

Archaeology of Anti-Semitism

Class 1

Meaning of „Archaeology”

- Archaeology is the Greek name for the study of man in the past, or more specifically, the study of the past cultures of man
- Antisemitism is an ideal subject for archaeology because of the endurance of Jewish life
- 4000 years
- Layers of hatred and persecution against the Jews

Jews: the testfield of human kind

- Philosophical Anthropology
- History
- Social psychology
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Political science
- Literary criticism/Cultural Studies

Philosophical Anthropology

- The uniqueness of the Human Being
- No specific programs of survival (humans dwell in a world, in contrast with animals who are instinctively captivated by an environment)
- The case of „Tom and Jerry“
- The task of self-determination
- Communication, Interaction
- Culture, as „second nature“
- The need of „making“ enemies
- Clashing social realities

History

- Endurance (the Jews and their everchanging conflicting partners)
- Jewish history: history of the Western Civilization
- Antiquity, Middle Age, Modernity, Post-Modernity
- Basic paradigms of Western morality: the 10 Commandments

Social psychology

- Living in vacuum
- The search for meaning
- The creation of the ingroup and the outgroup
- Language as the „House of Being”
- Semantic universe
- Enemies and friends
- Cooperation/Competition/Fight
- Setting the border between groups (stereotype, prejudice, belief system)
- Discrimination, persecution, genocide
- Social Identity
- Minorities and Majorities

Psychology

- Socialization
- Interiorization of social authority
- Repression, projection, displacement of aggression, scapegoating
- „superego” and „id”
- Authoritarian personality

Sociology

- „race”, „caste”, „class”
- „social entropy”
- resistance to social entropy
- Modernization
individualization, rationalization, secularization
class-structure, market-economy, nation state

Marginality

Political science

- Political ideologies (Conservatism, Liberalism, Socialism)
- Nationalism
- Revolution
- Political communication
- Mass society
- Demagoguery
- Politics of identity

Literary Criticism/Cultural Studies

- „Otherness“
- The problems of representation
- Gender („feminization“, „masculinization“)
- The „body“

Why always the Jews?

- Hannah Arendt on „eternal antisemitism”
- No arbitrary choice
- Jewish side (lack of political ability and judgment due to enduring diaspora existence)
- Non-Jewish side (ressentiment)
- Fundamental contradiction between a political body based on equality before the law and a society based on inequality of the class system

Who have become the Jews in modern society?

- „they did not form a class of their own, and they did not belong to any of the classes in their countries. As a group they were neither workers, middle-class people, landholders nor peasants.”
- Internalization in a world of nations