

THE CONDITION OF JEWS IN CHRISTENDOM

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Jews have been treated abusively in Christendom for ages, as chronicled by Robert Chezan - *From Anti-Judaism to Anti-Semitism*, Cambridge University Press, 2017. Even though Martin Luther urged tolerance towards Jews as the people of the prophets and of Jesus himself, in 1543 he castigated the Jews as “blood-thirsty bloodhounds and murderers of all Christendom for more than 1400 years in their intentions.” He even proposed torching their synagogues and razing their homes, sequestering their wealth and forcing them into manual labor until expelled from Christendom. Chezan places blame for the Holocaust onto Christian texts in an indirect way insofar as they enabled the subsequent generations to adapt them to serve their own anti-Jewish propaganda. Despite strong interfaith efforts by church leaders to erase anti-Jewish potentials lurking in Christian texts, traditions and popular imagination, the Jews could still be vulnerable to them. Even Jewish scholars now recognize that the Persian kings were more tolerant of the Jews (and others) than any other ones, as copiously chronicled in this treatise.