

JUDAISM and ZIONISM



Marek Čejka

ZIONISM

- Zionism is modern Jewish nationalism which constituted in second half of 19. century.
- It is political not theological term
- Main thinkers: *Moses Hess (1812–1875)*, *Leo Pinsker (1821–1891)*, *Theodor Herzl (1860 – 1904)* most of them were non-religious Jews, leftists
- Zionism is a practical thing – to protect Jews against antisemitism
- Anyone could be Zionist, theoretically even Arab or Muslim
- Christian Zionism

OPPOSITION AGAINST ZIONISM

- Zionist secularism was considered to be a heretic and dangerous by many religious (especially Haredi) Jews
- Until Holocaust (*Shoah*) was Zionism refused by majority of the religious Jews
- Their interpretation of holy texts obliged them not to end Jewish diaspora (*galut*) prematurely and wait patiently for the coming of the Messiah – renewal of the Jewish Kingdom depends on will of the God
- That is why they refused to re-gain the Biblical Land of Israel by force
- Nationalist ardency, arming, fight with Arabs for soil were in their eyes rebellion against God's will

Rabbi Yosef Samuel Bloch (1850–1923)

*„Zionism is false messianism
in which God, Torah and its
commandments*

*Were substituted by false idols of
nationalism and socialism“*

RELIGIOUS ZIONISM

- Political-theological stream which crystallized within some parts of Jewish Community of the 20th century
- RELIGIOUS ZIONISM (RZ) tried to connect secular thoughts of Zionism with orthodox Judaism.
- Hence Jewish religion was combined with political ideology (similarly like in some streams of Christianity or Islam in 20. century)
- Founder of RZ: rabbi *Jicchak Avraham Kook*.

Yitzhak Avraham Kook (1864 – 1935)



- Kook interpreted himself re-settlement of Biblical territory by Zionists and some other political events of his time (e.g. Balfour Declaration - 1917) as proof of God's will
- He influenced even some Haredi Jews
- *Yeshiva Merkaz Ha-Rav*
- Kook's thought was developed by his son *Zvi Jehuda Kook*

Zvi Yehuda Kook (1891–1981)

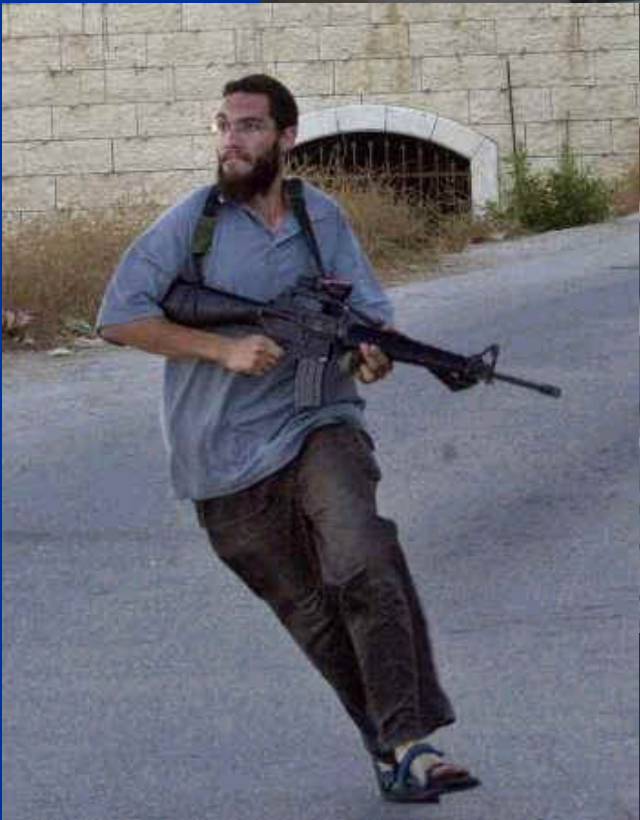
TORAT ERETZ YISRAEL

The Teachings of HaRav Tzvi Yehuda HaCohen Kook



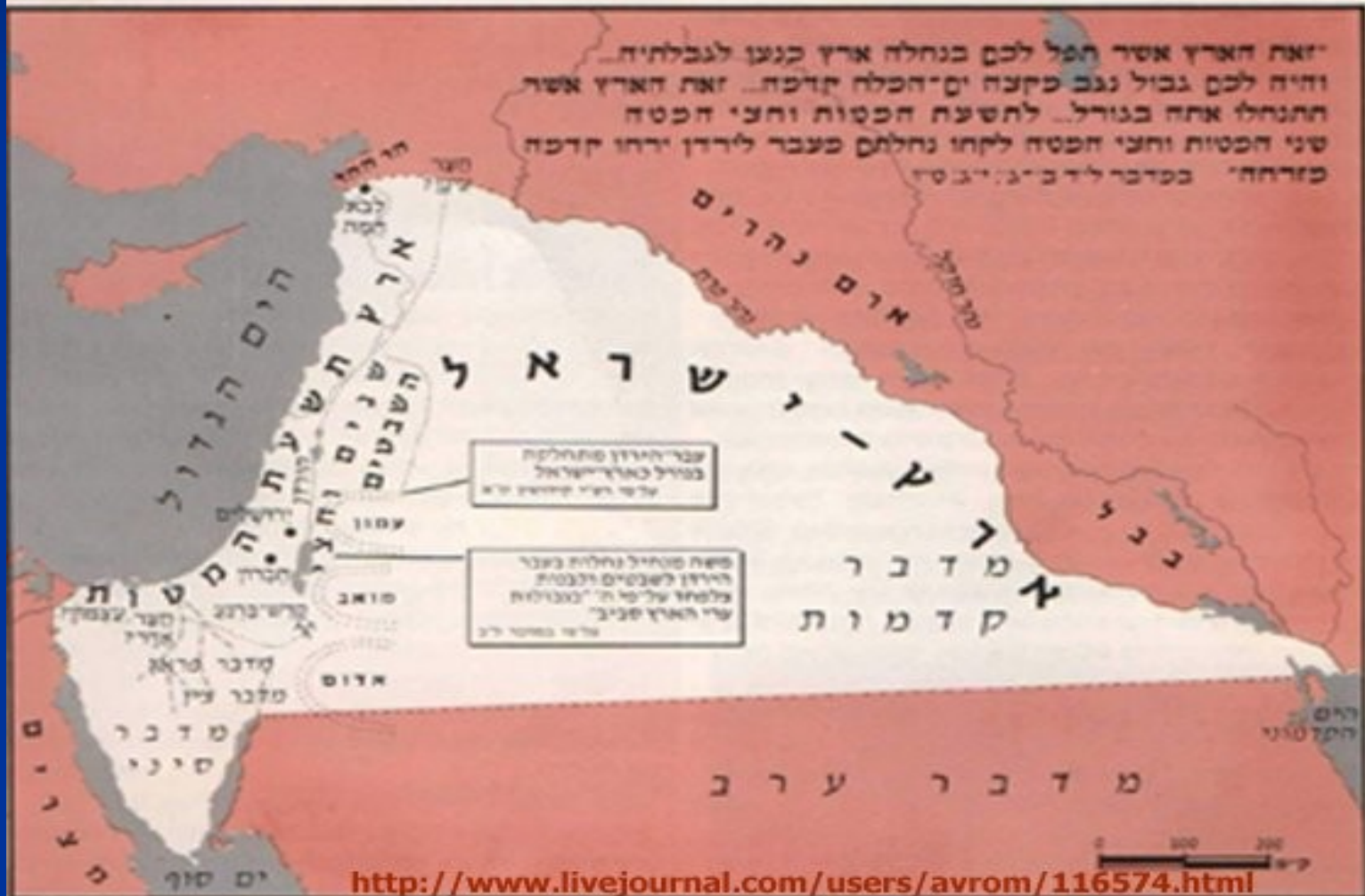
Commentary by HaRav David Samson

- Kook jr. Complemented his father s thoughts by another transcendental interpretations of political events
- Especially to Six day War (1967), where Israel annexed vast territories, which Kook jr. Considered to be another part of ancient Jewish homeland.
- Kook jr. is a spiritual father of religious Jewish settlers in Palestine (Judea and Samaria) and their movement *Gush Emunim* (Bloc of faithful)

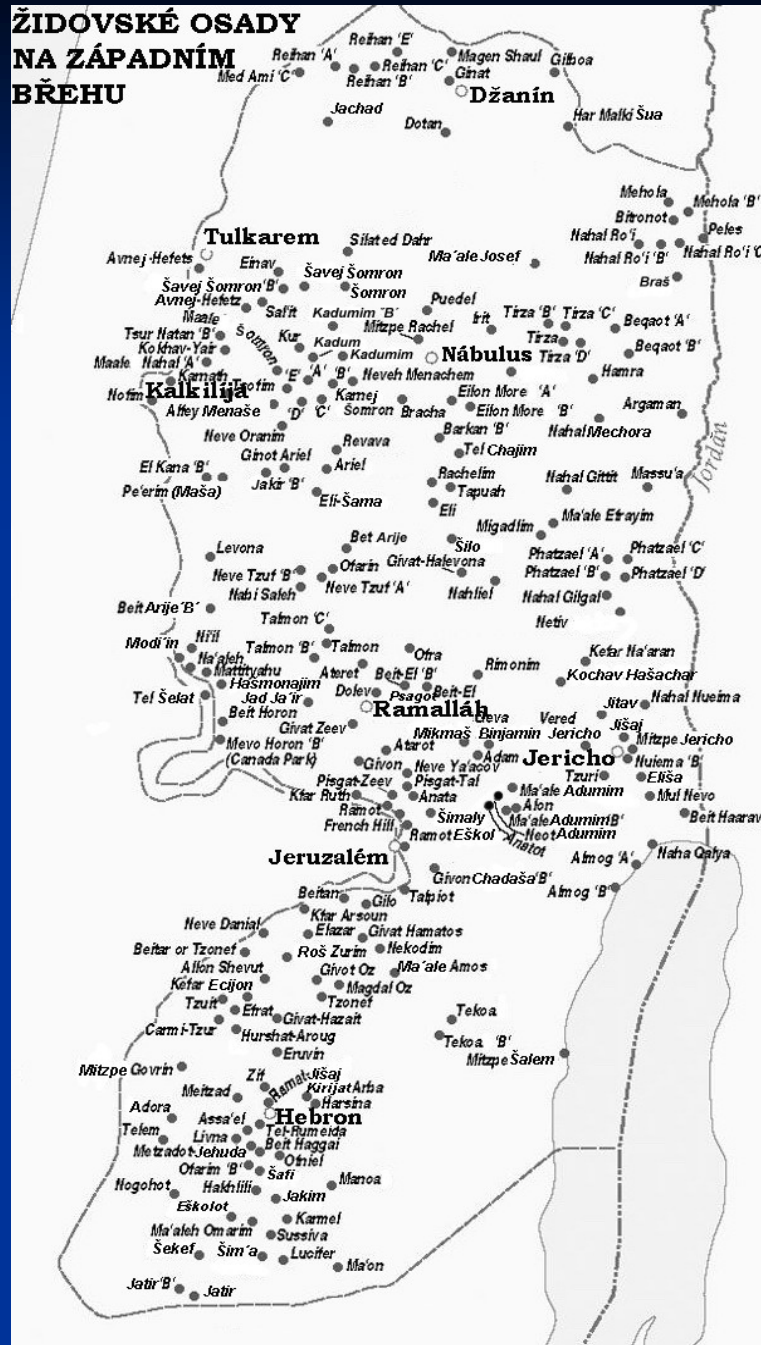


„The Great Israel“

גבולות 'מסעי' – גבולות התנחלות השבטים



ŽIDOVSKÉ OSADY NA ZÁPADNÍM BŘEHU



After 1945

- Many non- or anti- Zionist Jews were killed during Holocaust
- Those who survived began to consider the Holocaust to be God's punishment for Zionism.
- After Holocaust many Jews lost their faith
- But some of Haredi Jews become more pragmatic, some even joined Religious Zionists,

HAREDI PRAGMATISM

- Most of the contemporary Israeli haredim do not consider themselves to be Zionists – e.g. they refuse to serve in Israeli Army
- In fact, most of the Israeli Haredim are exploiting Zionism
- They participate in Israeli politics, they influence politics, they accept state support etc.
- They want Israel to be more theocratic – conflict with secular majority - tension in society



Neturei Karta

- Vigorously Anti-Zionist since 1938
- Refuse any compromise with Zionists
- Refuse legitimacy of Israel
- Few thousands of Haredi Jews in Israel, Great Britain and USA
- <http://www.nkusa.org/>

כי נשמו א"ל

כניעה! הצלתינו בגלות

SURRENDER Is The Torah Solution!

אין ציונות! אין שפיכות דמים! No Zionism! No Bloodshed!

لا للصهيونية! لا لإرأقة الدماء!



rabbi *Amram Blau* (1890–1978)



rabbi Joel Teitelbaum of Satmar (1887-1979)



rabbi Moshe Hirsch (1930)



***The International Conference to Review
the Global Vision of the Holocaust,
Teheran 2006***

