

A TISHAH B'AV CHRONICLE

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Tishah B'Av, one of only two full fasts in Judaism, commemorates many tragedies that befell our people. As such, it may be rightly considered as the Memorial Day of the Jewish People. The following is a listing of major events which fell directly on Tishah B'Av or on a date very close to Tishah B'Av. Others still were events that occurred over time and became linked to Tishah B'Av, as the day to remember the hate directed at us and the suffering we endured. While not all of these events have been honored in our Tishah B'Av liturgy, all of these were events that affected our people's *n'shamah*, our psyche. And, because we live in a world where hate is still a strong force, it is important for us to remember history, be today's witnesses, and draw appropriate lessons so that we can forge a world together, one with no room for hate of any kind.

[**NOTE:** This document could be used for study, reflection, or for public reading on Tishah B'Av. One idea would be to have people stationed at various points in the semi-darkened room who alternate reading the entries, to give a sense of the randomness, omnipresence, and arbitrariness of hate through history.]

1200 BCE	G!d decreed that the Israelites wander for 40 years for heeding the 10 scouts' negative report of the Promised Land, one year for each day the scouts were in Canaan, contending that this day--Tishah B'av--will be forever a day of disaster for our people.
722	The Assyrians captured the northern realm, Israel, wherein ten of the tribes lived. Many were into exile as slaves. Others managed to escape to the southern realm of Judah. Those Jews lost their tribal distinctiveness and became known as the "Ten Lost Tribes."
586	Babylonian armies (under King Nebuchadnezzar) destroyed King Solomon's Temple ; we lost our sovereignty, and the exile began.
174-167	Seleucid (Syrian) Greek King Antiochus IV outlawed traditional Jewish practices and persecuted practicing Jews . Mattathias led an insurrection against the foreign rulers. We celebrate Hanukkah, the restoration of Jewish civil rights and Jewish Temple rites.
66-73 CE	<i>First Jewish Revolt against Rome</i> . Roman legions under Emperor Titus crushed the revolt (70 CE), destroyed the Second Temple , murdered thousands, and carried off most of the rest into slavery and exile in Europe . Jewish zealots at the last holdout, Masada, committed mass suicide rather than cede to the Romans.
115-117	<i>Second Jewish Revolt against Rome</i> . In the Kitos Revolt , the Romans decisively overwhelm the Jews in Alexandria and elsewhere.
132-135	<i>Third Revolt against Rome</i> . Betar , the last stronghold of the Bar Kochba rebellion (under Rabbi Akiva's influence), is captured , with over 100,000 Jews killed. Between 66-135, over 1,000,000 Jews perish and about 100,000 taken as slaves.
136	The Roman emperor Hadrian plowed over Jerusalem and rebuilt it as a pagan city (Aelia Capitolina), establishing a heathen sanctuary on the Temple mount, and forbade Jews from entering the city. Eretz Yisrael was renamed Palestina ("Philistine" Land).

325	<i>The Council of Nicaea</i> officially declared Jews the “adversaries” of Christianity. Jews continued to exist in seclusion and humiliation for the glory of the Church.
529-559	Byzantine Emperor <i>Justinian the Great</i> enacted laws that determined the Jews’ status for hundreds of years. The civil rights of Jews were restricted. The principle of Servitus Judaeorum (Servitude of the Jews) was established. Jews could no longer testify against Christians. Use of Hebrew in worship was forbidden; the Sh’ma was outlawed. The first Council of Clermont (535) prohibited Jews from holding public office.
608-610	Massacres of Jews across the Byzantine Empire
682	King Erwig (Visigoths) issued 28 anti-Jewish laws, and called for “the utter extirpation of the pest of the Jews.”
874-888	Basil I ordered the baptism of all Byzantine Jew and reinforced laws prohibiting Jews from holding civic or military positions. <i>The Church council in Metz</i> forbade Jews and Christians from eating together.
1012	Emperor Henry II expelled Jews from Mainz, the first persecution of Jews in Germany.
1078	The Council of Girona ruled that Jews must pay taxes to support the Catholic Church--and at the same rate as Catholics
1096	First Crusade against Jews and Muslims--Over 10,000 Jews are killed in the Rhineland communities (SHU”M = Speyer, Worms, & Mainz) in the first month alone. French communities were also affected. The Crusaders’ slogan was "Why fight Christ's enemies abroad when they are living among us?"
1146-1149	The Second Crusade destroyed the Jewish communities of Germany and France . The ancient accusation of Blood Libel was revived in 1144 in Norwich, England; 31 Jews were burned at the stake in Blois, France in 1171.
1182	King Philip Augustus of France expelled all Jews.
1189-1192	The Third Crusade led to bloody anti-Jewish rioting all over England . Massacres occurred at York, Norwich, and elsewhere.
1215	The Fourth Lateran Council (headed by Pope Innocent III) introduced “the Jewish Badge.” Jews had to wear yellow stars and sharp-pointed hats .
1242	The Talmud and other Holy Writings were publicly burned in Paris, ordered by the Inquisition .
1243	First known charge of Host Desecration . The entire Jewish community of Beelitz was burned at the stake. In 1298 more than 140 Jewish communities were forcibly converted or decimated for host desecration.
1290	King Edward expelled all Jews from England , the first of the large general expulsions of Jews in the Middle Ages

1306	Jews are expelled from France .
1347-1351	The Bubonic (Black) Plague --60 major and 150 minor Jewish communities were exterminated in Spain, France, Germany, and Austria. Many others were expelled, settling in Poland. Jews were blamed for "poisoning the wells" and for Devil worship.
1478	The Spanish Inquisition started to "reclaim the souls" of Jews by burning their bodies.
1492	The Alhambra Decree: Jews were expelled from Spain .
1496	The Jews were expelled from Portugal . Mass forced conversions. In 1506 there were massacres of conversos.
1498	The Jews were expelled from Andorra .
1519	The Protestant Church was created in Germany by Martin Luther, a virulent antisemite .
1555	The Jews of Rome were forced into a ghetto .
1571	The Jews of Florence were forced into a ghetto .
1630	The Jews of Mantua were expelled .
1648-1654	Bogdan Chmielnicki and Ukrainian Cossacks massacred Jews during the Wars of Poland against Sweden and Russia, with estimates of up to 100,000 Jews murdered. Over 300 Jewish communities were destroyed. Chmielnicki became the national hero of Ukraine; a statue of him still stands in Kiev.
1670	The Jews were forced out of Vienna .
1684	A two-week pogrom erupted against the Jews of Padua .
1834	The Spanish Inquisition, instituted in 1478, was lifted.
1878	Adolf Stoecker in Germany began modern political antisemitism.
1881-1884	Pogroms swept through tsarist Russia .
1894-1906	In the Dreyfus Affair , assimilated Jew Captain Alfred Dreyfus was baselessly convicted of treason and sentenced to life imprisonment for communicating military secrets to the German embassy in Paris. He was sent to live in harsh conditions on Devil's Island, even though the military knew who the real culprit was. The episode remains a notable example of the miscarriage of justice and the insidiousness of antisemitism.
1903	Earliest known publication of the <i>Protocols of the Elders of Zion</i> , a fabricated text claiming to lay out the Jewish plan for global domination. It became the basis of curriculum in all German schools. Beginning in 1920, Henry Ford published them in the <i>Dearborn Independent</i> and distributed them throughout the United States.
1911-13	In the Beilis Affair , Menahem Mendel Beilis was convicted of ritual murder in Kyiv. Eventually acquitted, the case exposed rampant antisemitism in the Russian Empire.

1914-1918	World War I broke out, during which many Jewish communities were wiped out in pogroms.
1917-1921	Pogroms throughout Poland and Ukraine.
1919	German Workers Party established in Germany under the leadership of Adolf Hitler.
1929	Arab attacks against Jews erupted over the issue of access to the Western Wall.
1933	Hitler was appointed as Chancellor of Germany. He used all the long-established myths: "poisoning wells," "Blood Libel," "devil/satan worship," etc. to evoke fear that Jews would contaminate Aryan blood.
1941	Hungary expelled stateless Jews in Carpathian Ruthenia. A fine of 100,000 rubles was imposed on the Jews of Bazlav, Podolia (Ukraine). The SS murdered 600 Jews in Targowica, Volhynia (Ukraine). The Ukrainians shot 45 Jews in the village of Otynia, Stanislavov province, Poland (Ukraine).
1942	Nazis convened the Wannsee Conference, Germany and finalized their Plans for the " Final Solution " to the Jewish problem. The deportations to Treblinka extermination camp (Poland) began from the Warsaw Ghetto.
1943	From Wadowice, Cracow district (Poland) 2,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz.
1944	From Toulouse, France 166 Jews were deported to Auschwitz.
1964	Vatican II ruled that Jews living today would no longer be held responsible for the death of Christ.
1968	The Alhambra Decree was lifted, ending the expulsion of Jews from Spain.
1968-1971	State-supported antisemitism throughout Poland, during which half of Poland's Jews fled.
1969	El Al plane shot down by terrorists, the only plane Israel lost to terrorism.
1970-1990	Neo-Nazi propaganda spread throughout the world denying the Holocaust.
1994	The Jewish community center in Buenos Aires was bombed, killing 86 and wounding 300 others.
2015	Spain and Portugal each offer descendants of expelled Jews expelled citizenship, whether or not they return and without yielding their current citizenship.