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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Within the last couple of years, we have witnessed a number of dramatic and catastrophic events - riots, mass shootings, a worldwide pandemic, and much more. When we issued our call for papers back in 2019, we could not anticipate the magnitude of circumstances that would radically impact the United States and the world at large. Yet, alongside all of these widespread occurrences that impact the population as a whole, there is another challenge specific to the Jewish community that continually grows more pernicious: Antisemitism.

In fall of 2019, AJR dedicated its annual Retreat to exploring the dimensions of this threat, offering a several day program entitled *Antisemitism: History, Context, and a Charge to the Clergy*. Students, faculty, and alumni encountered the multifaceted nature of Antisemitism as it has appeared throughout Jewish history and as it manifests itself in the present day. This diversity mirrors the contributions to the present volume of *G'venim*, which includes three unique articles that each engages with a different expression of Antisemitism (broadly conceived) during the 20th century.

In “From the Pit of Decay and Dust,” Timothy Riggio Quevillon explores the impact of violence against Jews during the British Mandate period in Palestine, particularly with respect to the Sanz Hasidic Kahana family in Safed. Riggio shows how conflicts between Jews and Arabs in the region, as well as involvement from the British, were powerful forces in shifting the political affiliation of members of the Kahana family from an anti-Zionist stance to a militant Zionist posture. This analysis provides

a window into the role of violence in propagating political extremism and polarization within families.

A more comparative approach underlies Miriam Eve Mora's article on Jewish and Black conceptions of masculinity. Examining American antisemitic and anti-Black depictions of men in the 1960s and 1970s, Mora explores the parallels between the almost diametrically opposed stereotypes employed to marginalize Jewish and Black men. She charts some of the interactions between these communities in their shared struggle to respond to negative stereotypes, offering us a thoughtful reflection on the delegitimizing conceptualization of minorities groups by those with power.

The final article in this volume turns to a more conventionally understood expression of Antisemitism, the Holocaust. However, Galit Gertsenzon contributes a perspective often overlooked when people think about Jewish responses to persecution. In her article, Gertsenzon considers musical compositions by three composers from 1936 to 1944 in order to delineate their respective musical aesthetics of resistance. She highlights not only the anger and calls for action in these works, but also the themes of hope, dignity, and redemption that make these pieces compelling responses to Antisemitism in their time and for today.

The three lengthy investigations in the present volume evince the diverse manifestations of Antisemitism in the modern era. Their in-depth expositions grant us a glimpse into the reverberations of many expressions of hatred that continue today but simultaneously reveal the importance of understanding the nuances of the past and the sparks of

hope that they encapsulate for the future.

Matthew S. Goldstone
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