

Professor Tarik Cyril Amar
Columbia University
Department of History
tca2109@columbia.edu

Syllabus

The City and Jewish History in Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century: Modernity, Migration, and Catastrophe

Summer School 2013
Center for Urban History of East Central Europe

Our main focus in this class will consist in Jewish experiences with cities in the twentieth century. Geographically, our center of attention will be Central and Eastern Europe (with our main – but not exclusive – emphasis on territories that, at one point or the other, came under Soviet rule); chronologically, we will concentrate (unevenly) on the period between the end of the First World War and the end of the Soviet Union. In particular, the Holocaust and the Second World War were events of central and terrible importance for this period and area. Accordingly, we will pay special attention to them.

At the same time, we will also include some readings and discussions to put these experiences, places, and times into further contexts. Thus, for instance, we will also read and discuss work which reaches beyond Eastern and Central Europe to highlight the crucial issue of intercontinental migration and works which consider non-Jewish experiences as well as the post-Soviet period.

Our time is restricted and our reading volume will not allow us to aim at addressing exhaustively periods, spaces, and questions or the literatures dedicated to them. Thus, the class does not aim at even or complete coverage of all relevant topics or narratives or issues. But we will make an effort to develop a strong and sophisticated sense of a sample of key issues.

The class will feature lecture elements as well as discussion (in Ukrainian and English). Participants will also be asked to prepare informal in-class presentations (in Ukrainian and/or English).

Introduction: A Matrix of Empires, Nations, Borderlands, and Migration:

- 22/7 Monday Dan Diner, "Between Empire and Nation State: Outline for a European Contemporary History of the Jews, 1750-1950" in: Omer Bartov and Eric Weitz (eds), *Shatterzone of Empires. Coexistence and Violence in the German, Habsburg, Russian, and Ottoman Borderlands* (2013)
- 23/7 Tuesday Yuri Slezkina, *The Jewish Century* (Princeton University Press, 2004), Introduction, Chapters 1 and 4 (pp. 1-39 and 204-286)
- 24/7 Wednesday Rebecca Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok and its Diaspora* (Indiana University Press: 2010), Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-68

Interwar

- 25/7 Thursday Israel Gutman, *Resistance: The Warsaw Ghetto Uprising* (Houghton Mifflin/USHMM, 1998 or 2004), Chapter 2 "The Jews of Warsaw between the Wars," pp. 14-48
- Yehuda Bauer, *The Death of the Shtetl* (Yale University Press 2009), Chapters 1 "Background" and 2 "The Thirties,"
- 26/7 Friday Elissa Bemporad, *Becoming Soviet Jews: The Bolshevik Experiment in Minsk* (Indiana University Press, 2013), Chapters 2, 3, and 4 pp. 31-111
- 29/7 Monday George O. Liber, *Soviet Nationality Policy, Urban Growth, and Identity Change in the Ukrainian SSR, 1923-1934*, Chapters 3 "Urban Growth and National Identity," 6 "The Transformation of the Urban Ukrainian Identity" and 7 "The Ideological Challenge of Ukrainian National Communism"
- 30/7 Tuesday Stephen Kotkin, *Magnetic Mountain: Stalinism as a Civilization*, Chapter 3 "The Idiocy of Urban Life," pp. 106-146
- Bemporad, *Becoming Soviet Jews*, Chapters 6 "Housewives, Mothers, and Workers. Roles and Representations of Jewish Women in Times of Revolution" and 7 "Jewish Ordinary Life in the Midst of Extraordinary Purges, 1934-1939," pp. 145-210

The Second World War and the Holocaust

- 31/7 Wednesday Karel Berkhoff, *Harvest of Despair: Life and Death in Ukraine under Nazi Rule*, Chapter "Conditions in the Cities" and "Famine in Kiev"
- 1/8 Thursday Omer Bartov, "Wartime Lies and Other Testimonies: Jewish-Christian Relations in Buczacz, 1939-1944" *EEPS* (08/2011), Volume 25, Issue 3, pp. 486 – 511
Tarik Cyril Amar, "Okupacyjna codzienność we Lwowie (Lwów, Lemberg, Lwow) w czasie II wojny światowej: przemoc i jej spowszednienie," in *Przemoc i dzień powszedni w okupowanej Polsce*, redakcja naukowa: Tomasz Chinciński (Wydawnictwo Oskar, Muzeum II Wojny Światowej, 2011)
- 2/8 Friday Yehuda Bauer, *The Death of the Shtetl* (Yale University Press 2009), Chapters 3 "The Soviet Occupation," 4 "The Holocaust in the Kresy," 5 "The Shtetl Community and Its Leadership, 1941-1943," 6 "The Neighbors"
- 5/8 Monday Gordon J. Horwitz, *Ghettostadt: Lodz and the Making of a Nazi City* (Harvard University Press, 2010) Chapters 2 "A City without Jews," 5 "The Ghetto and the City of the Future," 8 "Give Me Your Children" pp. 30-61, 113-142, 192-231
- 6/8 Tuesday Israel Gutman, *Resistance*, Chapters 8 "The Establishment of the Jewish Fighting Organization," 9 "Between the Expulsion and January 1943," 10 "January 1943: The First Instance of Resistance" 11 "The End," pp. 146-262

Postwars

- 7/8 Wednesday Michael Meng, *Shattered Spaces: Encountering Jewish Ruins in Postwar Germany and Poland* (2011), Introduction and Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- 8/8 Thursday Kobrin, *Jewish Bialystok*, Chapters 4 "Rewriting the Jewish Diaspora: Images of Bialystok in the Transnational Bialystok Jewish Press" and 5 "Shifting Centers, Conflicting Philanthropists: Rebuilding, Resettling, and Remembering Jewish Bialystok in the Post-Holocaust Era, pp. 176-243

9/8 Friday

Tarik Cyril Amar, "A Disturbed Silence: Discourse on the Holocaust in the Soviet West as an Anti-Site of Memory"

Tarik Cyril Amar, "Інакша, але подібна, чи подібна, але інакша? Публічна пам'ять про другу Світову війну у пострадянському Львові"