

CONSTANTINE'S SWORD: THE CHURCH AND THE JEWS: A HISTORY

Coordinators: Frank Carden and Arlene Spiller

The origins of anti-Semitism are complex. We use James Carroll's *Constantine's Sword: The Church and The Jews* to explore the cultural forces that shaped this history to the present time. Carroll, a novelist and journalist and former priest, looks at the roles played by the Catholic Church, the east-west schism of the 11th century and the Reformation that converged in institutionalized violence and hatred. Carroll has been criticized for being too personal and lacking scholarship. He responds: "My life as a storyteller and my faith as a Catholic qualify me to detect essential matters in this history that a more detached academic might miss."• The study group will decide for itself. We use additional readings and video clips. This study group is a repeat.

Text: James Carroll, *Constantine's Sword: the Church and the Jews*; ISBN 978-0618219087, \$15.41.

Coursepack: Contains the additional readings (see Syllabus below.)

Arlene Spiller: In helping to promote interfaith dialogue while working for the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Arlene developed a deep interest in religious teachings, philosophy and practice. **Frank Carden** worked for many years in the service of the Catholic Church. He continues to be interested in the study of Comparative Religion.

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Additional Readings:

The Anguish of the Jews- Father Edward Flannery

Faith and Fratricide - Rosemary Reuther

Jews, God & History - Max Dimont

My People- Abba Eban

History of the Jews - Chaim Potok

The Popes Against the Jews - David Kertzer

The Pity of it All - Amos Elon

Gods Jury: The Inquisition - CullenMurphy

Anti Judaism: The Western Tradition - David Nirenberg

1. Introduction to class.

Readings: Part One: The Cross at Auschwitz (Chapters 1 -7)

YouTube Video: James Carroll at Harvard Divinity School

2. **The Ancient World** and **the Apostolic Fathers**

Readings: Part Two: New Testament Origins of Jew Hatred (Chapters 8 – 15)

3. **Constantine**

Readings: Part Three: Constantine, Augustine, and the Jews (Chapters 16 - 21)

YouTube Film: BBC Series of the Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire - segment on Constantine (55 minutes, 8 seconds)

YouTube: Crash Course in Jewish History: Session 11 (4 minutes, 34 seconds)

4. **Doctors of the Church**

Reading: Part Three: Constantine, Augustine, and the Jews (Chapters 16 -23)

5. **The Crusades:**

Reading: Part Four: From Crusades to Conversionism (Chapters 24 – 30)

YouTube: BBC Crusades Part 3 (58 minutes, 43 seconds)

Crash Course in Jewish History: Session 15 (6 minutes, 23 seconds)

6. **In the Wake of the Crusades**

Readings: Part Five (Chaps. 31 -35)

7. **Reformation**

Reading: - Readings: Part Five (Chaps. 36 – 37) & Chap. 42, pp. 426 -428)

Optional YouTube - Martin Luther, The Reformation Part I (9:24 mi.) & Part 2 (10:43mi.)

8. **Inquisitions** Reading:

Readings: none

Watch: YouTube - Secret Files of the Inquisition: Part 2 – The Land of Terror (50:00 mi.)

9. **Napoleon and Aftermath** Reading;

Readings: Part Six (Chaps. 39 – 43)

Optional: YouTube – Crash Course in Jewish History (# 19) (7:04)

10. **The Enlightenment** Reading:

Readings: Part Six (Chaps. 39 -46)

Optional : YouTube – The Rise of the Jewish Question, Crash Course in Jewish History (# 20) (4:31 mi.)

11. **19th century** Reading:

Readings: Part Seven

Optional: YouTube - Crash course in Jewish history (#24) – The rise of anti-Semitism (9:19mi.)

12. **20th/21st Century:** Reading

Readings: Part Seven (Chaps. 48 – 53)