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UCSB History 133B Source Exploration Essay
Prof. Marcuse
March 19, 2019

Jewish Zionism in the Wake of the Third Reich

Robert Weltsch: *Wear it With Pride, the Yellow Badge*¹

- Original Source available at:
 - "Compact Memory." Compact Memory / Suche Faure [1-10]. Accessed March 03, 2019. <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cm/periodical/titleinfo/2653758>.
- Translated Version:
 - <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/wear-it-with-pride>.

Robert Weltsch was both an active Zionist and chief editor of the Jewish newspaper in Germany, *Jüdische Rundschau*.² Weltsch was born in Prague on June 20th, of 1891, when Prague was still a part of Austria-Hungary.³ He grew up in an area that was culturally German, but still held strong Jewish ties.⁴ After World War I, where he had fought for the German offensive, he moved to Berlin where he took his place as editor of this newspaper from 1919 to 1938.⁵ The *Jüdische Rundschau* was a newspaper in Berlin that lasted from 1902 to 1938. It was the largest and most important Zionist weekly newspaper in Germany.⁶ During his time as editor of the *Jüdische Rundschau*, he contributed many speeches, reports, essays, and journals.⁷ These writings by Weltsch mostly dealt with Zionism, Jewish-Arab and Jewish-German relations, displaced persons in post-World War II Europe, the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and the

¹ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/wear-it-with-pride>.

² "Robert Weltsch." (1891-1982) Wikipedia. November 30, 2018. Accessed February 01, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Weltsch.

³ "Robert Weltsch." (1891-1982) Wikipedia. November 30, 2018. Accessed February 01, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Weltsch.

⁴ "Robert Weltsch." (1891-1982) Wikipedia. November 30, 2018. Accessed February 01, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Weltsch.

⁵ "Robert Weltsch Collection 1770-1997 : Weltsch, Robert, 1891-1982 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". Accessed February 02, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/robertweltsch>.

⁶ "Jüdische Rundschau." (1902-1938) Wikipedia. January 31, 2019. Accessed February 15, 2019. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jüdische_Rundschau.

⁷ "Robert Weltsch Collection 1770-1997 : Weltsch, Robert, 1891-1982 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". Accessed February 02, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/robertweltsch>.

founding of the State of Israel.⁸ One of Weltsch's more famous contributions to the newspaper was his publication of *Wear it With Pride, the Yellow Badge*, released on April 4th, 1933.⁹ The original article Weltsch published describes the events, the persecution of Jews, that began on April 1, 1933. All Jewish people were being forced to wear yellow patches, and all Jewish store owners had to put red cards up in front of their stores, so that they could be more easily identified and segregated. In this article Weltsch explains how the persecution of Jews had reached a new height and even predicted that the day would go down in infamy. Ultimately this was one of the many articles written by Weltsch that aimed at steering Jews towards radicalist Zionist ideals. An original version of this newspaper can be found at Goethe University of Frankfurt.¹⁰ One can also find a translated version of this article on the Jewish Virtual libraries website.¹¹ Only nineteen days after the original article was printed, in New York, a newspaper pertaining to this event was printed in the *Jewish Bulletin*.¹² This article in the *Jewish Bulletin* informed US readers, specifically Jewish Europeans living in the US, of the events taking place in Germany. Gershom Scholem corresponded with Robert Weltsch and Hans Kohn regarding their Zionist values, activities, and motives.¹³ Thomas von der Osten-Sacken and Beatrice Smedley referred to this event, and Robert Weltsch, in their 2002 article "Tribulations of a World Zionist Newspaper: The Rise and Fall of the *Jüdische Welt-Rundschau*."¹⁴ Robert Weltsch is a valuable source of information pertaining to Zionism and Jews in Germany. He wrote extensively, portraying the events of Germany and seeing that he was chief editor of the important newspaper, *Jüdische Rundschau*, we can assess that he was credible and therefore a valid source. Many researchers have referred back to his writings and cited his articles in their own research of events that took place in Germany. Robert Weltsch was a product of his time and his writings serve as a great

⁸ "Robert Weltsch Collection 1770-1997 : Weltsch, Robert, 1891-1982 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". Accessed February 02, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/robertweltsch>.

⁹ "Compact Memory." Compact Memory / Suche Faure [1-10]. Accessed March 03, 2019. <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cm/periodical/titleinfo/2653758>.

¹⁰ "Compact Memory." Compact Memory / Suche Faure [1-10]. Accessed March 03, 2019. <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cm/periodical/titleinfo/2653758>.

¹¹ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/wear-it-with-pride>.

¹² "'Let's Wear Our Yellow Badge with Pride' - Zionist Newspaper, April 1933." CODOH. Accessed March 04, 2019. <https://forum.codoh.com/viewtopic.php?t=9862>.

¹³ Gershom Scholem, *A Life in Letters, 1914-1982*, edited and translated by Anthony David Skinner. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 119-21.

¹⁴ Von Der Osten-Sacken, Thomas, and Beatrice Smedley. "Tribulations of a World Zionist Newspaper: The Rise and Fall of the 'Jüdische Welt-Rundschau'." *Kesher* / קשר, no. 31 (2002): 72e-81e. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23918875>.

window into Jewish life in Germany during the rise of the Third Reich, as well as Jewish Zionism.

Annotated Bibliography in Chronological Order

- "Compact Memory." Compact Memory / Suche Faure [1-10]. Accessed March 03, 2019. <http://sammlungen.ub.uni-frankfurt.de/cm/periodical/titleinfo/2653758>.

This is a virtual library where most, if not all, the original articles of the *Jüdische Rundschau* can be found and printed.
- <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/wear-it-with-pride>.

This is a virtual library where an English translation of the original article can be found.
- "Robert Weltsch Collection 1770-1997: Weltsch, Robert, 1891-1982 : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming." Full Text of "Passing". Accessed February 02, 2019. <https://archive.org/details/robertweltsch>.

Speeches, reports, essays, and journalistic dispatches by Weltsch on Zionism, Jewish-Arab and Jewish-German relations, displaced persons in post World War II Europe, the Nuremberg war crimes trials, and the founding of the State of Israel
- "Robert Weltsch." 1891-1982 Wikipedia. November 30, 2018. Accessed February 01, 2019. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Weltsch.

A brief overview of Robert Weltsch's early life, career, and death
- "Jüdische Rundschau." 1902-1938 Wikipedia. January 31, 2019. Accessed February 15, 2019. https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jüdische_Rundschau.

The *Jüdische Rundschau* was a newspaper printed and distributed in Berlin until its prohibition in 1938. It was one of the largest and most important Zionist weekly newspapers in Germany. As a main component of the Zionist Association for Germany, it helped represent Zionism outwardly.
- Gershom Scholem, *A Life in Letters, 1914-1982*, edited and translated by Anthony David Skinner. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2002, pp. 119-21.

This contains a letter addressed to Robert Weltsch and Hans Kohn in regards to their Zionist values, activities, and motives. Scholem did not agree with their radicalized, or revolutionary,

theories rather believed Zionism, rebirth of the Jewish People, could be achieved even in the worst conditions of the state.

- Von Der Osten-Sacken, Thomas, and Beatrice Smedley. "Tribulations of a World Zionist Newspaper: The Rise and Fall of the "Jüdische Welt-Rundschau"." *Kesher / קשר*, no. 31 (2002): 72e-81e. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23918875>.

This article explains the difficulties faced by the *Jüdische Rundschau*. It examines the attempts made by the creators of this newspaper to persuade Jews to become Zionists.

- Vogt, Stefan. "Robert Weltsch and the Paradoxes of Anti-Nationalist Nationalism." *Jewish Social Studies* 16, no. 3 (2010): 85-115. doi:10.2979/jewisocistud.16.3.85.

This article analyzes the specific version of Zionism developed in central Europe by examining the life and work of Robert Weltsch

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