

The Myth of the Hebrew Sea: An aspect of the Zionism of Ze'ev Jabotinsky

Doctoral thesis

Mgr. Adam Coman

Supervisor: Mgr. Alena Marková, Ph.D.

2021

Note that the full Hebrew expression is really: "Conquest of the Hebrew Sea" and might have served as a good title, but with quotation marks. This is important also because the Hebrew term for the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is actually the same: "conquest" (kibush). I this a good terminological link to contemporary reality and ideologies? If so, how?

In terms of style, shorter paragraphs are common in English.

p. 11 - the common differentiation is into early stage Zionism ("cultural" vs. "political") and later stage (left-centrist-"revisionist").

p. 26-27 - "served in the Battle of Gallipoli" - maybe better: "fought" - also note Zerubavel's Recovered Roots

p. 30 - "the Jews and the Arabs" since it's a paraphrase it would be desirable to recalibrate, e.g. "Jews and Christians/Druze/Muslims" - note Jewish Arabic-speakers, who by linguistic and common Arabic definitions are simply Arabs - "enthusiastically THAT other..."

p. 36 footnotes - problematic transcription of Hebrew terms in Latin letters, e.g. sertifikats, which are really just certificates, and use capital for title first word, settle on a standard and stick to it, e.g. phonetic (there are no official transcription standards)

p. 40 - FN 5 - Holocaust and Altalena in the same sentence? Altalena deserves also a broader discussion here.

p. 62 - footnotes 1-2 - where are the letters quoted from? publication/archive?

p. 72 - maybe put "race" into quotation marks? concept debatable and politicized...

p. 75-76 - Olender's Languages of Paradise might have been a good background reading on Hebrew language revival

p. 77 FN 3 - Neo-Romantic European Jewish "easternism" and Said-style "Orientalism" - if you claim the two are separate things, that would be a separate book! If you could prove it, it might even be a bestseller... This discussion is central to the topic at hand.

p. 82-83 - use block quote for long quotations?

p. 85-86 - "Assyrian square script" calls for a comment in the footnote, the reference actually seems to be to Aramaic! Otherwise interesting excursion into Itamar Ben Yehuda's story of Latinizing Hebrew writing

p. 101 - FN 1 - "Jabotinsky to Eri Jabotinsky" should indicate first name

p. 105 - FN 4 - indicate date of access to internet page (they change) - German spelling: Der Moment

p. 109 - perhaps reference "iron curtain" after WWII

p. 112 - good reference to Nietzsche, could be expanded a bit

p. 124 - "Sephardic (i.e., non-European)" - seriously? Actually the history of the port of Thessaloniki should really be here.

Perhaps discuss term "Mediterraneanism" as a "euphemism" for "Mizrahi" or Sephardic Jews in Hebrew today? Bibliography should probably cite Hebrew books in Hebrew letters (and transcription), in spite of technical difficulties involved here, it's a dissertation, after all. Spelling of capital and small letters could be refined in foreign words. Ch is not a letter in the English abc.

Miss references to these keywords or standard works in the fields covered:

- Anderson's Imagined Communities
- conceptual and terminological links between Antisemitism and Zionism, specifically Revisionism, e.g. "race" narratives
- Mizrahi/Sephardic relations to Ashkenazim, discussion of terminology and Jewish self-Orientalization, e.g. calling Moroccan Jews, in Arabic lit. "Western Jews" - Mizrachim, in Hebrew "Eastern Jews" as a projection of "Ostjuden" slur used amongst some Ashkenazy Jews themselves
- miss references to Maoz Azaryahu's work, e.g. Maoz Azaryahu (2008) THE FORMATION OF THE "HEBREW SEA" IN PRE-STATE ISRAEL, Journal of Modern Jewish Studies, 7:3, 251-26
- use ibid. in FNs
- Missed references to Jaffa port and Italian influence in the founding of Israeli Navy - שייטת 13 - and maybe general picture of seafaring and port system in Israel to frame this research in
- Maybe a reference to the Ariel Sharon's "islands" plans would have been worth a sentence or two?

There is very little archival material in this dissertation, with one single archive listed in the sources! The only online archive in Israel that I know of is the Ben Gurion Archive, which could probably be mined via the internet. Otherwise, I recommend at least one third archive to be mined for this dissertation, maybe on the use of maritime deliveries of arms from Csl to Israel in 1948?

The recommendation is to rework and resubmit this diss. Make it more comparative, e.g. Jabotinsky versus Ben Gurion, maybe title "*Conquest of the Hebrew Sea?*" *Maritime Zionism*, more local-global both, more archival material, and fix the list of items above. Also do the Hebrew script, rework for easy style and readability, and look into *Slavic Jerusalem* (Academia, 2018).

Luck!



Dr. Martin Wein
Jaffa, 31 August 2021/5781