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The Jews of the Soviet Union: From Nationalism to Communism and Back

**Lviv Summer School
Jewish History, Multiethnic Past,
and Common Heritage: Urban Experience in Eastern Europe
July 13 – August 7, 2015
Center for Urban History. Lviv, Ukraine**

Session I:

- Russian Antisemitism: Pogroms and Blood Libels
- From Imperial Repression to Revolution: Lenin, Stalin and the Bund

Readings: “An expert opinion in support of the ritual blood accusation,” *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 367-370; “The Bund: Decisions on the Nationality Question,” in *The Jew in the Modern World*, 419-421; Selections from Vladimir Lenin on the Bund and the Jews, from *The Jew in the Modern World*, pp. 428-430 and *Lenin on the Jewish Question*, pp. 46-51, 58-62, 125-128.

Session II:

- The Evsekstii and the Struggle Against Judaism
- The Sovietization of Jewish Women

Readings: “Resolution of the Council of People’s Commissar’s of the Uprooting of the Anti-Semitic Movement,” *Lenin on the Jewish Question*, pp. 141-142; “Karl Yankl”, Isaac Babel; “Yevsektsiia: The Liquidation of Jewish Bourgeois Institutions,” in *The Jew in the Modern World*; “Documents: Illegal Zionist Organizations in Ukraine, 1924-1925,” in *Jews in Eastern Europe*, 1996, pp. 46-66; poems by Izi Kharik and Itsik Fefer, *The Penguin Book of Modern Yiddish Verse* (C).

Session III

- World War II and the Holocaust
- The Case of Belarus

Readings: Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands*, Selections on Minsk; Ilya Ehrenburg and Vassily Grossman, *The Black Book* (selections on Minsk); Vasily Grossman, *Life and Fate*; Nechama Tec, *Resilience and Courage: Women, Men and the Holocaust* (Selections on the partisans in Belarus).

Session IV:

- The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee and the Black Book
- Soviet Antisemitism, Anti-Zionism, and the Struggle for Emigration

Readings: “V. S. Abakoumov’s Report on the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee” 1948, in *War, Holocaust and Stalinism*, pp. 451-470; “Official Announcement of the Doctor’s Plot,” and “Official Announcement of the Doctor’s Release (1953)” from Benjamin Pinkus (ed.), *The Soviet Government and the Jews*; “Aleksandr Isbakh as Zionist and Cosmopolitan” (1949); Krokodil “Moshe Adolfovich Dayan,” and “The Need for a Jewish State,” in Rubin (ed.), *The Unredeemed: Anti-Semitism in The Soviet Union*; Letters from Soviet Jews to the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee.

For the Sources and Methods section of the course, I was considering a discussion of the work of Jewish historian Israel Sosis in the Society of Marxist Historians in Minsk, dated 1929 (this is an original archival document); and selections from *Iudaizm bez prikas*, by Trofim Kichko. Both are in Russian (and Kichko in Ukrainian) only.