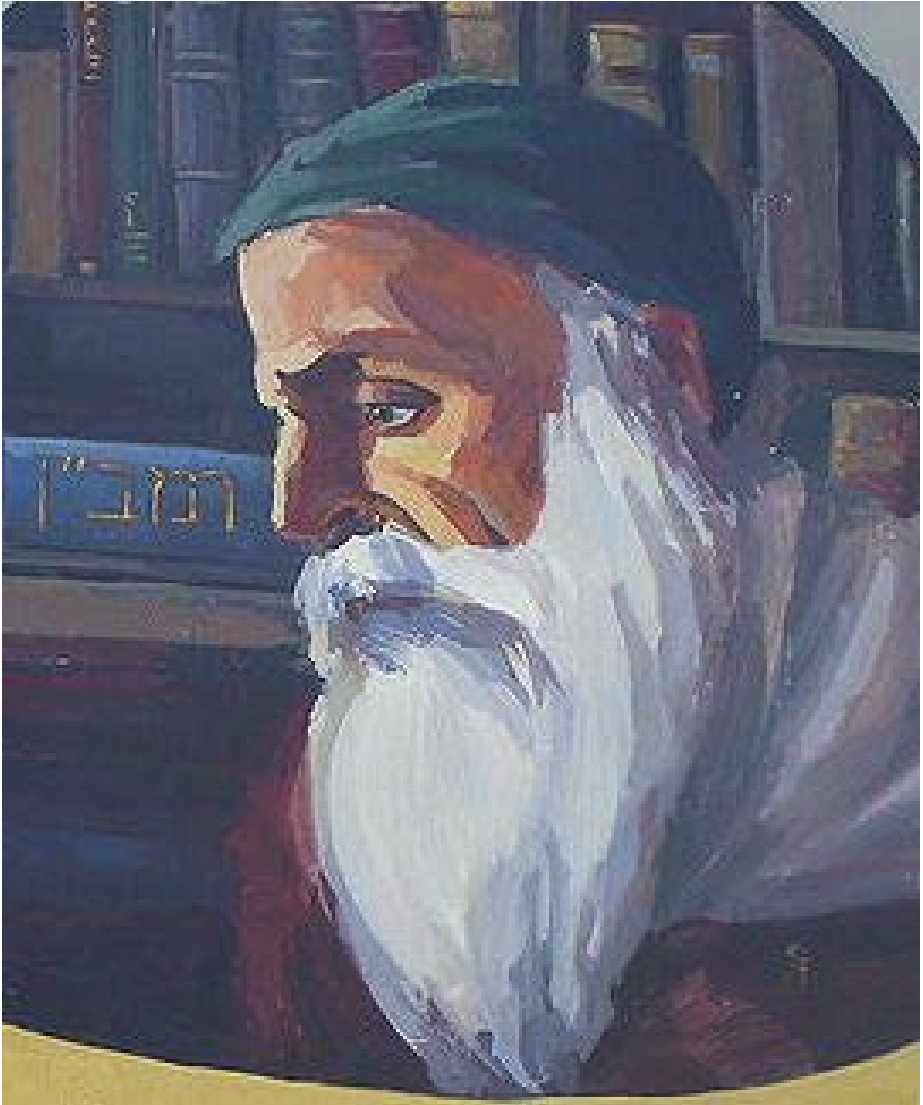


**1267 CE: THE RAMBAN REESTABLISHES JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE IN JERUSALEM**

Jerusalem: Nahmanides, exiled from Aragon, Spain, for criticizing Christianity.



**1267 CE: THE RAMBAN REESTABLISHES  
JEWISH COMMUNAL LIFE IN JERUSALEM**



Rabbi Moshe Ben Nachman (Nachmanides)

Nahmanides' appearance through one artist's conception

He makes *aliyah* to the land of Israel, where he establishes a synagogue, extant to this day, in the Old City, known, of course, as the Ramban Synagogue.

The Ramban's tenure in Jerusalem reestablishes rich cultural Jewish communal life in the Old City, which had been interrupted by the Crusades. The establishment of the Ramban Synagogue thus marks the beginning of almost 700 years of uninterrupted Jewish communal settlement in the Old City of Jerusalem, up until its temporary seizure by Jordan in the 1948 war.

### **1270 CE: THE TUR**

–a.k.a. Arb'ah Turim

–by Rav Jacob ben Asher (1270–1343 CE) a.k.a. *Baal ha-Turim*.

*Halakhic* code, rabbinic classic *Arba'ah Turim* (The Four Rows).

The 4–part structure and its division into chapters (*simanim*) was later adopted in the *Shulchan Aruch* (the enduring Code of Jewish Law).

The four Turim (rows) are as follows:

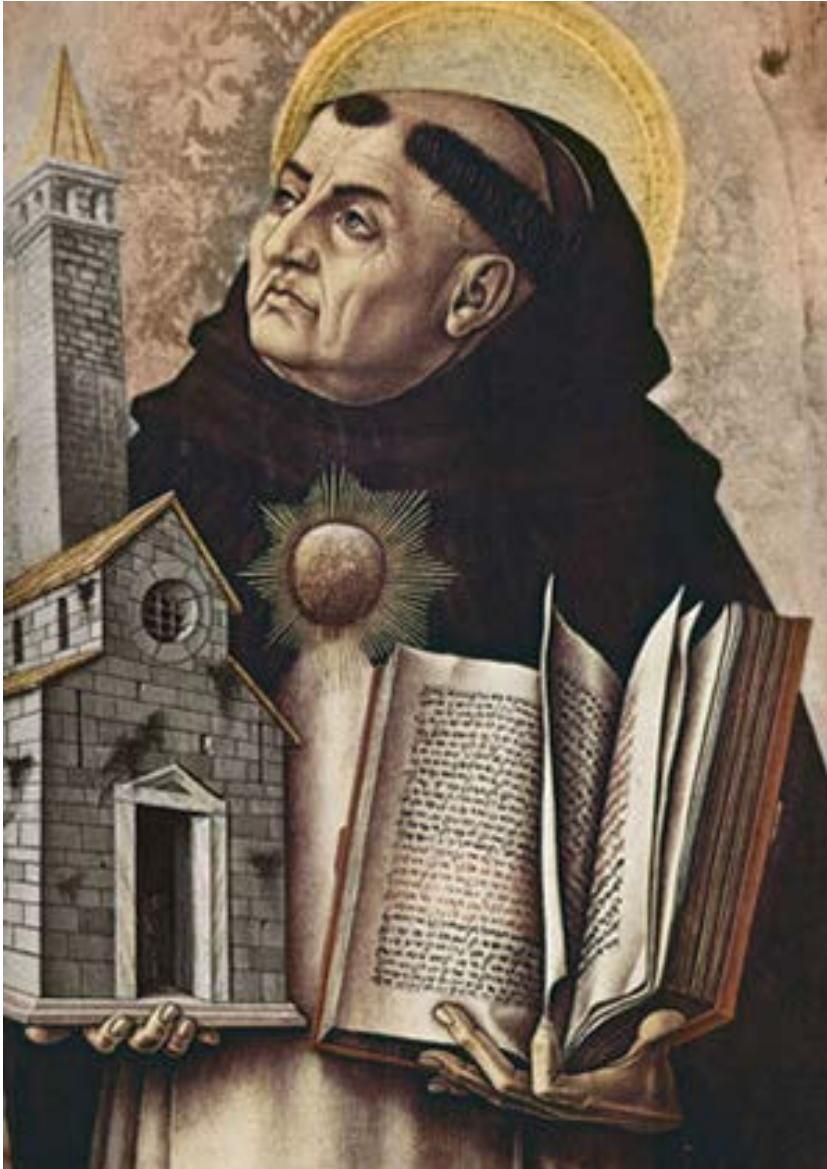
- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <i>Orach Chayim</i> –    | laws of prayer and synagogue, Sabbath and Holidays                            |
| <i>Yoreh De'ah</i> –     | <i>Schechita</i> (ritual slaughtering) and inter–related <i>kashrut</i>       |
| <i>Even Ha'ezer</i> –    | laws of marriage, divorce   |
| <i>Choshen Mishpat</i> – | laws of finance, financial legal responsibility, damages, and legal procedure |



**1271 CE: AQUINAS**

**“THOMAS AQUINAS”**

**PORTRAIT BY: CARLO CRIVELLI**



c. 1271 CE: AQUINAS

Thomas Aquinas completes *Summa Theologica*.

Aquinas, born in 1225 CE in Naples, Italy, dies in 1274 CE at age 49 of illness while en route to the Second Council of Lyons. He is canonized 1323 CE. Writing metaphysics and philosophy in the Aristotelian tradition within a Christian framework, along with some anti-Jewish sub-themes, he is a towering figure in Church philosophical-religious tradition.

Maimonides' works are most definitely disseminated through Europe preceding Aquinas by 70 years.

The striking parallels between the two corpuses are significant.

“Aquinas would imitate Maimonides' methods and retrace his lines of inquiry [without any attribution to Maimonides], knowing full well he was a Jew.” (i.e. without attribution to Maimonides)

—James Carroll in *Constantine's Sword* (p. 302)

1281 CE: ROYAL CASTILIAN EXTORTIONIST

January: Alfonso X of Castile, a region of Spain (reign 1252–1284 CE) orders the wholesale arrest of Jews and demands an enormous ransom for their release.

1285 CE: ABULAFIA PUBLISHES *LIGHT OF THE INTELLECT*

Jewish philosopher Abraham ibn Abulafia was born in Zaragoza, Spain, in 1240 CE and is considered the founder of the school of “Prophetic Kabbalah.”



1285 CE: ABULAFIA PUBLISHES *LIGHT OF THE INTELLECT*



Abraham Abulafia's *Light of the Intellect* 1285,  
Vat. ebr. 597 leaf 113 recto

His works include:

- *Sefer ha-Ge'ulah* (1273), a commentary on *The Guide for the Perplexed*
- *Sefer ayyei ha-Nefesh*, a commentary on *The Guide for the Perplexed*
- *Sefer ha-Yashar* (“Book of the Upright/Righteous”) (1279)
- *Sefer Sitrei Torah* (1280), a commentary on *The Guide for the Perplexed*
- *Ayyei ha-Olam ha-Ba* (“Life of the World to Come”) (1280)
- *Or ha-Sekhel* (“Light of the Intellect”)
- *Get ha-Shemot*
- *Maft'e'a ha-Re`ayon*
- *Gan Na'ul*, a commentary on *Sefer Yetzirah*
- *Otzar Eden Ganuz*, another commentary on *Sefer Yetzirah*
- *Sefer ha-eshek*
- *Sefer ha-Ot* (“Book of the Sign”) (1285 x 1288)
- *Imrei Shefer* (“Words of Beauty”) (1291)



### 1288 CE: RALBAG

Rav Levi ben Gershon (1288 CE – 1344 CE), better known as Gersonides

–rabbi, philosopher, mathematician, astronomer/astrologer, and Talmudist.

Born at Bagnols in Languedoc, France. His philosophical classic is “*Sefer Milhamot Ha-Shem*” (The Wars of the Lord).

In the twentieth century, the astronomical community names a crater on the moon after him – “the Levi Crater.”



**1288 CE: RALBAG**



Rav Levi ben Gershon

**1290 CE: JEWS EXPELLED FROM ENGLAND**

...by Edward I

The “legal” vehicle was the “Statute of Jewry.”

**1291 CE: SACREANS (MUSLIMS) CAPTURE ACCRE**

—last Christian stronghold in Palestine; **end of Crusades after 200 years.**

**1294 CE: KUBLAI KHAN DIES**

—after 35-year reign establishing Ming dynasty.

**1295 CE: ENGLAND’S MODEL PARLIAMENT—  
EDWARD I**

...summons bishops, knights, and burgesses from all parishes for first representative parliament.

**1296 CE: A GENOESE PRISONER**

Marco Polo, writes about his travels to the Orient.

**1300 CE: START: JEWISH PERSECUTION AND  
MASSACRES: SPAIN**

Span of this round of Spanish persecutions:  
1300–1391 CE

Massacres: 1366 and 1391 CE

Forced conversions: 1391 > 1492 CE

(see 1492 CE *Jews, Church & Civilization* Volume III)

1291 CE: SACREANS (MUSLIMS) CAPTURE ACCRE



The Siege of Accre

**1302 CE: FINAL END OF THE CRUSADES**

The iconic (Christian Crusaders) Knights Templar retreated to a small island (Ruad) off the coast of Syria for several years. However, they were ultimately routed by the (Muslim) Mamluks in a preemptive Mamluk attack September 26, 1302 CE.

**1302 CE: “UNAM SANCTAM”**

“Unam Sanctam,” papal bull of Pope Boniface VIII (papacy 1294–1303 CE), asserts papal supremacy over every human being. Historians consider this one of the most extreme official statements of papal spiritual and temporal supremacy ever made.

Leaving no stone unturned, the papal bull ends –

“Furthermore, we declare, we proclaim, we define that it is absolutely necessary for salvation that every human creature be subject to the Roman Pontiff.”

Today, Boniface is probably best remembered for his feuds with (the poet–writer) Dante, who placed him in a circle of Hell in his *Divine Comedia*.

**1302 CE: ESTATES–GENERAL**

a.k.a States–General a.k.a. French Parliament

King Philip IV of France convenes first Estates–General – as a consequence of his (Philip the Fair’s) dispute with the (somewhat overbearing) Pope Boniface VII (just noted above).

**1302 CE: ESTATES-GENERAL**

**“ESTATES GENERAL OF PARIS MEETING IN NOTRE-DAME AFTER  
THE DEATH OF CHARLES IV”**

**PAINTER: JEAN ALAUX**



Estates-General meeting

All three “estates” are present for the first time –  
 “First Estate” – the Clergy  
 “Second Estate” – the Nobility  
 “Third Estate” – commoners\*

\* Initially these “commoners” were only from *bonnes villes* – privileged towns, and in any event, had miniscule power at the Estates-General.

### **1306 CE: ENGLISH EXPULSION**

England expels 100,000 Jews who remained after the Edward expulsion order of 1290

### **1306 CE: MAJOR JEWISH EXPULSION FROM FRANCE**

–by Louis XIV [Philip the Fair] (reign 1285–1314)

The Jews are expelled from France, and Philip inserts himself in the place of the expelled Jewish moneylenders, with the Christian debtors required to direct all monies previously owed to the Jews, to the Crown.

The Jews were apparently “missed” as the agents of the King and of new non-Jewish creditors had a habit of flaying-alive any recalcitrant creditors.

The Jews are readmitted—officially for a 12-year period—by Louis X (reign 1314–1316) in 1315 (for a 122,500 *livres* “group package price”).

However, the Jews are officially re-expelled –79 years later –this time by Charles VI (reign 1380–1422) – via the moderately enforced ordinance *Religieux de St. Denis* of September 17, 1394. All the debtors (Christian) were released from their debts.





**1307 CE: BETRAYAL OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**



The Knights Templar

**1307 CE: BETRAYAL OF THE KNIGHTS TEMPLAR**

Pope Clement, under pressure from Philip, King of France, has the Knights Templar arrested, tortured and condemned.

Two centuries into its ascendancy as an increasingly popular Christian military order, the Templars—which also had a strong banking arm—were *set-up* and framed by their debtor, King Philip. Then many were tortured and/or burnt to death.

With their distinctive white mantles each with a red cross, often an advance force in key battles of the Crusades, the Templars had captured the fancy of many across Christendom.

The pope and the king, each had their own tactical interests—*consolidation of political power* and *financial forgiveness*, respectively—in betraying, framing, undermining, destroying and murdering the Knights Templar. Few betrayals in history could—or would—match this one.

**c. 1310 CE: PERFECTION OF THE MECHANICAL CLOCK****1314 CE: SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE**

Battle of Bannockburn (in Wars of Scottish Independence 1296–1357 CE) assures independence of Scotland. 30,000 Scotsmen under Robert the Bruce (reign 1306–1329 CE) a.k.a. King Robert I rout 100,000 English led by King Edward II (reign 1307–1327 CE) a.k.a. Edward of Carnarvon.

Robert was the “George Washington of Scotland.” He is referred to as “the Hero King” by many Scottish writers.



**1314 CE: DANTE WRITES *THE DIVINE COMEDY***

**PAINTER: DOMENICO DI MICHELINO**



Dante shown holding a copy of the *Divine Comedy*, next to the entrance to Hell, the seven terraces of Mount Purgatory and the city of Florence, with the spheres of Heaven above.



### 1314 CE: DANTE WRITES *THE DIVINE COMEDY*

The work is widely considered the epic poem of Italian literature.

The 14,000 line poem is written in the first person, and tells of Dante's journey through the three realms of the dead.

The 14,000 lines are divided into three sections (canticas, or *cantiche* in Italian)

*Inferno* (Hell)

*Purgatorio* (Purgatory)

*Paradiso* (Paradis)

A possible summary structural breakdown of Dante's works might be as follows:

works in Latin:	De vulgari eloquentia
	De Monarchia**
	Eclogues
	Letters

\*\* condemned and burned after Dante's death by the Papal Legate Bertrasndo del Poggetto

works in Italian:	La Vita Nuova
	Le Rime
	Convivio

Divina Commedia:  
Inferno / Purgatorio / Paradiso

Dante Alighieri (1265–1321) was a Florentine (Italy) poet of the Middle Ages. In Italian he is known as "*il Sommo Poeta*" – the Supreme Poet.



**1333 CE: TUTANKHAMUN, 8, BECOMES  
KING OF EGYPT**



Mask of Tutankhamun's mummy, the popular icon for ancient Egypt. The Egyptian Museum, Cairo.

From Dante's *Divine Comedy*—

“The hottest places in hell are reserved for those who, in a period of moral crisis, maintain their neutrality.”

—Dante's *Inferno*, canto 3, lines 35–42

**1325 CE: TENOCHTITLAN**

Mexico City has its beginning in the city of Tenochtitlan founded by Aztecs at Lake Texcoco.

**1326 CE: FIRST MENTION OF GUNPOWDER**

(in Venice) for warfare

**1328 CE: LOUIS IV OF FRANCE**

—invades Italy and declares Pope John XXII deposed for heresy

**1333 CE: TUTANKHAMUN, 8, BECOMES KING OF EGYPT**

Egyptian “New Kingdom” period. He rules for 10 years.

Tutankhamun dies at age eighteen, apparently from infection from a broken leg, possibly from a chariot mishap.

**1337 CE: BEGINNING OF “HUNDRED YEARS’ WAR”**

—between England and France—Edward III assumes title of King of France; French king Philip VI contests England's claims to Normandy.

## Historical Images – Japan

1281 CE



Japanese samurai boarding Mongol ships



## Historical Images – Japan

*[continued]*

**1543 CE**



A group of Portuguese Nanban foreigners, including the missionary Francis Xavier, Japan



1337 CE: BEGINNING OF “HUNDRED YEARS’ WAR”



After more than one hundred years of fighting, the French were eventually able to declare victory of the English.

**1340 CE: RABBI IMMANUEL BEN JACOB BONFILS**

Jewish Encyclopedia –

“Physician, mathematician, and astronomer; lived at Orange, France, and later at Tarascon, in the fourteenth century. He was the contemporary of the astronomer Levi **ben** Gerson of Bagnols. At one time **Bonfils** taught astronomy and mathematics at Orange. He was the author of the following works: (1) a treatise on the relation between the diameter and the circumference, followed by rules for extracting the square root, and with an explanation of a passage of the “Book of Creation,” dealing with arithmetic (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, MS. No. 1290, 5); (2) arithmetical propositions respecting division, and extraction of the square root, and notes on astronomy (*ib.* No. 1081, 1, 2); (3) “Derek Hilluk” (Way of Division), notes on the decimal numbers (*ib.* No. 1054, 6); (4) “Bi’ur me–Luhot,” treatise on the middle course of the planets (*ib.* No. 1054, 6); (5) table for the calculation of the declination of the sun; (6) “Luat Mattanah Tobah” (Table of Good Gift), on the determination of the planet Venus from 1300 to 1357; (7) “Bi’ur Asiyat ha–Istrolab,” on the construction of the astrolabe (*ib.* Nos. 1050, 6; 1054, 2); (8) note on the cycles (Neubauer, “Cat. Bodl. Hebr. MSS.” No. 1483, 4); (9) “Kanfe Nesharim” (Wings of Eagles), or “Shesh Kenafayim” (Six Wings), a treatise on conjunctions, appositions, eclipses, etc. (this work enjoyed great popularity in the Middle Ages, being translated into Latin in 1406, commented upon by Chrysocca, and the Hebrew text published by Nahmu Bibowitz, Jitomir, 1872); (10) “Ma’amar ‘Erek ha–Hilluf” (Treatise on the Value of Inequalities), dealing with the inequalities of the course of the sun and the moon, and the necessity of taking into consideration these inequalities in calculating conjunctions, appositions, eclipses, etc. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, MS. No. 1054, 13); (11)



**1343 CE: CASIMIR**

**PAINTER: LEOPOLD LÖFFLER**



astrological treatise on the seven constellations (*ib.* No. 1048, 4); (12) a commentary on a passage of Ibn Ezra's commentary on Ex. xxx. 2, relative to the Tetragrammaton (*ib.* No. 825, 8; MSS. Munich, Nos. 343, 386); (13) "Bi'ur 'al M'ozene Hanok," commentary on the balances of Enoch and Hermes, mentioned in Abraham ibn Ezra's "Sefer ha-Moladot" (*ib.* No. 903, 1); (14) note on the nine comets, attributed to Ptolemy, but believed to belong to **Bonfilis**; (15) "Toledot Alexander," the legend of Alexander, translated from the "Historia de Proeliis" of Leon."

*Jewish Encyclopedia* online, <http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/view.jsp?artid=1295&letter=B&search=rabbi%20immanuel%20ben%20jacob%20bonfilis>

### 1341 CE: ENGLAND PARLIAMENT DIVIDED

—into Upper House (Lords) and Lower House (Commons)



### 1343 CE: CASIMIR

Jews specifically invited to Poland (to join the existing Jewish populace) by Casimir the Great.

Casimir III of Poland (1310–1370 CE) was the last king of Poland from the Piast Dynasty (1333–1370 CE).

On October 9, 1334 he had confirmed the privileges granted to Jewish Poles back in 1264 by Boleslaw V the Chaste. Under penalty of death, Casimir prohibited the kidnapping of Jewish children for the purpose of enforced Christian baptism. He inflicted severe punishment for the desecration of Jewish cemeteries.

Casimir was the son of King Wladyslaw I the Elbow-high and his wife Hedwig of Kalisz (for those who track

© 1345 CE: NOTRE DAME



(contemporary edifice photo)



these matters). As he had no sons, Casimir was succeeded by his nephew, King Louis I of Hungary.

### 1345 CE: NOTRE DAME

Notre Dame Cathedral completed in Paris after 182 years of construction.

“Our Lady” in French, its construction had spanned the Gothic period. Construction had commenced back in 1163 CE by Bishop of Paris de Sully. The cathedral is widely considered the finest example of French Gothic architecture.

In the 1900s, a major renovation restored the cathedral to its original state prior to desecrations and serious damage during the French Revolution in the 1790s. In the early 1900s Victor Hugo crafts his novel *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* around the cathedral.

### 1346 CE: BATTLE OF CRECY

(Cressy in English, south of Calais, France)

—establishes England as military power; English longbowmen change the face of warfare.

One of the most important battles of the Hundred Years War, the primary antagonistic alliances of which being England–Holy Roman Empire v. France–Bohemia.

### 1347 CE: BLACK PLAGUE

—devastates Europe 1346 CE – 1353 CE.

Bubonic plague pandemic originated in Central Asia and swept across Asia, Europe and Africa.

**1347 CE: BLACK PLAGUE**  
"THE TRIUMPH OF DEATH"

PAINTER: PIETER BRUEGHEL THE ELDER



The image reflects the social upheaval and terror that followed plague, which devastated medieval Europe.

The plague possibly reduced the population of the just-noted land mass from 450 million to 360 million, with local density-of-population and hygiene deficiencies directly impacting infection.

Some Jewish historians assert that built-in hygiene codes and mores in Judaism lowered the infection rates—but that these lower infection rates then aggravated suspicion that the Jews were complicitous. Many thousands, possibly tens of thousands, of Jews were killed in the associated plague-related pogroms against them across Europe.

That same year, the Black Plague hits Jerusalem.

**1349 CE: THE JEWS OF TRIER ACCUSED OF WELL POISONING**

Entire Jewish population of Trier, Germany slaughtered.

The Cathedral of Trier, the seat of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Trier, is the oldest (340s CE) cathedral in Germany.

Trier is located on the Moselle River, in what was then the ancient northern capital of the Holy Roman Empire. For a span, Trier was known as the seat of several sequential, powerful Catholic bishops. The town then ultimately passed through French hands (1794), and then into Prussian hands (1815). The particular Prussian area later became part of Germany (1871).

**1349 CE: OCKHAM**

Death of William of Ockham, English philosopher, who sowed seeds of independence of church and state.



## Historical Images – Ming Dynasty of China

**1368 CE**



Portrait of the Hongwu Emperor  
Founder and first emperor of  
Ming Dynasty

**1368 CE**



Tibetan thangka of Guhyasamaja  
Akshobhyavajra; the Ming Dynasty  
court gathered various tribute items  
which were native products of Tibet  
(such as thangkas).

**1382 CE**



The old south gate of Dali, Yunnan, which was established as a  
Chinese-style city in 1382 shortly after the Ming conquest of the region.

## Historical Images – Ming Dynasty of China

**c. 1402 CE**

*[continued]*



The Ming Dynasty Tombs located 50 km (31 miles) north of Beijing; the site was chosen by Yongle (third Ming Dynasty emperor).

**1420 CE**



The Forbidden City, the official imperial household of the Ming and Qing dynasties from 1420 until 1924, when the Republic of China evicted Puyi from the Inner Court.

**1351 CE: BOCCACCIO BEGINS WRITING THE DECAMERON**

**“BOCCACCIO READING THE DECAMERON TO QUEEN JOANNA OF NAPLES”**

**PAINTER: GUSTAVE WAPPERS (1868)**





**1351 CE: BOCCACCIO BEGINS WRITING THE DECAMERON**

–*The Decameron* being a collection of 100 novellas centered around the theme of *love*, across a spectrum of its variations.

Note that Boccaccio, an Italian storyteller, had just survived the Black Death of 1348.

**1353 CE: STATUE OF PRAEMUNRIE**

(English) Parliament’s Statue of Praemunrie forbids appeals to the Pope.

**1359 CE: RIKSDAG**

First Swedish Riksdag (parliament); all classes represented

**1360 CE: FRENCH FRANC**

First francs coined in France

**1360 CE: JEW EXPELLED FROM BRESLAU**

Breslau (Wroclaw), Silesia, Kingdom of Bohemia (now in southwest Poland, the fourth largest city in Poland).

Over the centuries the city has been part of Poland, Bohemia, Prussia or Germany.

**1366 CE: ENGLISH PARLIAMENT REBUFFS POPE**

Parliament refuses to pay feudal tribute to Pope.

**1366 CE: NO “INTERMARRIAGE”**

Statute of Kilkenny forbids marriage between Irish and English.





**1387 CE: CHAUCER BEGINS WRITING  
CANTERBURY TALES**



The murder of Thomas Becket

**1377 CE: AVIGNON > ROME**

Leaving Avignon, Pope Gregory XI moves papal court to Rome; ending the “Babylonian Captivity”

**1378 CE: THE GREAT SCHISM**

The Great Schism divides the Catholic Church for 39 years when two opposing popes are elected—Pope Urban V in Rome and Pope Clement VII in Avignon.

**1387 CE: CHAUCER BEGINS WRITING  
CANTERBURY TALES**

—a collection of stories told by a collection of pilgrims on a pilgrimage from Southwark (England) to visit the shrine of (Saint) Thomas Becket at Canterbury Cathedral.

**1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE**

(Chinese) Ming Dynasty naval expeditions launch under the aegis of Emperor Zhu Di, and under the over-all command of Fleet Admiral Zheng, the voyages spanning 1405 CE – 1433 CE.

Fleet Admiral Zheng’s seven expeditions (he personally was not on all of them) traverse a good portion of the globe, but the exact extent is not known for sure. The first armada in 1405 carried 28,000 men, and was composed of 300+ vessels, including 62 super-sized Treasure Ships. Fleet Admiral Zheng’s multi-decked Treasure Ships could carry up to 500 troops each when configured for military use.

The Ming Dynasty spans 1369 CE – 1644 CE, following the collapse of the Mongol-led Yuan Dynasty.

1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE

VOYAGES of the TREASURE FLEETS, 1421-3

Gavin Menzies



● settlements where Chinese people live today







**1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE  
CHINESE TREASURE SHIP**



source: from the book *1421 The Year China Discovered America*, by Gavin Menzies, published by HarperCollins Publishers. (Note: the next 3 images are taken from the abovementioned book)

**1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE  
CHINESE TREASURE FLEET TO THE AMERICAS**

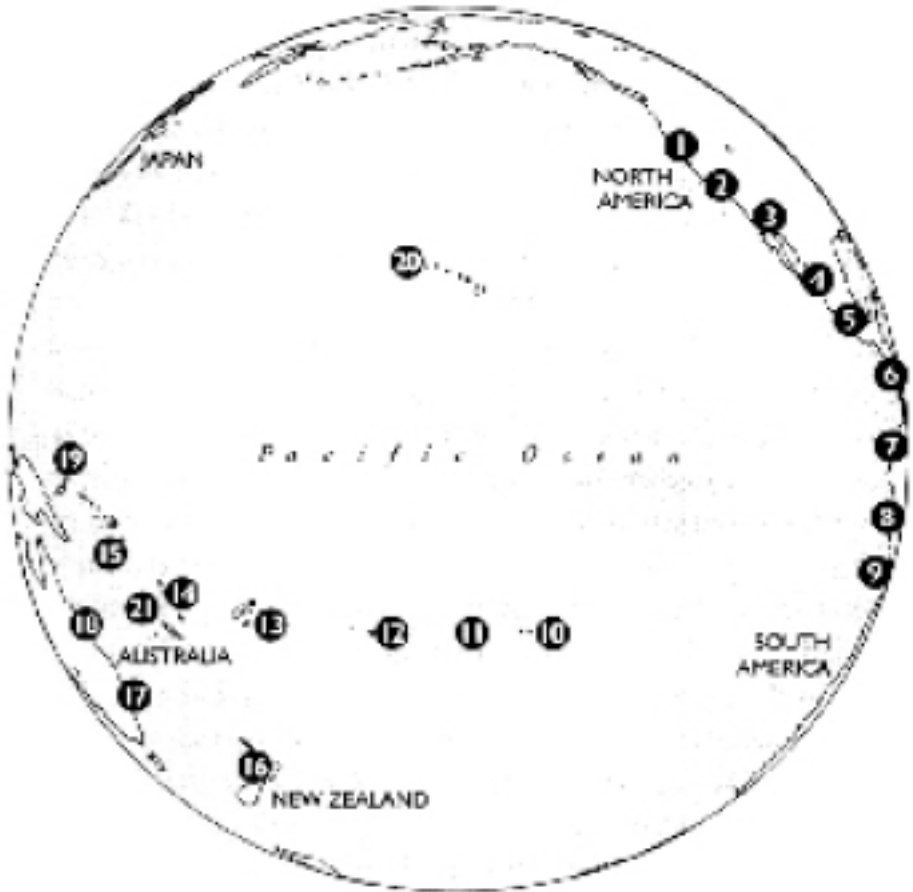


- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 Natchikobwa Illy – wooden parley  | 6 Aztec chickens                                |
| 2 Sacramento junk – plus Chinese speaking peoples and location of a Chinese village | 7 Gulf of Fonseca                               |
| 3 Los Angeles – Chinese anchor  | 8 Venezuelan Indians with Chinese DNA           |
| 4 Cave art – depicting foreigners arriving  | 9 Peruvian village with Chinese-speaking people |
| 5 Michoacán artefacts – lacquers, dye-stuffs, both with Chinese influence           | 10 Peruvian bronzes with Chinese inscriptions   |
|   | 11 Ecuador – Chinese anchor and fish hooks      |

Evidence of the visit of the Chinese treasure fleet to the Americas.



**1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE  
CHINESE BASES ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN**



- |                      |                    |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 Sacramento         | 8 North Peru       | 15 Caroline Islands            |
| 2 Los Angeles        | 9 South Peru       | 16 New Zealand – Waikato River |
| 3 Baja California    | 10 Easter Island   | 17 New South Wales             |
| 4 Mexico – Michoacán | 11 Pitcairn Island | 18 Gympie                      |
| 5 Guatemala          | 12 Taiti           | 19 Micronesia                  |
| 6 Colombia           | 13 Kiribati        | 20 Hawaiian Islands            |
| 7 Ecuador            | 14 Samoa           | 21 Norfolk Island              |

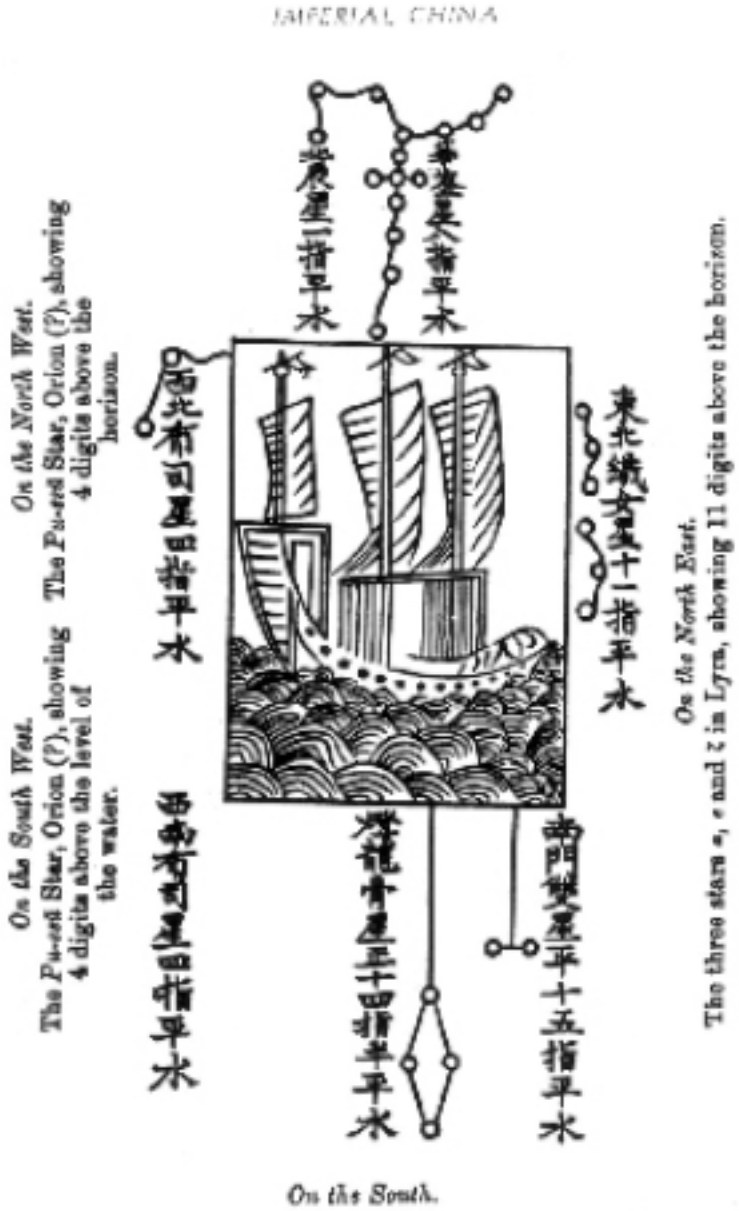
early 1400s CE

Chinese bases across the Pacific Ocean.

note: hypothesis by Menzies



1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE  
 NAVIGATIONAL DIAGRAM



Navigational diagram used by Zheng He for the Sri Lanka-Sumatra run and reproduced in the *Wo Bei Chi*, 1628.



**1405 CE: THE MING VOYAGES COMMENCE**

**(The Third MING EMPEROR, ZHU DI)**



*Ming Emperor Ch'êng-tsu (Zhu Di), anonymous painting on silk, Ming period. National Palace Museum, Taipei.*

Founder of the Ming is Emperor Hongwu, known for super-scale construction projects, including renovation of the Grand Canal, renovation–expansion of the Great Wall of China, and the construction of the Forbidden City in Beijing. The Ming is ruled by the Hans, the largest Chinese ethnic group, and eventually succumbs to a rebellion led by Li Zicheng.

See 1421 CE for more focus on Zheng in the 1421–1423 period.



### **1415 CE: BATTLE OF AGINCOURT**

Henry V leads English archers in victory over larger French cavalry.

Northern France: Hundred Year's War.

Outnumbered ten to one by the French, Henry V of England, age 28, and his longbow–armed troops, prevail over the army of Charles VI.

As we say in the strategy trade, *a few longbows go a long way*.

A bit later in 1599, Shakespeare will immortalize the battle in his play Henry V (of course).

### **1420 CE: PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR**

May 21: Portugal: Prince Henry gains appointment (from his father King John I) as head of the very wealthy Order of Christ, the Portuguese successor to the Knights Templar.

The prior year, 1419, Henry had been appointed governor of the province of Algarve.



**1415 CE: BATTLE OF AGINCOURT**

**"MORNING OF THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT"**

**PAINTER: SIR JOHN GILBERT**





From these two power bases, Prince Henry would direct notable Portuguese study and advances in the inter-related fields of cartography, navigation and exploration, in particular. Prince Henry (born 1394, the third son in-line) evolves into the prime catalyst for Portuguese sea navigation up through his death (in 1460). He leaves a major historic legacy as steward of Portugal's historic explorations.

The following Portuguese captains/explorers, among others, set out under his aegis: Zarco, Perestrelo, Teixeira, Velho, Eanes, Tristão, Goncalves, Dias (Diaz), Cadamosto and da Gama.

In parallel, Prince Henry played a key role in consolidating and advancing Portuguese advanced study in all the major disciplines of the time. Eventually, in 1431, he consolidated all the various centers of study in his formidable orbit—both of the hard sciences and the soft—into the *Estudo Geral*, which eventually evolved into the University of Lisbon.

### 1421 CE: ZHENG!

Fleet Admiral Zheng He, Ming Dynasty, China:

According to the very carefully—and convincingly—presented “1421” thesis of researcher, ex-Royal Navy submariner and history writer Gavin Menzies (Harper Collins publishers, © 2002) one of Fleet Admiral Zheng's fleets [under the command of Captain Zhou Wen] reached the Americas in 1421 (beating Columbus by 71 years) and traversed the entire American East Coast (not just one Caribbean Island, as per Columbus); and one fleet [under the command of Captain Zhou Man] traversed the entire California Coast (1421–2) as part of its historic



1421 CE: ZHENG



Admiral Zheng He

circumnavigating of the entire globe (1421–3), beating Ferdinand Magellan’s almost–circumnavigation by about 100 years). Magellan was a Portuguese maritime explorer in the service of the Spanish crown.

Zheng’s multi–decked Treasure Ships had nine masts, and were roughly ten times the size of European vessels of 60–80 years later. The largest Treasure Ships were 600 feet long—or twice the length of a football field—or 6/10 the length of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s longest cruise ship, the super liner queen Mary. To put matters in–perspective, the entire 3–ship fleet of Columbus could have fit on the deck of just one of the 62 Treasure Ships in Zheng’s fleet, which pre–dated Columbus’s sojourn by half a century.

The collective voyages of Zheng are sometimes collectively referred to as “The Voyages of Eunuch Sanbao to the Western Ocean” or “The Voyages of Zheng He to the Western Ocean.”

Zheng himself, perhaps the greatest explorer of all time, lived 1371–1433 CE.

### **1429 CE: JOAN OF ARC RALLIES THE TROOPS**

Fifteenth century, France

Heroine to Roman Catholic France at age 17 (1429 CE), after she rallies French troops to lift the British siege of Orleans.

Two years later in the Hundred Years War, at age 19, she is captured in Rouen, France and burnt at the stake by her British captors. She thus enters immortality.

Her burning at the stake will not advance British fortunes, to put it mildly. Joan of Arc is later canonized, in 1920.

## Historical Images – Peru

**100 BCE**



A Nazca line artwork (The Monkey).  
[Nazca Lines are a series of ancient geoglyphs  
(carvings into the earth)  
located in the Nazca Desert of Peru.]

## Historical Images – Peru

*[continued]*

**1400 CE**



Temple of the Moon

View of Huayna Picchu towering above the ruins of Machu Picchu  
("Old Mountain")  
– situated on a mountain ridge above the Urubamba Valley in Peru.

## Historical Images – Peru

*[continued]*

**1535 CE**

**PAINTER: JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS**



Pizzaro seizing the Inca of Peru

## Historical Images – Peru

*[continued]*

**1821 CE**

**PAINTER: JUAN LEPIANI**



José de San Martín's proclamation of the independence of Peru.  
Lima, Peru. July 28, 1821



1438 CE: INCA DYNASTY





### **1438 CE: INCA DYNASTY**

Andes, Mountains, Peru, 1438 CE – 1553 CE. Its preeminent founder is Pachacutec (“earth shaker”).

Sun–worship–centered society, complete with advanced astronomically–oriented temple city on Machu Picchu mountaintop. Human sacrifice at solstice time.

The Incas were conquered by Pizarro (primarily in the 1532–1542 period, but, finally by 1572), who they misread as a potentially advancing God, after the Incas had already been weakened by smallpox (by the same advancing Portuguese) and internecine succession wars.

### **1448 CE: DRACULA**

The original, the “inspiration” for the later (1897) literary figure.

Vlad Dracula of Transylvania (present–day Romania) reigns 1448, 1452–62, and 1476, apparently exceedingly cruel even by medieval standards. He is also known as Vlad the Impaler. (You don’t want to know.)



### **1449 CE: THE MEDICI**

Fifteenth century zenith, Italy.

Standard–bearer Lorenzo the Magnificent (1449 CE – 1492 CE) leader of Florence during the Golden Age of the Renaissance (midway through the Medici family 400 year TimeLine).

The Medici family was a fabulously wealthy and formidably





**1449 CE: THE MEDICI**

**PAINTER: DOMENICO GHIRLANDAIO**



**LORENZO DE'MEDICI (dark hair) between ANTONIO PUCCI and FRANCESCO SASSETTI, with GIULIO DE'MEDICI**

powerful Florentine political family group from the thirteenth to the seventeenth century. The Medici produced three popes (Leo X, Clement VII, and Leo XI) and several rulers of Europe, including Catherine de Medici (1519–1605) Queen of France, and Marie de Medici (1573–1642) Queen and Regent of France. The family heavily financed the Arts, and played an important and historic role in the beginning of the Italian Renaissance. It intermittently ferociously tangled with the Vatican, as well (when it wasn't controlling it, of course).

**1452 CE: LEONARDO DA VINCI BORN**

Italy, 1452 CE – 1519 CE. One of history's most extraordinary artists

**1453 CE: SACK OF CONSTANTINOPLE**

—by the Turks; Christian refugees are welcomed into Florence bring their libraries, including ancient copies of the Greek Septuagint, with them; this encourages the revival of “New Learning” throughout western Europe and will make possible Erasmus's ground breaking work on the Greek New Testament (the basis of the Textus Receptus).

**1453 CE: END OF HUNDRED YEARS WAR BETWEEN ENGLAND AND FRANCE**

**1455 CE: GUTENBERG BIBLE PRINTED**

—by Johann Gutenberg

Mainz, Germany: The printing—employing a movable type printing press—of an edition of the Vulgate (the early fifth century Latin version of the Torah and the New Testament)



**1452 CE: LEONARDO DA VINCI BORN**

entirely by LEONARDO DA VINCI

- ***The Last Supper*** (1498)  
Convent of Sta. Maria delle Grazie, Milan, Italy
- ***Mona Lisa* or *La Gioconda*** (1503–1505/1507)  
Louvre, Paris, France
- ***Adoration of the Magi*** unfinished painting (1481)  
Uffizi, Florence, Italy
- ***The Virgin and Child with St. Anne*** (c. 1510)  
Louvre, Paris, France
- ***Virgin of the Rocks***, Louvre, Paris,  
considered by most historians to be the earlier of two versions  
and to therefore date from 1483–1486.
- ***The Virgin and Child with St. Anne and St. John the Baptist***  
large drawing (c. 1499–1500)  
National Gallery, London, UK.
- ***St. Jerome in the Wilderness***, (c.1480),  
Vatican, unfinished painting.

by the goldsmith Gutenberg, is heralded as the start of the Gutenberg Revolution (in the West).

The first known movable type was actually invented (as noted in other entries in this work) in China by Bi Sheng out of **ceramic** circa 1041–1048 CE. **Metal** movable type was first invented in Korea during the Goryeo Dynasty (c. 1230 CE). Gutenberg’s movable type was created from an alloy of **lead, tin and alimony**—the same components still used today in this genre production.

### **1455 CE: WAR OF ROSES**

—begins in England

### **1473 CE: COPERNICUS BORN**

### **1475 CE: BLOOD LIBEL: SIMON OF TRENT**

Simon of Trent, at two, disappears, and his father alleges that he had been kidnapped and murdered by the local Jewish community. Fifteen local Jews were sentenced to death and burned. Simon was regarded as a saint, and was canonized by Pope Sixtus V in 1588. His status as a saint was removed in 1965 by Pope Paul VI, though his murder is still promoted as a fact by a handful of extremists.

### **1481 CE: THE SPANISH INQUISITION**

Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile, the rulers of Spain, declare the Spanish Inquisition.

All the Jews in their territory were compelled to convert to Christianity or flee the country. While some converted, many others left for Morocco and North Africa. Confessions were “extracted. Estimates are that between four and eight thousand secret Jews (Marranos)—or

1475 CE: BLOOD LIBEL: SIMON OF TRENT



15th century woodcut fraudulently showing Jews (allegedly) murdering the child Simon of Trent.  
In Hartmann Schedel, Nuremberg Chronicle or Buch der Chroniken.

perceived secret Jews—were burnt alive.

Torquemada was the notorious Chief Inquisitor of the Church. His name justifiably becomes synonymous with *evil incarnate*. [Note that the crimes of the Inquisition (and they were many), affected Moors and Muslims, as well].



### **1481 CE: BAYEZID II**

Wikipedia –

“Bayezid II (nick–named Hüdavendigâr – from Persian: Khodāvandgār – “the God–like One”) (3 December 1447/1448 – May 26, 1512) (Ottoman Turkish: Bāyezīd-i s̄ānī, Turkish: II.Bayezid or II.Beyazıt) was the oldest son and successor of Mehmed II, ruling as Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1481 to 1512. During his reign, Bayezid II consolidated the Ottoman Empire and thwarted a Safavid rebellion soon before abdicating his throne to his son, Selim I.

### **Jewish emigration**

Bayezid II also sent out the Ottoman navy under the command of Kemal Reis to Spain in 1492 in order to save the Arabs and Sephardic Jews who were expelled by the Spanish Inquisition. He sent out proclamations throughout the empire that the refugees were to be welcomed. He granted the refugees the permission to settle in the Ottoman Empire and become Ottoman citizens. He ridiculed the conduct of Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile in expelling a class of people so useful to their subjects. “You venture to call Ferdinand a wise ruler,” he said to his courtiers — “he who has impoverished his own country and enriched mine!”

Spanish refugees, but to give them a friendly and welcome reception. He threatened with death all those who treated the Jews harshly or refused them admission into the



## Historical Images – Korea

**1392 CE**



The Gyeongbokgung Palace  
– a royal palace located in northern Seoul, South Korea



## Historical Images – Korea

[continued]

**c. 1392 CE**



Impression of the Korean *Joseon Tongsin* mission in Japan  
– attributed to Kanō school artist, c. 1655.

**1392 CE**



One of the earliest photographs depicting Koreans



**1481 CE: BAYEZID II**



Bayezid II

empire. Moses Capsali, who probably helped to arouse the Bajazet addressed a firman to all the governors of his European provinces, ordering them not only to refrain from repelling the sultan's friendship for the Jews, was most energetic in his assistance to the exiles. He made a tour of the communities, and was instrumental in imposing a tax upon the rich, to ransom the Jewish victims of the persecutions then prevalent.

The Arabs and Jews of Spain contributed much to the rising power of the Ottoman Empire by introducing new ideas, methods and craftsmanship. The first Gutenberg press in Istanbul (formerly Constantinople) was established by the Sephardic Jews in 1493 (as early as 1483 there had been a Jewish printing establishment in Istanbul).

It is reported that under Bajazet's reign, Jews enjoyed a period of and cultural flourishing, with the presence of such scholars as Mordecai Comtino; Solomon ben Elijah Sharbit ha-Zahab; Shabbethai ben Malkiel Cohen, and Menahem Tamar.”

*Wikipedia Online*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayezid\\_II#cite\\_note-2](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bayezid_II#cite_note-2) (accessed July 21, 2009)

Egger, Vernon O. (2008). *A History of the Muslim World Since 1260: The Making of a Global Community*. Prentice Hall. p. 82.

### **1484 CE: KING ARTHUR LEGENDS**

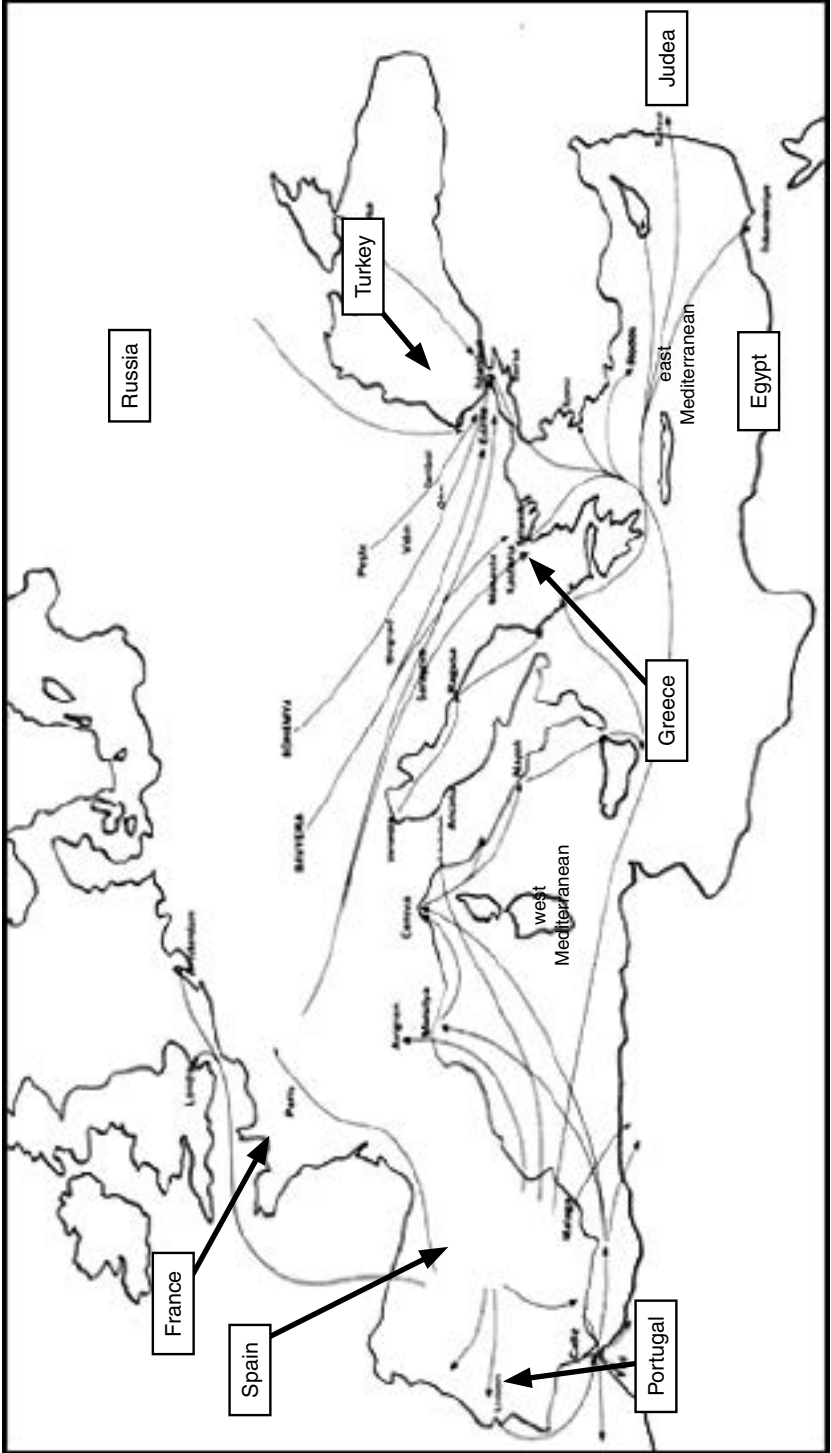
Caxton prints *Morte D'Arthur*, the poetic collection of legends about King Arthur compiled by Sir Thomas Malory.

### **1485 CE: COMMENCEMENT: TUDOR DYNASTY**

Henry VII crowned first king of 117-year Tudor dynasty.

1481 CE: BAYEZID II

Jewish emigration routes  
15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries



**1486 CE: SONCINO**

Legendary Italian *siddur* (Prayer Book) printed by Soncino. But *siddurs* certainly existed in handwritten versions for perhaps 1,500 years prior.

**1488 CE: GUIDE TO JEWISH LAW**

Rabbi Yosef Karo spends 20 years compiling the Beit Yosef, an enormous guide to Jewish law. He then writes a more concise guide, the Shulkhan Arukh, that becomes the standard law guide for the next 400 years. Born in Spain, Yosef Karo lives and dies in Safed.

**1488 CE: OBADIAH BEN ABRAHAM**

–Commentator on the Mishnah, arrives in Jerusalem and marks a new epoch for the Jewish community.

**1489 CE: PLUS & MINUS**

Symbols + [plus] and – [minus] come into use

**1490 CE: BLOOD LIBEL: CHRISTOPHER OF TOLEDO**

Christopher of Toledo, also known as Christopher of La Guardia or “the Holy Child of La Guardia,” was a four-year-old Christian boy supposedly murdered by two Jews and three Conversos (converts to Christianity). In total, eight men were executed. It is now believed that this case was constructed by the Spanish Inquisition to facilitate the expulsion of Jews from Spain. He was canonized by Pope Pius VII in 1805. Christopher has since been removed from the canon, though once again, a handful of individuals still claim the validity of this case.



**Historical Images – Aztec**

**c. 1427 CE**



Aztec "Sun Stone" sculpture

## Historical Images – Aztec

[continued]

1428 CE



Map showing the white area covering Aztec empire



## Historical Images – Aztec

*[continued]*

**c. 1427 CE**



**1487 CE**



Human sacrifice as shown in the Codex Magliabechiano

## Historical Images – Aztec

*[continued]*

**1535 CE**



The coat of Arms of Mexico, from Aztec mythology

**c. 1550 CE**



Jaguar warrior, from the Codex Magliabechiano.

(Codex Magliabechiano is primarily a religious document, depicting the 20 day-names of the tonalpohualli (count of days), the 18 monthly feasts, the 52-year cycle, various deities, indigenous religious rites, costumes, and cosmological beliefs.)

## Historical Images – Aztec

*[continued]*

**c. 1550 CE**

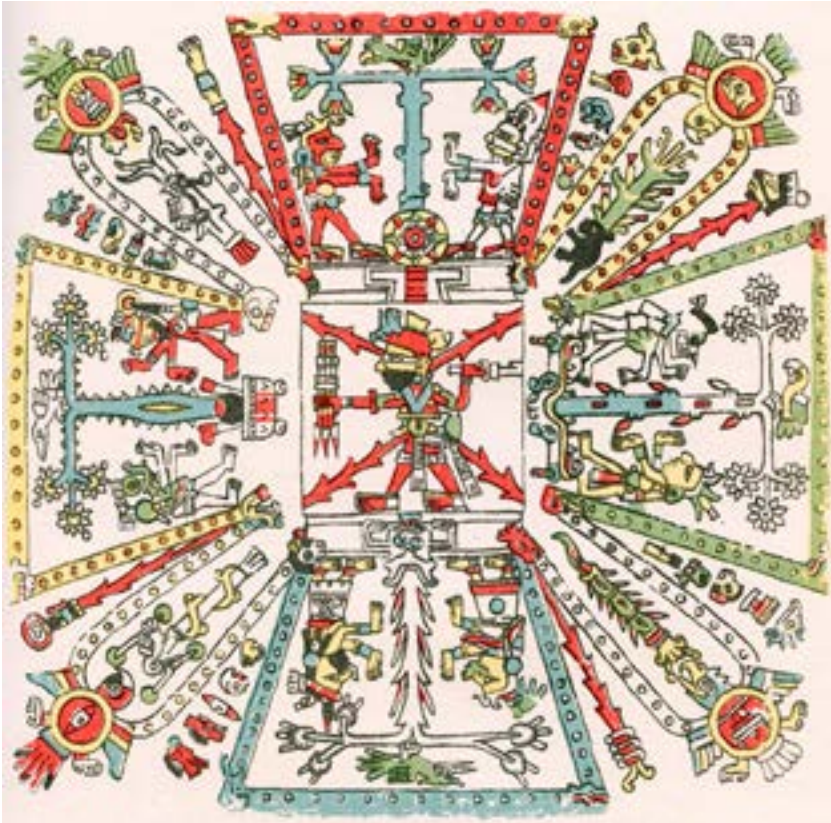


The Aztec goddess of Coatlicue, “Mother of Earth.”  
National Museum of Anthropology.

## Historical Images – Aztec

[continued]

c. 1780 CE



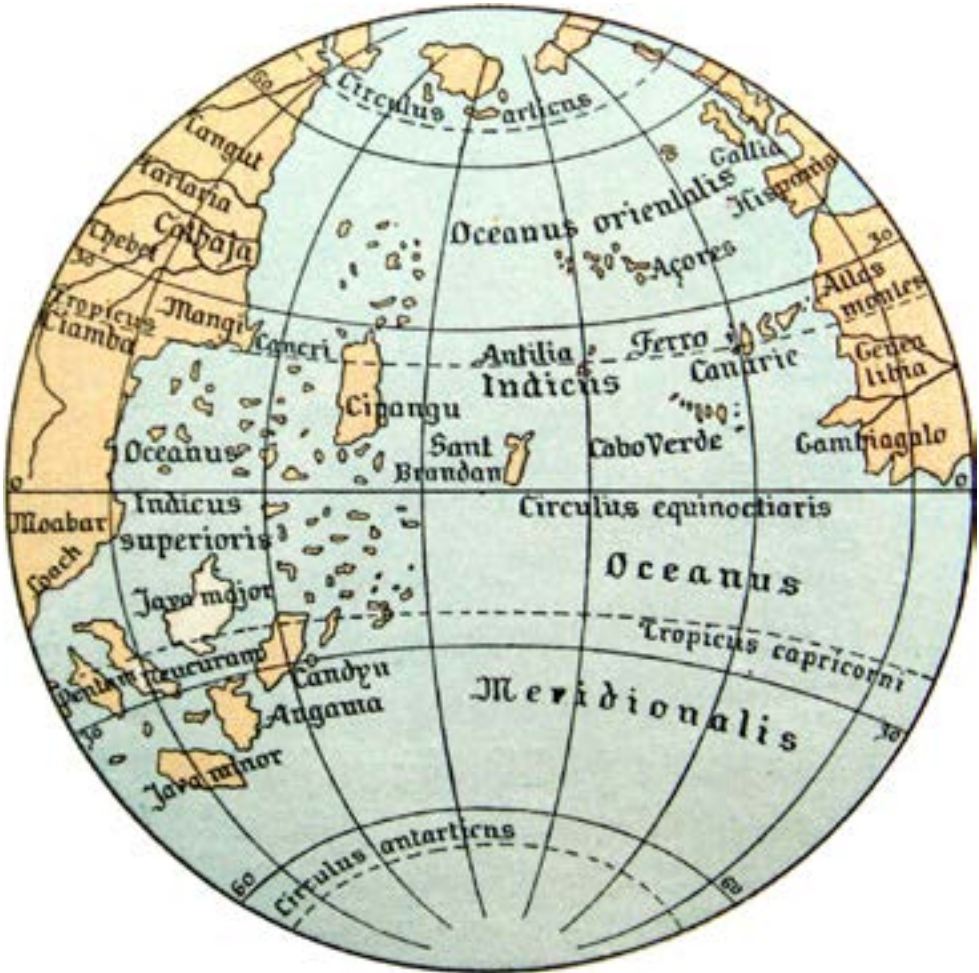
Aztec cosmogram in the pre-Hispanic Codex Fejérváry-Mayer (one of the rare pre-Hispanic manuscripts that have survived the Spanish conquest of Mexico)

– the fire god Xiuhtecuhtli is in the center.

(Xiuhtecuhtli was the god of fire, day and heat.)



1492 CE: GLOBE



Reproduction of the globe of Martin Behaim

**1492 CE: GRANADA: HISTORICAL PIVOT POINT**

Spanish forces conquer city of Granada, expelling Islamic Moors from Iberian peninsula.

**1492 CE: COLUMBUS “DISCOVERS” AMERICA**

Christopher Columbus, with three ships and 78 men set sail on September 6 after first attempt aborted; arrives in the Bahamas, thinking he has reached the East Indies. He introduces Europeans to the pineapple, parrots, Indians, peppers, allspice, maize, and sweet potatoes.

**1492 CE: GLOBE**

Nuremberg geographer Behaim constructs first terrestrial globe.

**1492 CE: INFAMOUS EXPULSION: ALHAMBRA**

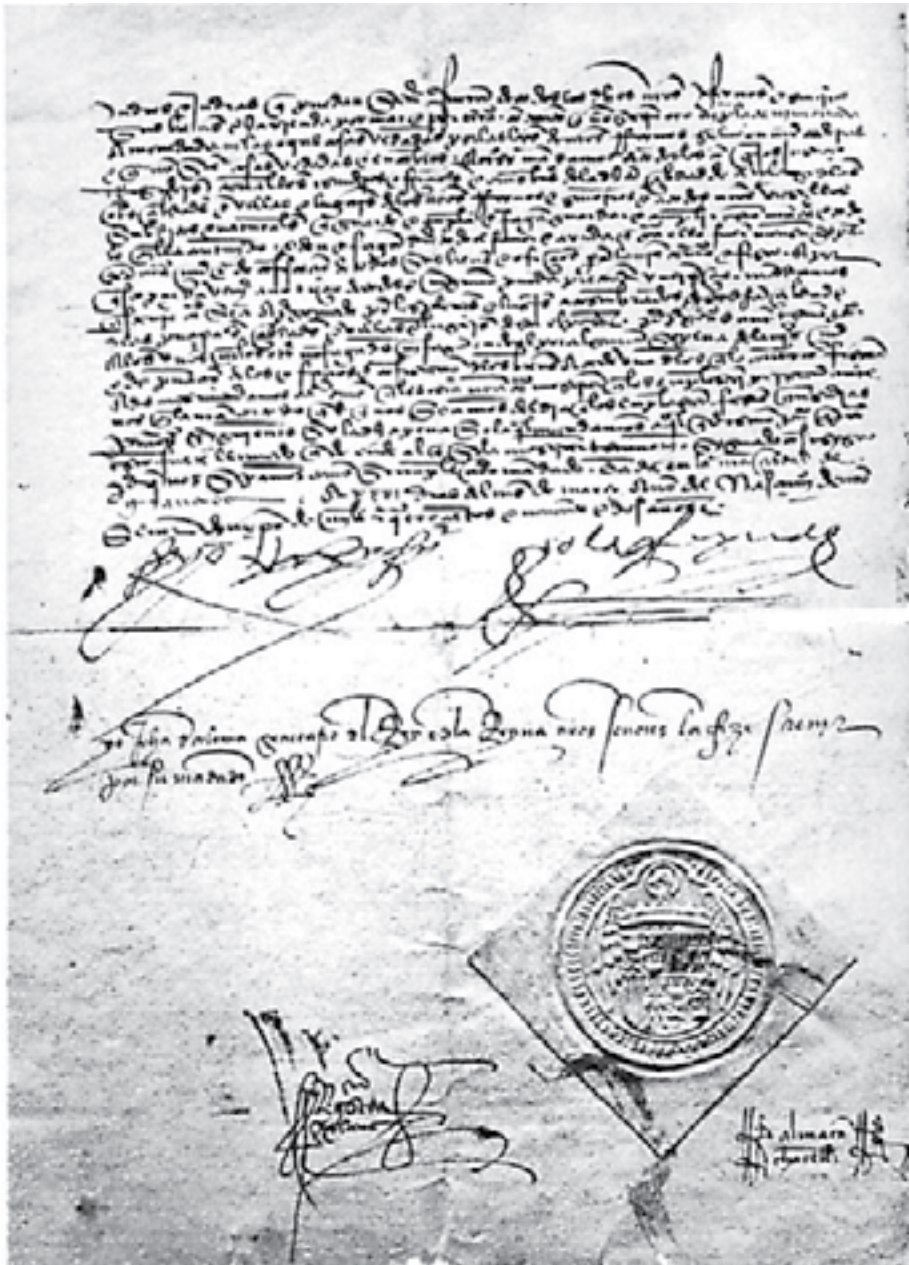
Jews driven from Spain; the infamous “Alhambra Decree”

Regents Ferdinand and Isabelle are the perpetrators. Some Jews accept the Cross, while well over 100,000 (possibly up to 200,000) leave.

This is 11 years into Spanish Inquisition (see above) which was primarily focused on Marranos—Jews who secretly practiced their faith while posturing as Christians.

1492 is the same year as the voyage of Columbus, hence the suspicion that not only part of his crew and/or his translators, but Columbus, as well, may have been Jewish, especially since he apparently used Hebrew serifs (fancy letter heads) in his penmanship. (Maybe .0001 percent of even the Jewish population knows Hebrew serifs, but

1492 CE: ALHAMBRA



“Alhambra Decree”



possibly a Jewish relative or friend of Columbus was a scribe.)

In any event, the Spanish (then Portuguese) expulsions changed the contours of Jewish demography, flinging the elite Iberian Peninsula Jewish community, across the far-reaches of the Mediterranean, the Middle East, Northern Europe, India, and the New World.

For those families who settle in Arab lands in the 1500s, the establishment of the State Israel 450 years later in 1948 will be another mega-earthquake rocking the *status quo* yet once again for them.

Underground or overground, the former Iberian Peninsula Jews will tenaciously hold onto their distinctive and rich *Sephardic* traditions.

\*\*\*

*JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION*

\*

end of  
*Jews, Church & Civilization*  
Volume III

\*

*continued*  
in Volume IV

*JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION*

*Two 13th-Century Documents*

## JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

reference: **THE CHURCH ATTACK ON THE TALMUD**

### POPE GREGORY IX

Letter to the Archbishops of France, 1239 CE

*“In these letters, he [Gregory] delineates the new allegations. The Jewish dependence upon the Talmud, according to Gregory, is in itself an affront to the sanctity of the Bible. In addition, the specific contents of the Talmud are problematic. This lengthy work is filled with “matter so abusive and so unspeakable that it arouses shame in those who mention it and horror in those who hear it.” The pope calls for action on a number of fronts. He orders the archbishops of western Christendom to have the books of the Jews seized, invoking if necessary the aid of the temporal authorities. He also addresses the kings of western Christendom with the same request, and orders them, like the archbishops, to turn the sequestered volumes over to the Dominicans and Franciscans. Finally, the Dominicans and Franciscans of Paris are charged with responsibility for investigating the volumes which have been turned over to them and for carrying out the necessary punishment—burning.’*

#### *Papal Letter*

**TO THE ARCHBISHOPS** of France:

If what is said about the Jews of France and of the other lands is true, no punishment would be sufficiently great or sufficiently worthy of their crime. For they, so we have heard, are not content with the old law which God set forth in writing through Moses; they even ignore it completely and affirm that God set forth another law which is called ‘Talmud,’ that is ‘Teaching,’ handed down to Moses orally. Falsely they allege that

it was implanted within their minds and, unwritten, was there preserved until certain men came, whom they call 'Sages' and 'Scribes.'

Fearing that this law might be lost from the minds of men through forgetfulness, they reduced it to writing, and the volume of this by far exceeds the text of the Bible. In this is contained matter so abusive and so unspeakable that it arouses shame in those who mention it and horror in those who hear it.

Wherefore, since this is said to be the chief cause that holds the Jews obstinate in their, we have had you warned and urged and herewith order you by apostolic letters that on the first Saturday of the Lent to come, in the morning, while the Jews are gathered in the synagogues, you shall, by our authority, have all the books of the Jews who live in your districts seized and carefully guarded in the possession of the Dominican and Franciscan friars. For this purpose you may invoke, if need be, the help of the secular arm. You may also promulgate the sentence of excommunication against all those subject to your jurisdiction, whether clergy or laity, who refuse to give-up Hebrew books which they have in their possession, despite your warning given generally in the churches and individually.

– *Given at the Lateran, on the ninth of June, in the thirteenth year [1239].*”

\*



## JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION

reference: CHURCH PRESSURE / Jewish “badge”

### POPE ALEXANDER IV

Letter to the Duke of Burgundy, 1257

*“During the first half of the thirteenth century, a series of new ecclesiastical demands concerning the Jews appeared in western Christendom. In the accompanying letter, Pope Alexander IV urges the duke of Burgundy to enforce these new regulations in his domains. Jews are not to hold public office; they are to wear special [inferior] clothing by means of which they may be readily identified [as well, they must wear a “badge” to ‘distinguish themselves’ from Christians.]; the Talmud, which by this time was condemned, should be confiscated. Once more we see the ruling class under pressure to execute the programs of the Church.’*

#### *Papal Letter*

**TO THE NOBLE DUKE** of Burgundy:

In the sacred general assembly, through careful deliberations, it was decreed that the Jews be distinguished from Christians by the quality of their garb, lest those of the former might be damnably confused with those of the latter. In the same council it was also decreed that Jews not be preferred for public office, since under such pretext they are often dangerous to Christians. However, as we understand, the Jews of your land do not observe this edict, as a result of which an excess of damnable confusion can be presumed under the guise of error. Also the same Jews are preferred for offices contrary to that edict. Since it is fitting that you provide properly for these matters, we request and exhort

your nobility, through apostolic writs addressed to you, ordering that, since power has been transmitted to you by God, you compel the aforesaid Jews to wear a badge by means of which they can be distinguished from Christians by the quality of their garb and that they not be preferred for the aforesaid offices. Moreover, you must cause those books which are popularly called Talmud, in which are contained errors against the Catholic faith and horrible and intolerable blasphemies against our Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Virgin Mary, His mother, to be surrendered by all the Jews of the aforesaid land. Your sincerity should provide in these matters in such a way that the mercy of the eternal King manifest for you that which it bestows for pious acts and that we extend for this full appreciation to your devotions.

– *Given at Viterbo, September 3, in the fourth year of our pontificate [1257].*”

\*

*JEWS, CHURCH & CIVILIZATION*

## Abuse of Trust

In all the annals of recorded history, there is no parallel for the magnitude and diabolical nature of the *abuse of trust* by the Church hierarchy of its trusting faithful.

Motivated by a twisted conceit and a self-righteous arrogance that the entire Europe was at the service of its personal power prerogatives, the Church hierarchy callously manipulated an entire continent for centuries.



\*

end

\*

## Acknowledgments

Sincere appreciation to the following authors and publishers:

Eli Barnavi

*Historical Atlas of the Jewish People*

New York: Schocken Books, 1992

James Carroll

*Constantine's Sword*

New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2001

Robert Chazan

*Church, State and Jew in the Middle Age*

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John Gager

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Shmuel Golding

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[http://www.christianity-revealed.com/cr/files/antisemitisminthetestament\\_1.html](http://www.christianity-revealed.com/cr/files/antisemitisminthetestament_1.html)

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**Is The U.S. Mideast Policy Fumbling?**

Page 4

**Reports Of Cons. Judaism's Demise Premature**

Page 6

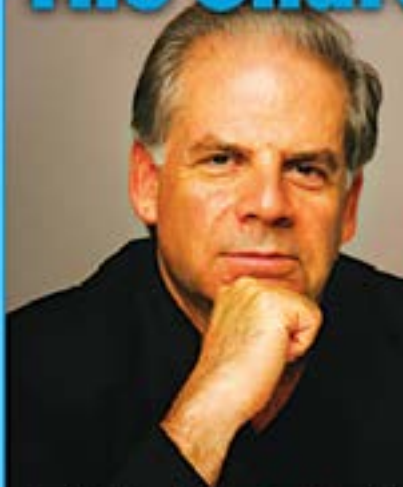


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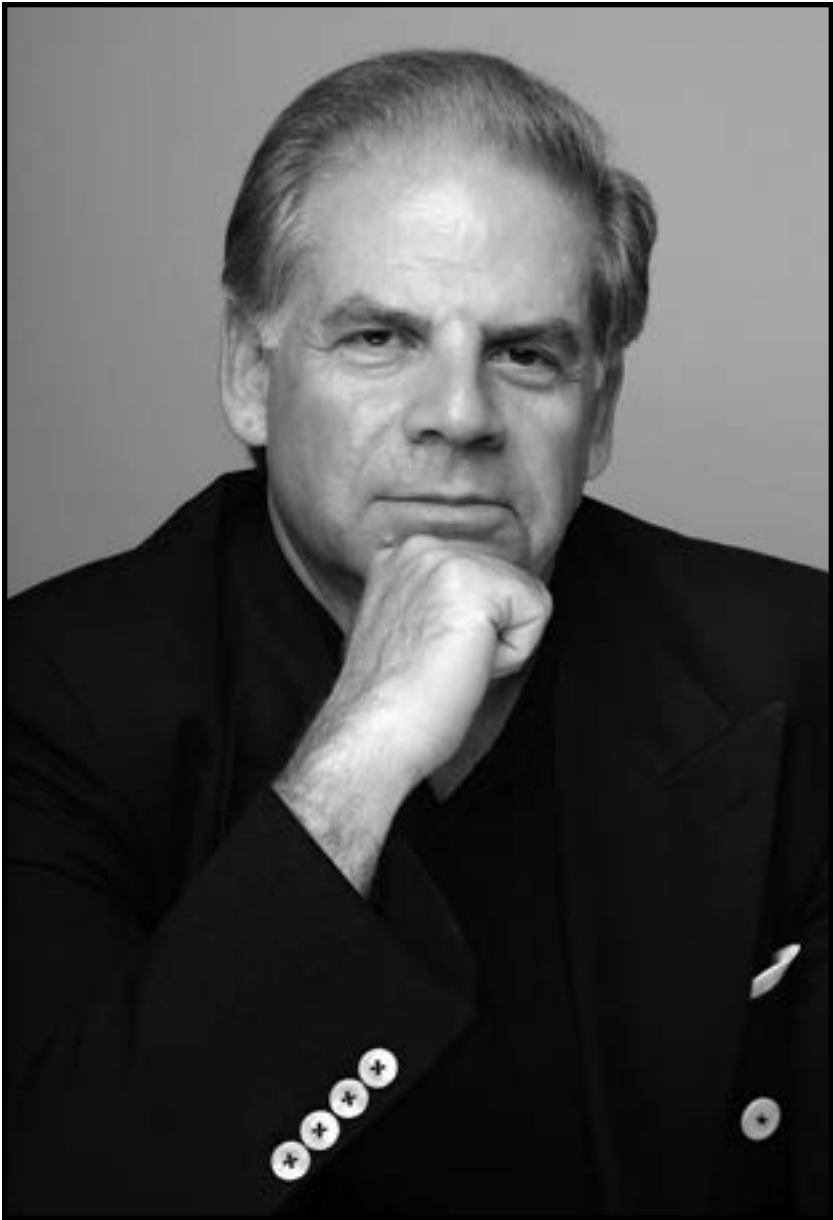
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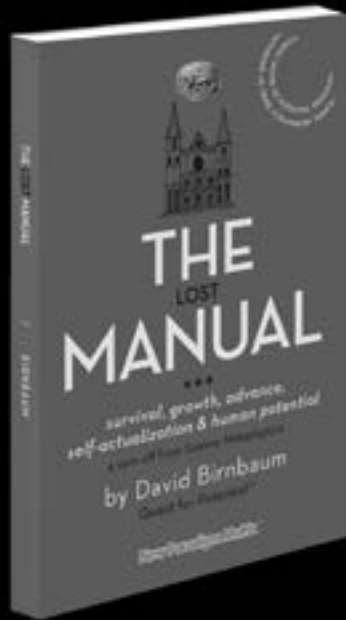
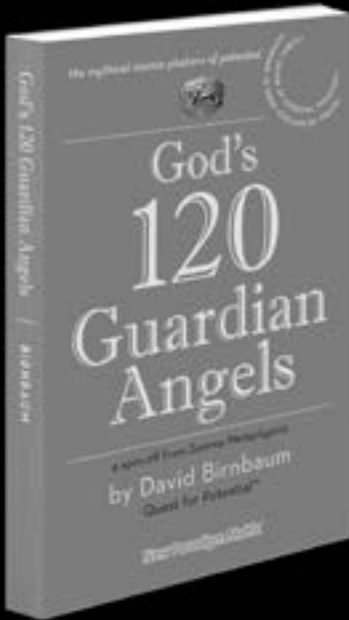
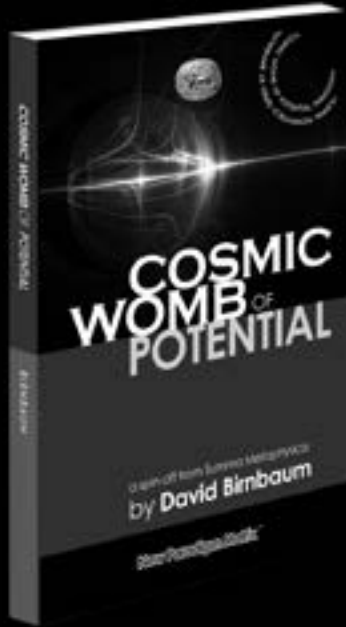
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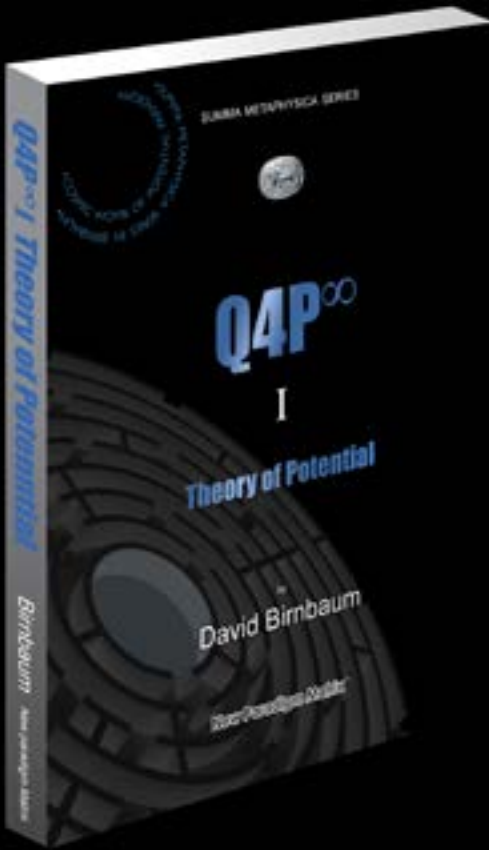


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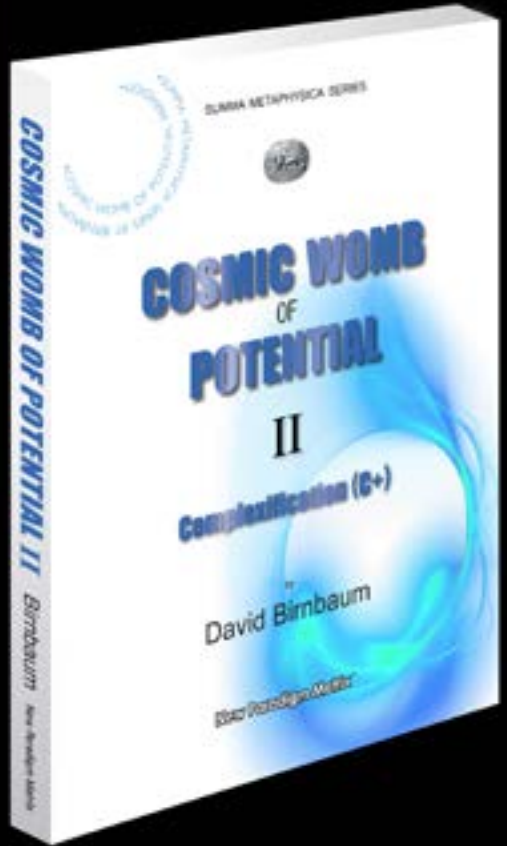
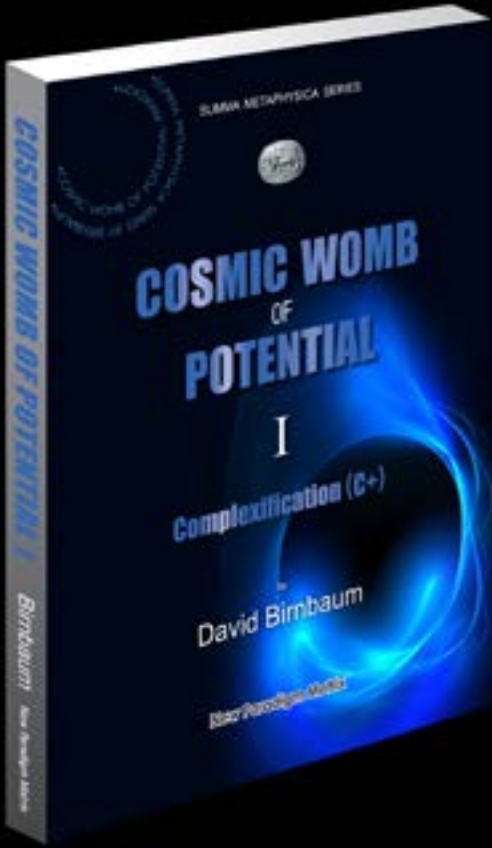
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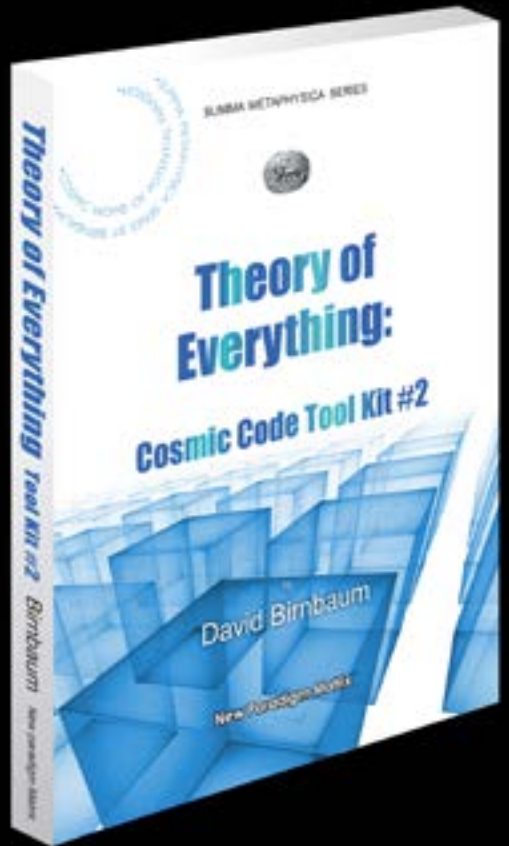
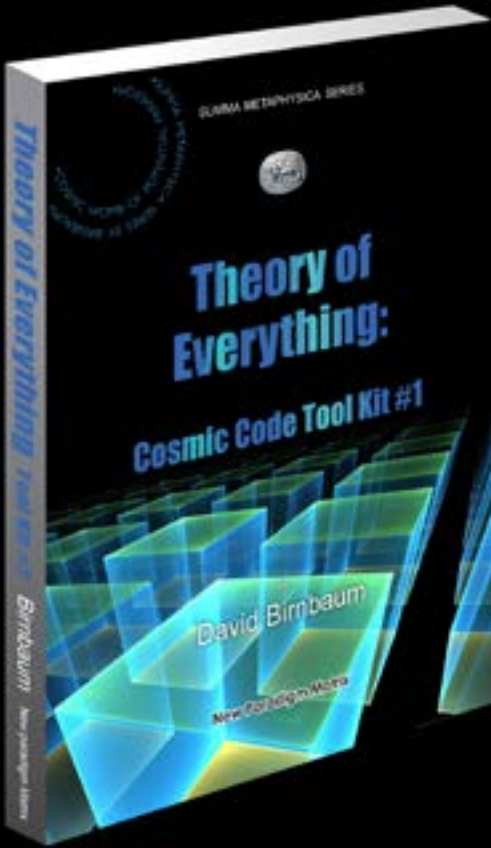


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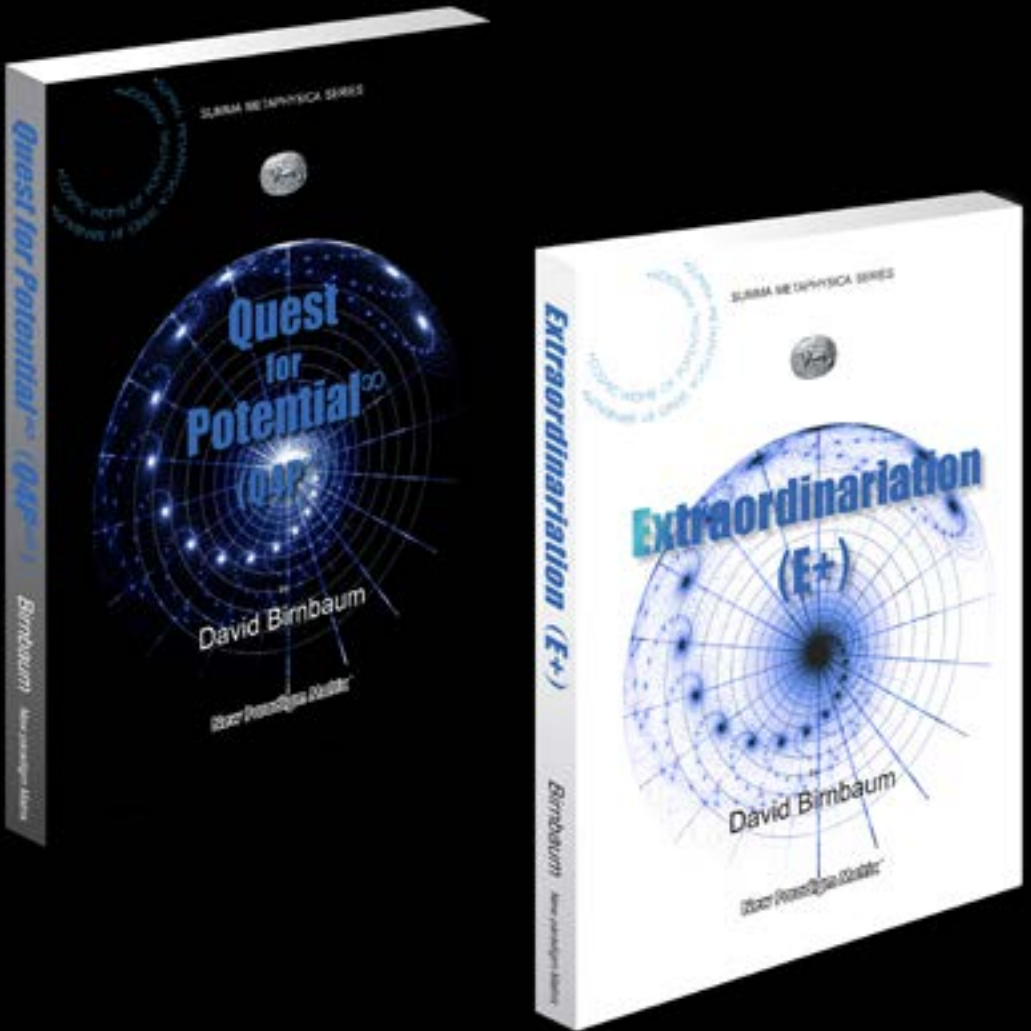


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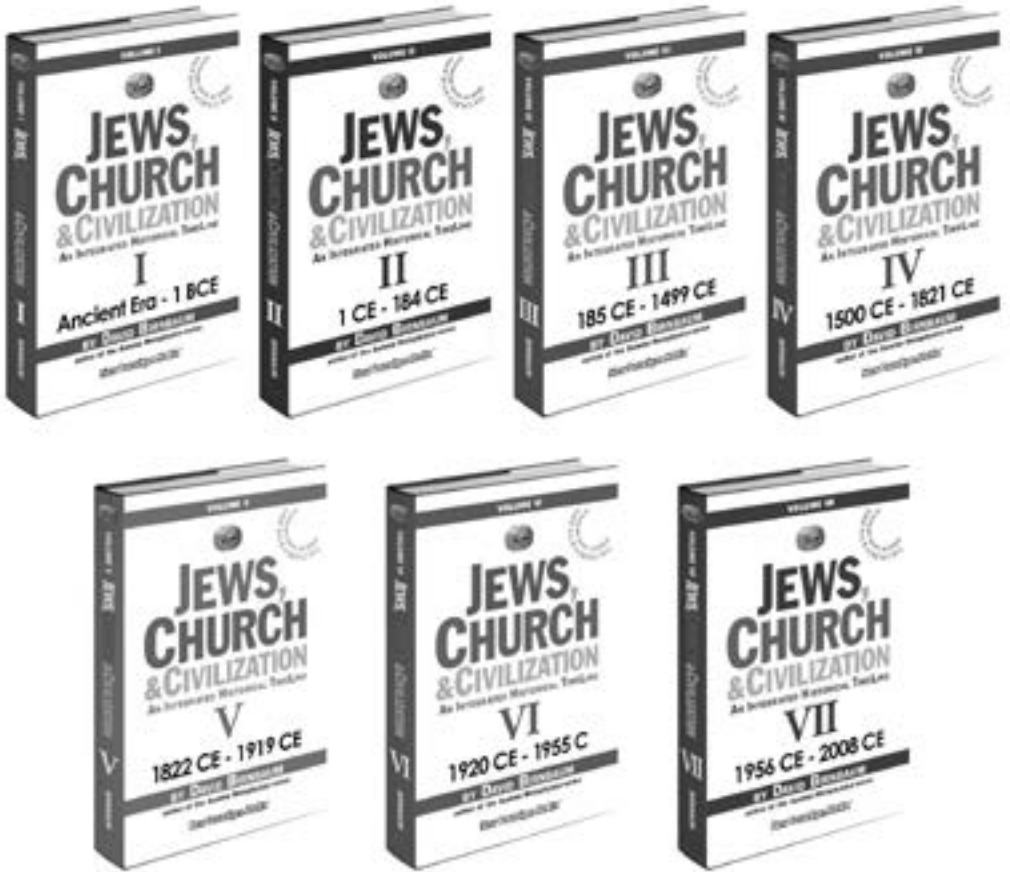
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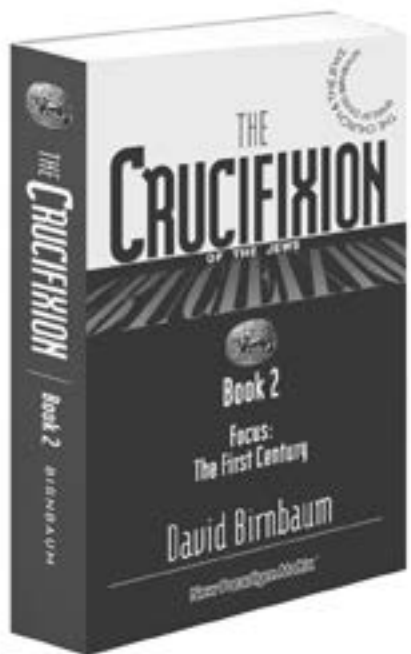
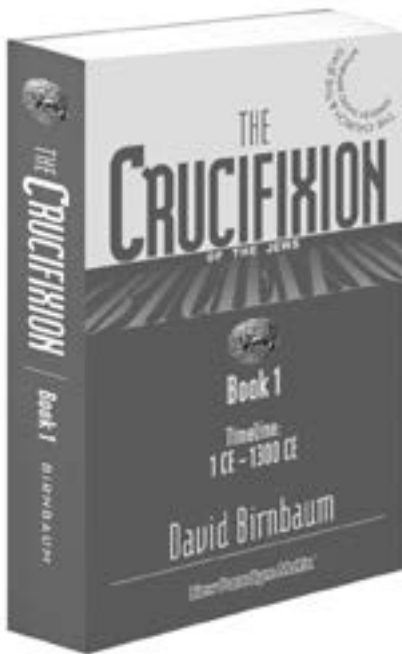
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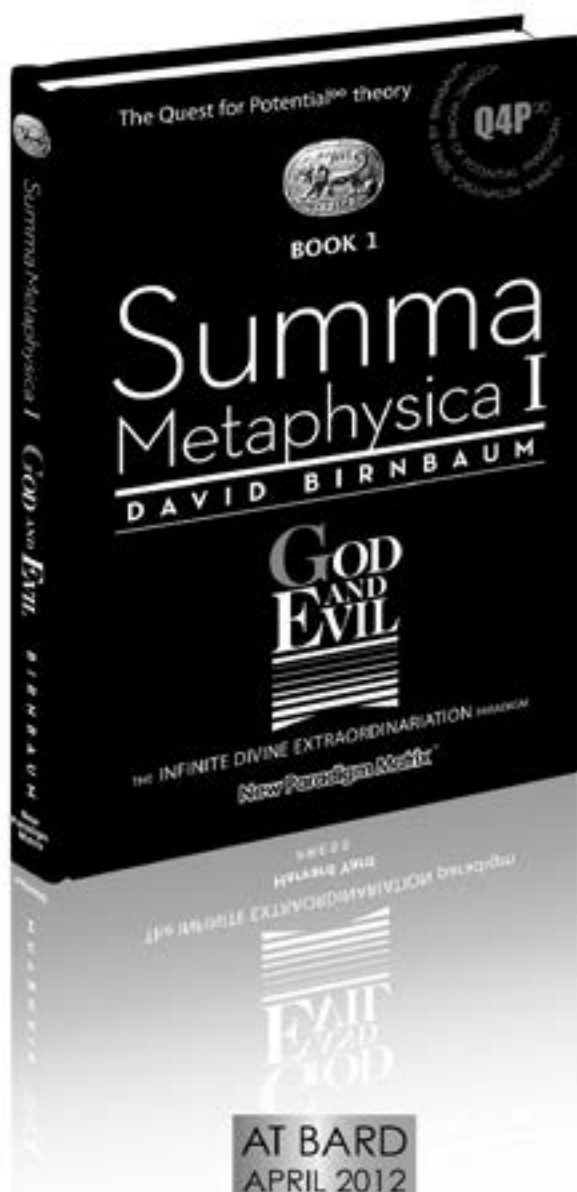
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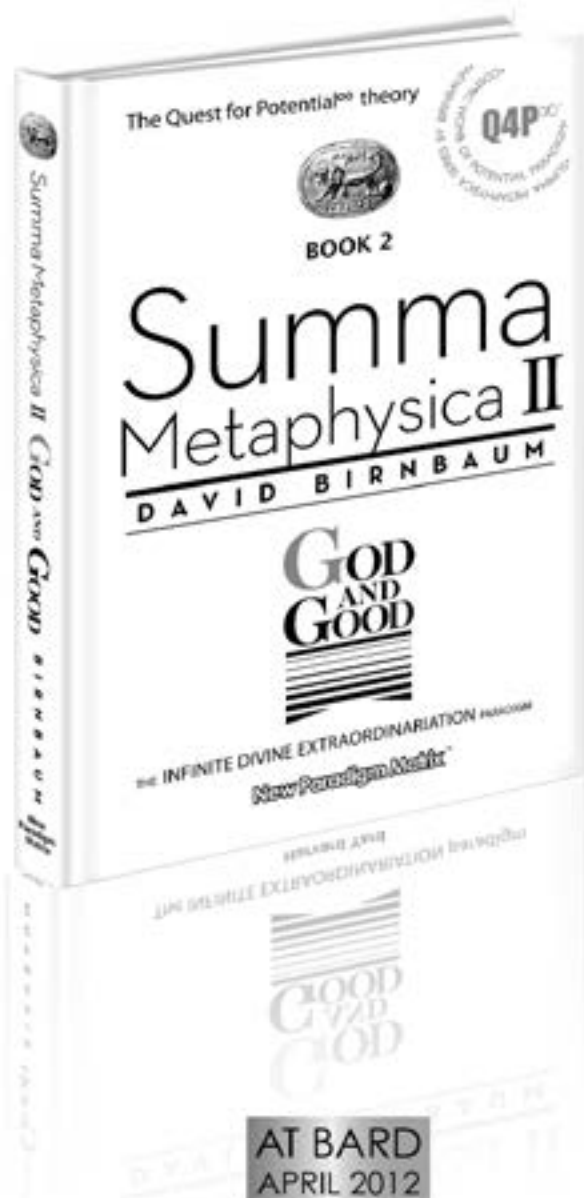
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Reflections flowing

from David Birnbaum's *Summa Metaphysica*

Discussion of the relationship between science and religion has typically proceeded on the basis of a scientific analysis of religion or a religious evaluation of science. Predictably, the cognitive lens of assessment has determined that the result will be either predominantly scientific or predominantly religious.

Since the nineteenth century the study of Metaphysics has usually been pursued within the history of philosophy. Advances in several disciplines, scientific and literary, as well as historical and philosophical, appeared to preclude understanding Metaphysics as an analytic discipline.

Yet as the twentieth century progressed, science offered the uncertainty principle, literature discovered hermeneutics that explained how one horizon or discourse may merge into another, history changed its key from the study of atomistic data to the unfolding of meaning, and philosophy challenged empirical constructions of reality. Works by David Birnbaum,

AT BARD  
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chiefly his two volumes entitled *Summa Metaphysica* (1989 and 2008), suggest that Metaphysics may emerge as a critical field once again.

The presentations at the conference are open, and members of the community at Bard College are warmly invited. We are especially pleased to announce that David Birnbaum will be present during discussion.

**Bruce Chilton**

Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion

**Garry Hagberg**

James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of  
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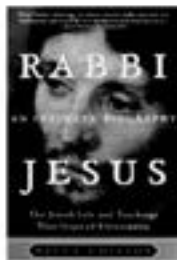
**Bruce Chilton**

Chairman

Bruce Chilton is a scholar of early Christianity and Judaism, now Bernard Iddings Bell Professor of Religion at Bard College, and formerly Lillian Claus Professor of New Testament at Yale University. He holds a degree in New Testament from Cambridge University (St. John's College). He has previously held academic positions at the Universities of Cambridge, Sheffield, and Münster.

He wrote the first critical commentary on the Aramaic version of Isaiah (The Isaiah Targum, 1987), as well as academic studies that analyze Jesus in his Judaic context (A Galilean Rabbi and His Bible, 1984; The Temple of Jesus, 1992; Pure Kingdom, 1996), and explain the Bible critically (Redeeming Time: The Wisdom of Ancient Jewish and Christian Festal Calendars, 2002; The Cambridge Companion to the Bible, 2007).

He founded two academic periodicals, *Journal for the Study of the New Testament* and *The Bulletin for Biblical Research*. He has also been active in the ministry of the Anglican Church, and is Rector of the Church of St. John the Evangelist in Barrytown, New York.



His popular books have been widely reviewed. *Rabbi Jesus: An Intimate Biography* showed Jesus' development through the environments that proved formative influences on him. Those environments, illuminated by archaeology and by historical sources, include: (1) rural Jewish Galilee, (2) the movement of John the Baptist, (3) the towns Jesus encountered as a rabbi, (4) the political strategy of Herod Antipas, and (5) deep controversy concerning the Temple in Jerusalem.



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God & Evil

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**Prospects For  
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Pages 4, 5

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Left: David Birnbaum with Marfan's cover with his two-volume set. The cover published God and Good (left) and God and All (right). Book cover published in 1998.  
Right: Birnbaum on stage, reading to students at the City University of New York in 1994. In the background, Yitzhak Rabin, a military and political leader.

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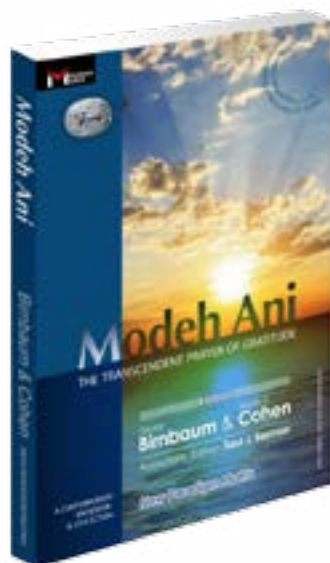
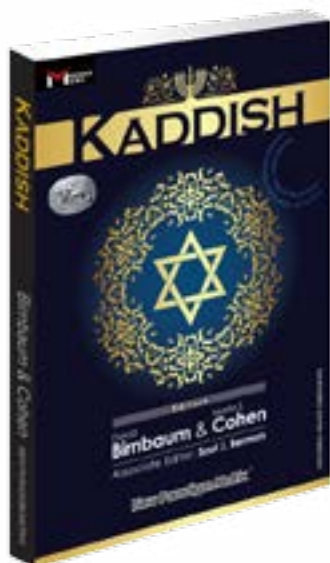
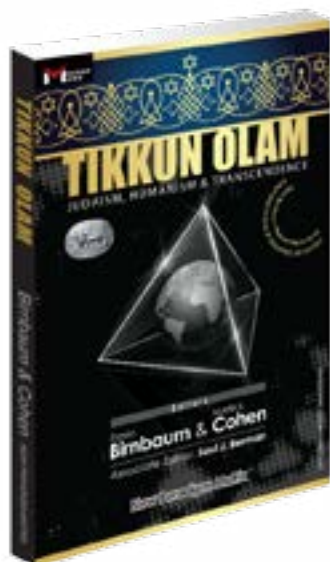
**u-vacharta ba-chayim** (The 613<sup>th</sup> precept-Choose Life)

**Eheyeh asher Eheyeh** ("I Will Be That Which I Will Be" – at the Burning Bush)

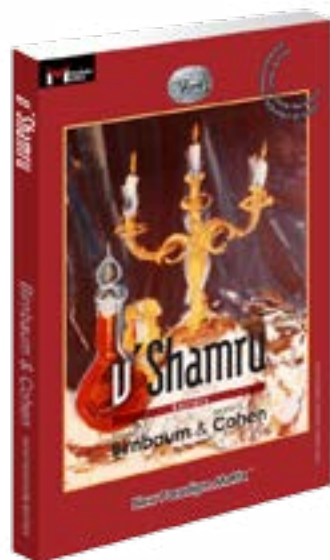
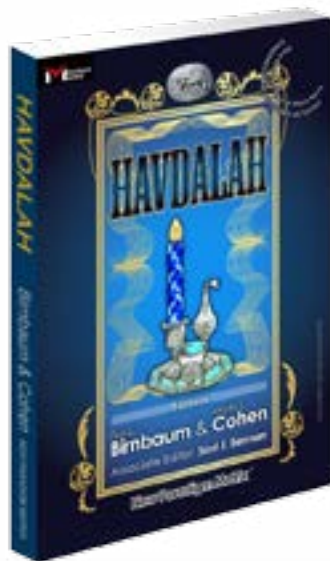
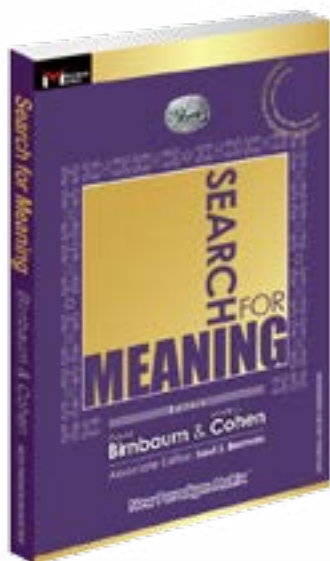
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As well, the platform has other contemporary offerings including Birnbaum’s Manhattan Observer column [see [www.Observer1000.com](http://www.Observer1000.com)]

New Paradigm Matrix endeavors to publish works, which are vibrant and cutting-edge, if not paradigm changers.

David Birnbaum, a graduate of Harvard University, is editor-in-chief of New Paradigm Matrix – as well as the author of several of the works. In addition he is co-editor of the works in the Masorah Matrix division series.

\*

Birnbaum’s iconic work *God and Evil* – which introduced his new paradigm Quest for Potential<sup>∞</sup> hypothesis, was originally published by KTAV (Jersey City, NJ) in 1988. Four subsequent printings followed in the 1989-2000 period. KTAV still offers the work in its catalogue.

New Paradigm Matrix offers the work as Volume I of 3-volume *Summa Metaphysica*.





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