

SOURCE A

THE CENTURY MAGAZINE.

VOL. XLI.

FEBRUARY, 1883.

No. 3.

BY EMMA LAZARUS

And yet here too, the everlasting prejudice is cropping out in various shapes.

Within recent years, Jews have been boycotted at not a few places of public resort; in our schools and colleges, even in our scientific universities, Jewish scholars are frequently subjected to annoyance on account of their race. The word "Jew" is in constant use, even among so-called refined Christians, as a term of opprobrium, and is employed as a verb, to denote the meanest tricks. In other words, all the magnanimity, patience, charity, and humanity, which the Jews have manifested in return, centuries of persecution, have been thus far inadequate to eradicate the profound antipathy engendered by fanaticism and ready to break out in one or another shape at any moment of popular excitement.

SOURCE B



ANTISEMITISM IN THE LATE 1800 ' S

SOURCE

Source A: This quote was published in an essay Emma wrote for *Century* magazine in February of 1883. The *Century* was one of the most popular magazines in the nation.

Source B: This cartoon was published in "*The Judge*" 1892. It depicts a New York Street, showing how all the businesses have Jewish names. On the right hand, you see the stream of Jewish immigrants fleeing persecution, and on the left hand, you see New Yorkers of Dutch and British background, who had been in the country for centuries, fleeing the city.

BACKGROUND

In the late 1870s Jews in the United States began to encounter a rise in antisemitism. Hotels, private clubs and later, universities, restricted the number of Jews allowed entrance or banned them entirely. Cartoons depicted Jews as overly interested in business, and indicated that they might take over America. It is important to note that all ethnic and immigrant groups had cartoons that exaggerated certain characteristics and showed that certain characteristics were harmful or dangerous. Antisemitism in Europe took more violent forms. In the 1880s a rise in antisemitism in Eastern Europe led to violence and attacks on Jewish life and property. This sparked a rise in immigration to America, as the poor, Eastern European Jews came in large numbers with limited resources.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

As you read the source consider how it informs these questions:

- How does the cartoon characterize Jews? In what ways could the characteristics shown be considered positive; in what ways negative?
- How might Emma fit into this picture; on the one hand, she is not a new immigrant. Her family is more like the Americans shown on the left who had been in America for several generations. How might Emma find herself in the story shown in the cartoon? How might this make her feel?
- According to this cartoon, what does it mean to be an American?
- Emma typically wrote about antisemitism in Europe; however, in this piece she addresses antisemitism in America as well. How is she speaking out as an American? How is she speaking out as a Jew?

HISTORICAL NOTES

Definitions of terms used in the source.

The Judge Magazine: A weekly satirical paper which ran from 1881-1947