

### **Appendix 3: Quotations on German anti-Semitism**

Martin Luther (1483–1546): “The Jews deserve to hang on gallows, seven times higher than ordinary thieves.” And: “We ought to take revenge on the Jews and kill them.”<sup>189</sup>

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804): The Jews are by nature “sharp dealers” who are “bound together by superstition.” Their “immoral and vile” behavior in commerce shows that they “do not aspire to civic virtue,” for “the spirit of usury holds sway amongst them.” They are “a nation of swindlers” who benefit only “from deceiving their host’s culture.”<sup>190</sup>

Kant: “The euthanasia of Judaism is the pure moral religion.”<sup>191</sup>

Johann Herder (1744–1803) quotes Kant from his lectures on practical philosophy: “*Every coward is a liar; Jews, for example, not only in business, but also in common life.*”<sup>192</sup>

Johann Fichte (1762–1814): “A mighty state stretches across almost all the nations of Europe, hostile in intent and in constant strife with all others . . . this is Jewry.” Also: “As for giving them [the Jews] civil rights, I for one see no remedy but that their heads should be all cut off in one night and replaced with others in which there would not be one single Jewish idea.”<sup>193</sup>

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<sup>189</sup> Luther, quoted in Murphy 1999, p. 9.

<sup>190</sup> Kant, quoted in Weiss 1996, p. 67)

<sup>191</sup> Kant, *Streit der Fakultäten*, in *Werke* 11:321, quoted in Paul Lawrence Rose, *Revolutionary Antisemitism from Kant to Wagner* (Princeton, 1990), p. 96.

<sup>192</sup> Herder, quoted in Mack, 2003, p. 5.

<sup>193</sup> Fichte, quoted in Weiss 1996, pp. 72 and 68.

Ernst Moritz Arndt (1769–1860, professor at University of Bonn). Arndt was a poet, a historian, a deeply-religious Lutheran, and post-Kantian philosophical idealist whose hero was Arminius, who defeated the Romans in 9 C.E., thus saving the pure German soul from “contamination” by Latin races. According to Arndt, the Jews were “a rotten and degenerate race” that had “evil and worthless drives and desires.”<sup>194</sup>

G. W. F. Hegel (1770–1831): Germany cannot assimilate the Jews because the Jews live an “animal existence that can only be secured at someone else’s expense.” Also: “Spirit alone recognizes spirit. They [the Jews] saw in Jesus only the man ... for He was only one like themselves, and they felt themselves to be nothing. The Jewish multitude was bound to wreck His attempt to give them the consciousness of something divine, for faith in something divine, something great, cannot make its home in a dunghill.”<sup>195</sup>

Johann Fries (1773–1843, professor at University of Heidelberg): Fries was a Kantian logician, a disciple of Fichte, and influential among student nationalist societies. He called the Jews “rotten,” “worthless cheats,” “bloodsuckers,” a “diseased people,” argued they should be required to wear special signs indicating to others their race, and called for their “extermination.”<sup>196</sup>

Karl Marx (1818–1883): “Let us consider the actual, worldly Jew—not the Sabbath Jew, as Bauer does, but the everyday Jew. Let us not look for the secret of the Jew in his religion, but

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<sup>194</sup> Arndt, quoted in Weiss 1996, p. 74.

<sup>195</sup> Hegel, quoted in Weiss 1996, pp. 67 and 66.

<sup>196</sup> Fries, quoted in Weiss 1996, p. 74.

let us look for the secret of his religion in the real Jew. What is the secular basis of Judaism? Practical need, self-interest. What is the worldly religion of the Jew? Huckstering. What is his worldly God? Money. Very well then! Emancipation from huckstering and money, consequently from practical, real Jewry, would be the self-emancipation of our time .... We recognize in Jewry, therefore, a general present-time-oriented anti-social element, an element which through historical development—to which in this harmful respect the Jews have zealously contributed—has been brought to its present high level, at which it must necessarily dissolve itself. In the final analysis, the emancipation of the Jews is the emancipation of mankind from Jewry.”<sup>197</sup>

Friedrich Nietzsche (1844–1900): “I have not met a German yet who was well disposed toward the Jews; and however unconditionally all the cautious and politically-minded repudiated real anti-Semitism, even this caution and policy are not directed against the species of this feeling itself but only against its dangerous immoderation.”<sup>198</sup>

Adolf Hitler (1889–1945) in 1925: “I am convinced that I am acting as the agent of our Creator. By fighting off the Jews, I am doing the Lord’s work.” And in 1931: “The Jewish problem is a highly complex matter ... our ideology is opposed to the interests of the Chosen Race in that we abominate their dance around the Golden Calf. For racial and financial reasons the Jews are basically opposed to communism.”<sup>199</sup>

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<sup>197</sup> Marx, “On *The Jewish Question*,” <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1844/jewish-question/>. Viewed September 17, 2007.

<sup>198</sup> Nietzsche, *BGE* 251.

<sup>199</sup> Hitler, in interview with Richard Breiting, 1931, published in Edouard Calic, ed., “Second Interview with Hitler,” *Secret Conversations with Hitler: The Two Newly-Discovered 1931 Interviews*. New York: John Day Co., 1971, p. 86.

Hitler: “Anti-Semitism is a useful revolutionary expedient.”<sup>200</sup>

Sidney Hook (1902–1989), a socialist philosopher: “anti-Semitism was rife in almost all varieties of socialism.”<sup>201</sup>

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<sup>200</sup> Hitler, in Hermann Rauschning, *The Voice of Destruction: Hitler Speaks*, as quoted in George Seldes, *The Great Thoughts*. New York: Ballantine, p. 186.

<sup>201</sup> Hook, “Home Truths About Marx,” *Commentary* (September 1978) reprinted in *Marxism and Beyond*. Totowa, NJ: Rowman and Littlefield, 1983, p. 117.