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Jewish Anti-Zionism in the Galician Socialist Movement¹

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Galicia, the Polish province of the Austro-Hungarian empire, was one of its most economically backward regions. Despite Jews' over-representation in urban areas, only ten percent of the small manual working class in Galicia was Jewish, roughly the proportion of Jews in the overall population of 7,136,000 in 1900.² Although formally emancipated in 1867, Austrian Jews and especially those in the eastern provinces of the Empire, the overwhelming majority of whom spoke Yiddish as their first language, remained an oppressed group. They suffered from entrenched, if often unofficial, discriminatory practices and attitudes. They were also subject to formal, legal discrimination. Under laws which dated back to the late 18th century, as well as more recent legislation and ordinances, Yiddish was not accorded the same status in the courts, with public authorities or in the education system as officially recognised languages.³

There were Jewish workers amongst the earliest members of the social democratic (Marxist) movement in Galicia, in the early 1890s. By 1896 there were general workers' associations in Kraków, Lemberg (now L'viv in Ukraine), Kolomea (Kolomyia in Ukraine) and Przemyśl.⁴ A *territorial* social democratic

¹ This paper derives the larger project which gave rise to Rick Kuhn's *Henryk Grossman and the Recovery of Marxism*, University of Illinois Press, Urbana and Chicago 2007.

² J. Thon, "Die Berufsgliederung der Juden in Galizien," *Zeitschrift für Demographie und Statistik der Juden*, 3 (8-9), August-September 1907, pp. 114-116. The category "Workers" (*Arbeiter*) did not include "Day Laborers" (*Tagelöhner*).

³ Gerald Stourzh, "Galten die Juden als Nationalität Altösterreichs?," in Anna Drabek, Eliav Mordechai and Gerald Stourzh, *Prag, Czernowitz, Jerusalem: der Österreichische Staat und die Juden von Zeitalter des Absolutismus bis zum Ende der Monarchie*, *Studia Judaica Austriaca* 10, Edition Toetzer, Eisenstadt 1984, pp. 73-98; Gerald Stourzh, *Die Gleichberechtigung der Nationalitäten in der Verfassung und Verwaltung Österreichs 1848-1918*, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, Vienna 1985, pp. 74-80; Emil Brix, *Die Umgangssprachen in Altösterreich zwischen Agitation und Assimilation: Die Sprachenstatistik in den zisleithanischen Volkszählungen 1880 bis 1910*, Veröffentlichungen der Kommission für Neuere Geschichte Österreichs, Band 72, Herman Böhlau, Graz 1982, pp. 353-387.

⁴ Henryk Grossman, *Der Bundizm in galitsien*, Verlag der Sotsial-democrat, Kraków 1907, p. 24; Jakob Bros, "The beginning of the Jewish labor movement in Galicia," *YIVO annual*, 5, 1950; Jüdische sozial-demokratische Partei in Galizien, *An die Sozialdemokraten in Oesterreich!*, Sozialdemokrat, Kraków, October 1905; Jonas Shmuel Blum, "Der yidisher arbeter un di Poylishe

organisation, organising all workers in Galicia, was established as a component of the General Austrian Social Democratic Party, in 1890. The Galician Party's first Congress, in 1892, adopted the name Social Democratic Party of Galicia (GPSD). In 1899, once its "Ruthenian" (Ukrainian) members had formed the Ukrainian Social Democratic Party, the Galician territorial organisation became the *national* Polish Social Democratic Party of Galicia (PPSD).

Amongst the GPSD's most influential figures were a number of Jewish intellectuals, like Max Zetterbaum and Herman Diamand. Seeking to involve Jewish workers in the organisation, the Party's most prominent leader, Ignacy Daszyński, a Pole, initially expressed hostility to assimilationism, the idea that Jews should give up all cultural distinctions except their religion and adopt "higher" Polish culture, and defended the view that the Jews were a nation. During the late 1890s, however, the Party's policies became more and more nationalist and its leaders expressed increasingly assimilationist attitudes towards Jewish workers.⁵ Organising Jewish workers was not a priority for the Party and it set up no co-ordinating structures to sustain their associations. When recession followed political repression at the turn of the century, the Jewish general trade unions and workers' education associations, which constituted the PPSD's presence in the Jewish proletariat, suffered sharp declines and collapsed entirely in Kraków, the second largest city in Galicia and the cultural capital of partitioned Poland.⁶

Meanwhile, Solomon Rubinstein, previously a key figure in setting up the first social democratic organisation of Jewish workers in Kraków, became active in organising white collar Jewish workers along labour Zionist lines in Vienna, in 1900-1901,⁷ precisely when Jewish social democratic organisation in Galicia was at its weakest. A Zionist union of commercial workers in Galicia was formed in 1903. Austrian unions with a Zionist orientation held a conference in Kraków in May the following year. This assembly was regarded as the founding congress of the Austrian Poale Zion (Labour Zionist) Party.⁸

Sotsial-Dem Partey in Galitsie," in A. Tsherikover et al. (eds.), *Di Yidishe sotsialistishe bevegung biz der grindung fun "Bund,"* YIVO, Vilno/Paris 1939, p. 524.

⁵ Grossman, *Bundizm*, op. cit., pp. 19, 25, 29.

⁶ Bros dated the start of the problem period to 1899-1901. "The beginning of the Jewish labor movement," op. cit., p. 82 also see Jakob Bros, "Tsu der geshikhte fun der Y. S. D. P. in galitsien," *Royter Pinkes* 2, Verlag Kultur Lige, Warsaw 1924, pp. 32, 43-44. According to Grossman, the decline occurred "after 1897," *Bundizm*, op. cit., p. 25. For the collapse of the Jewish organisations in Kraków by 1901, see *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 2, May 1905, p. 39.

⁷ Anshel Reiss, *Bereshit tenuot ha Poalim ha Yehudim be Galitsyah*, World Federation of Polish Jews, Tel Aviv 1973, p. 25.

⁸ Jakob Kener, *Kvershniit (1897-1947): fragmenten fun zikhrones, epizoden vegn umgekomene kedoyshim, martirer un kemfer*, Tsentral komitet fun linke Poale-Tsion in di Fareynikte Shtotn un Kanade, New York 1947, pp. 23-24; Reiss, *Bereshit tenuot ha Poalim ha Yehudim*, op. cit., pp. 49-53.

Zionism offered an escapist response to the oppression Jewish workers experienced. It promoted both the utopian idea of a Jewish state and the practical escape, though only followed by a small minority of the movement's supporters, of emigration to Palestine. While social democrats mobilised workers to struggle against despotism and for democracy and socialism, Zionism held out the prospect of Jewish emancipation by means of diplomatic and colonial collaboration with emperors. Poale Zionism (PZ) attempted to combine the two approaches.⁹ The PPSD's Polish nationalism, assimilationism and dismissive attitude to Yiddish were major obstacles to counteracting the influence of PZ and recruiting Jewish workers to the social democratic movement.¹⁰

Despite the relative indifference of the PPSD, the Jewish social democratic movement in Galicia and particularly in Kraków soon began to revive. This was not the result of an official PPSD initiative. Three factors were involved. First, after the severe recession around the turn of the century, the Austrian economy began to recover. The recovery soon turned into a boom and increased workers' self-confidence and preparedness to take strike action and join trade unions. This improvement was, however, from a very low initial level.¹¹ Second, the higher levels of class struggle in the Russian empire and the successes of the socialist movement there, particularly the Bund, provided an inspiration for activists in Galicia. The efforts of a layer of Jewish university students, led by Henryk Grossman and Jakob Bros in Kraków and by Karol Eyneygler in Lemberg was the third factor which helped to build or revitalise Jewish socialist associations.¹²

The Poale Zionists, however, had a head start in their organising. The *Yidisher Arbeyter*, the PZ newspaper, earlier written in German, started appearing in Yiddish in Autumn 1904. It focussed particularly on winning over Jewish workers in the PPSD.¹³ On 16 August 1904 Grossman reported on social demo-

⁹ Poale Zion specifically sought to represent workers at Zionist Congresses and (with no success) to represent the international Jewish working class at Congresses of the Socialist International, Kener, *Kvershmit*, op. cit., p. 83. For critical accounts of Zionism and Poale Zionism in this period see Nathan Weinstock, *Zionism: false messiah*, Ink Links, London 1979, especially pp. 46-50; John Bunzl, *Klassenkampf in der Diaspora: Zur Geschichte der jüdischen Arbeiterbewegung in Österreich*, Wien 1975, pp. 113-115. Note that the most systematic attempt to synthesise Marxism and Zionism was made by Ber Borokhov. His approach found more support within PZ organisations in Russia than Austria.

¹⁰ For the PPSD's analysis of Zionism and the "Jewish question" see Max Zetterbaum, "Probleme der jüdisch-proletarischen Bewegung," *Die Neue Zeit* 19 (1) numbers 11 and 12, 1900, pp. 324-330, 367-373.

¹¹ Walentyna Najdus, "Galicia," in Stanisław Kalabiński, *Polska klasa robotnicza: zarys dziejów, tom I, część 3*, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa 1978, pp. 436, 474.

¹² Bros, "Tsu der geshikhte," op. cit., p. 43. According to Christina Stead, in 1901 Grossman learnt Yiddish in order to organise Jewish workers in Kraków, Stead Collection, National Library of Australia, Box 6, Folder 45.

¹³ Bunzl, *Klassenkampf*, op. cit., p. 124.

cratic agitation amongst Jewish workers to a meeting of the Union of Workers' Associations (the peak body of the union movement in Kraków). The rise of Zionism in the Jewish community was, he said, obvious, while socialist agitation was weak. It was essential to find agitators who could speak Yiddish and to build a Jewish socialist organisation which had greater autonomy from the Party.¹⁴

Before the PPSD's 9th Congress in October-November 1904, Jewish activists established a secret organising committee to prepare the way for an independent Jewish social democratic party. At the Congress, Grossman, Max Rose and Bros (all Kraków university students involved in organising Jewish workers) supported a motion of no confidence in the Party's moribund Jewish Agitation Committee. They condemned the Party's lack of attention to publishing material in Yiddish and ineffectiveness in combating Zionist influence amongst Jewish workers.¹⁵ The motion was defeated and the Congress endorsed one from Diamand that regarded "a separate class organisation of the Jewish proletariat as harmful for the proletariat as a whole. A separate organisation of the Jewish proletariat is in the interest of the ruling class of exploiters, Zionist and anti-semitic demagogues and all kinds of chauvinists."¹⁶

At the conference the PPSD also entered into an exclusive alliance with the most right-wing and nationalist of the socialist organisations in the "Congress Kingdom of Poland," the Polish Socialist Party (PPS). This was another victory of the Party's leadership over oppositionists who identified with more radical socialist organisations in Russian-occupied Poland, notably the Bund and the Social Democratic Party of the Kingdom of Poland and Lithuania (one of whose leaders was Rosa Luxemburg).¹⁷

Grossman continued to make the case for an independent Jewish socialist party in a pamphlet published in January 1905. He sustained an essentially Bundist position, taking issue with both assimilationist Polish socialists and Zionists and drawing attention to the Bund's successes.¹⁸ The PPSD's stance on the Jewish question, he maintained, was an expression of opportunism, because "opportunism in our country is capitulation in the face of prejudice and patri-

¹⁴ Józef Buszko, *Ruch socjalistyczny w Krakowie 1890-1914 na tle ruchu robotniczego w zachodniej Galicji*, Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków 1961, p. 204.

¹⁵ Bros, "Tsu der geshikhte," op. cit., pp. 44-45; Yusef Kisman, "Di yidishe sotsial-demokratishe bevegung in galitsie un bukovine," in G. Aronson et al. (eds.), *Di geshikhte fun Bund*, band III, Farlag Unser Tsait, New York 1966, pp. 365-366; Henryk Piasecki, *Sekcja Żydowska PPSD i Żydowska Partia Socjalno-Demokratyczna*, Zakład Narodowy imienia Ossolińskich, Wrocław 1982, p. 58.

¹⁶ *Naprzód*, 1 November 1904.

¹⁷ Walentyna Najdus, *Polska Partia Socjalno-Demokratyczna Galicji i Śląska 1890-1919*, Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, Warszawa 1983, p. 398; Kerstin Jobst, *Zwischen Nationalismus und Internationalismus: Die polnische und ukrainische Sozialdemokratie in Galizien von 1890 bis 1914. Ein Beitrag zur Nationalitätenfrage im Habsburgerreich*, Dölling und Galitz, Hamburg 1996, pp. 134-136.

¹⁸ Henryk Grossman, *Proletariat wobec kwestii żydowskiej...* [The proletariat in the face of the Jewish question...], Drukarnia Władysława Teodorczuka, Kraków, January 1905, p. 31.

otic traditions.”¹⁹ Like the PPSD theorist, Zetterbaum, he identified Zionism with the interests of the Jewish bourgeoisie.²⁰

Eventually, in March the PPSD leadership moved against the base of the dissident Jewish activists in the Party’s ranks. The Galician Trade Union Congress, which was under the influence of the Party, decided to dissolve the basic organisations of the Jewish working class, local educational associations and general unions, by the end of the year. Daszyński welcomed the prospect that these “Bundist daydreams” or “nests of sedition” would be eliminated.²¹ The activists accelerated their preparations for a split. Grossman wrote to the Bund reporting on developments and seeking material support, in the form of literature in Yiddish. One of the publications he requested, in particular, was a pamphlet on Zionism.²²

The Jewish dissidents originally conceived of the *Yidisher sotsial-demokrat* as a monthly journal which would prepare the way for the new party. But its appearance was delayed when the PPSD’s actions brought the split forward. The first issue demonstrated a thoroughly Bundist attitude to Zionism, the political ideology of the Jewish capitalist class, “which preaches a new ‘Exodus from Egypt’” and seeks to realise the material interests of the Jewish bourgeoisie.” So, the editor stated:

[w]e will criticise Zionism in all its forms (economic, political and cultural) and in all its implications. We will mercilessly rip off the false mask of Zionist ideology and reveal its bourgeois features. Our critique will always be serious and contentious, always based on facts.²³

The Jewish Social Democratic Party of Galicia was proclaimed on May Day 1905. Supporters of the new Party came together in their own rallies in Kraków, the provincial capital Lemberg, Przemyśl and Tarnów.²⁴ Jakob Bros, in Kraków, explained the nature of workers’ solidarity and proclaimed the formation of the new Jewish Social Democratic Party of Galicia (JSDP), “a party

¹⁹ Grossman, *Proletariat wobec kwestii żydowskiej*, op. cit., pp. 36, 41. The first part of the pamphlet appeared in Yiddish as “Dem proletariat benegeye tsu der yidenfrage,” in *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 1, April 1905, pp. 6-13; and 3, June 1905, pp. 7-11.

²⁰ Max Zetterbaum, “Probleme der jüdisch-proletarischen Bewegung,” *Die Neue Zeit* 19 (1) numbers 11 and 12, 1900, op. cit.; Grossman, *Proletariat wobec kwestii żydowskiej*, op. cit., pp. 10, 15.

²¹ *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 1, April 1905, pp. 29-30; Kisman, op. cit., pp. 366-367; Piasecki, *Sekcja Żydowska*, op. cit., p. 113; Najdus, *Polska Partia Socjalno-Demokratyczna*, op. cit., pp. 392, 437.

²² Letter from Henryk Grossman to the Foreign Committee of the Bund, Kraków, 8 April 1905, MG2 F107, Bund Archive, YIVO, New York. Grossman refers to Bronislav Grosser, one of whose pseudonyms was “Slawek,” as “Sławka Gr.”

²³ “Tsi di lezer!,” *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 1, April 1905, p. 3.

²⁴ Najdus, *Polska Partia Socjalno-Demokratyczna*, op. cit., p. 437.

arising *not against* the Polish or Ruthenian parties, but *alongside them*.” Then they joined the PPSD’s demonstrations in a show of proletarian internationalism.²⁵

The JSDP’s founding manifesto examined the precedents for the establishment of new social-democratic parties in the Austrian empire. It proclaimed the Party’s adherence to social democratic orthodoxy and the right to be recognised as a part of the federal, General Austrian Social Democratic Party:

We are not nationalists, we are not chauvinists, and no-one has enforced the *class* character of our struggle more strongly than we have. Nobody has fought Zionism as a class movement of the Jewish bourgeoisie more ruthlessly than we have. We do not want nationalist *programs*, we are just demanding a national *organisation*. It is, finally, necessary to distinguish between these. We want the same sort of national organisation as the Germans, Poles and Czechs, the southern-Slavs, and even the Ukrainians already have in Austria, and which only the Jews do not have!²⁶

The JSDP never deviated from its Marxist critique of Zionism.

Along with the PPSD, which retained a rump of supporters amongst Jewish workers, PZ was the JSDP’s main competitor inside the Jewish working class. The Poale Zion newspaper had begun to appear fortnightly instead of monthly in February 1905 and the second Congress of Poale Zion in Austria was to take place in Kraków, just over a week after the JSDP’s founding Congress in June 1905.²⁷ Bros’ motion at the JSDP Congress, that the Party condemn Zionism, “the movement of the Jewish bourgeois class” in all its forms including PZ, was therefore an important one.

David Balakan, who attended as a guest from Czernowitz (now Chernivtsi in Ukraine), the capital of the even more underdeveloped eastern province of Bukovina, was impressed by the JSDP’s founding Congress: the policies of the new organisation coincided with his own views.²⁸ He soon contributed a critique of the 7th Zionist Congress to the *Yidisher sotsial-demokrat*.

In Theodor Herzl’s death less than a year before, Balakan saw a metaphor for the crisis of Zionism. At the 1905 Zionist Congress, the movement split between supporters of a Jewish homeland in Palestine and the possibility of

²⁵ JSDP, “Święto majowe” in JSDP, *Przed Kongresem*, Kraków, 2 June 1905, pp. 6-7, emphasis in the original.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 7, emphasis in the original.

²⁷ *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 3, June 1905, p. 25; Reiss, *Bereshit tenuot ha Poalim ha Yehudim*, op. cit., p. 62; S. Kaplansky, “Aus den ersten Tagen der österreichischen Partei,” *Der Jüdische Arbeiter*, organ of Poale Zion Wien, no. 14, 1927, p. 29.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 20. “Balaban” appears in the text, but this seems to be a typographical error. These were common in the *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*.

obtaining one, in Uganda, from the British government. Having been rebuffed by the Ottoman Sultan, Herzl had favoured the British proposal.²⁹

A short book Balakan soon wrote in German was particularly significant for the JSDP. Published by the university bookshop in Czernowitz, it was the first systematic defence of the JSDP and its policies accessible to most German-Austrian (and German) social democrats. Its specific case for the establishment of the JSDP drew on Grossman's *The proletariat in the face of the Jewish question* and other arguments rehearsed in the Party's publications. But Balakan also offered a penetrating Marxist discussion of the Jewish question and critique of Zionism. This drew on a systematic understanding of the theory and practice of the Bund, German and Austrian social democracy, as well as mainstream and Labour Zionism. Balakan endorsed the Bund's identification of Zionism as:

the movement within the Jewish petty and middle bourgeoisie, which finds itself under the double pressure of competition from big capital on the one hand and the exceptional laws and incitement of the regime and bourgeois elements in the Christian population on the other. Starting from the assumption that antisemitism is eternal, Zionism's goal is the establishment of a class state in Palestine and it seeks to cover up class contradictions in the name of the general national interest...³⁰

Given that most of the Jewish bourgeoisie in Austria-Hungary, in particular, identified with the Habsburg monarchy, this analysis was superior to Zetterbaum's and Grossman's arguments that Zionism was simply a bourgeois movement. Zionists and antisemites, Balakan also observed, shared the basic assumption that Jews and gentiles could not live together.

Balakan took his critique of Zionism a step further. His argument is a decisive refutation of later Zionist accounts of the history of debates over the Jewish question and Zionism. Robert Wistrich, for example, has argued that there was a procolonial current in Marxism, going back to Marx:

In this context Zionism, which aimed at colonizing a backward, undeveloped country by modern methods of agricultural co-operation, appeared as a 'civilizing' movement to a growing number of socialists. Significantly not even its strongest opponents, such as Karl Kautsky or the Austro-Marxists, ever challenged it before 1914 in terms of its possible effects in Palestine itself. It simply did not occur to anti-Zionist Marxists, any more than to sympathizers with Zionism, that there could be an 'Arab problem' in Palestine. It would

²⁹ *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 4-5, July-August 1905, pp. 8-9.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 33. Balakan cites the Bund's report (in German) to the International Socialist Congress of 1904 in Amsterdam, p. 26.

have been inconceivable in the pre-1914 climate of socialist thought to condemn Zionism as a ‘colonialist’ movement aiming at the establishment of a ‘settler-State.’ If anything, it was pro-Zionist socialists who underlined this aspect of Zionism in *positive* terms, whereas anti-Zionists emphasized its role in diverting the Jewish masses from the class struggle in the countries where they already lived.³¹

This claim neglected arguments in primary and secondary sources which Wistrich himself cited.³² For it had certainly occurred to some anti-Zionist Marxists that there was an “Arab problem” in Palestine. Balakan’s comments could not be clearer. The Zionists would have to obtain land in Palestine, Balakan also understood, by purchase or force. There were problems with both methods. The Zionists simply did not have the resources to buy much land. In fact, until 1948 only about eight per cent of land in Palestine was owned by Jews.³³ In the circumstances that preceded World War I, Balakan was also correct in arguing that:

A forcible dispossession of the current landlords, assuming that the Sultan concedes autonomy [to the Jews in Palestine], cannot be in question. The Turkish regime would never allow it and those to be dispossessed would not rest with their hands in their laps waiting for what is to come.³⁴

Nevertheless, Max Nordau’s opening address to the 7th Zionist Congress, in July 1905, included a hopeful account of how a deal might be done with the Sultan. In return for being given the right to run Palestine, the Zionists, would protect the Sultan’s authority if “the Turkish regime, perhaps, saw itself faced with the necessity of defending its rule in Palestine and Syria, weapons in hand, against its own subjects.” Balakan was taken aback:

³¹ Robert S. Wistrich, *Socialism and the Jews: the Dilemmas of Assimilation in Germany and Austria-Hungary*, Associated Universities Presses, London 1982, pp. 166-167.

³² Notably David Balakan, *Die Sozialdemokratie und das jüdische Proletariat*, H. Pardini, k. k. Universitäts-Buchhandlung (Engel & Suchanka), Czernowitz 1905; A. L. (Khaim Yankel Helfand), “Der Poale-Zionismus: Eine neue Strömung im russischen Judentum,” *Neue Zeit* 24 (1) number 25, 14 March 1906, pp. 804-813; Bunzl, *Klassenkampf in der Diaspora*, op. cit., pp. 110-113. These are cited by Wistrich, in other connections, *Socialism and the Jews*, op. cit., pp. 380, 420, 423. Also relevant, but published after Wistrich’s work are John Bunzl, “Le Bund et le sionisme,” *Combat pour la diaspora*, 4, 1980, pp. 45-49; Mario Keßler, *Zionismus und internationale Arbeiterbewegung 1897 bis 1933*, Akademie Verlag, Berlin 1994, pp. 83-85.

³³ Oren Yiftachel, “Democracy or Ethnocracy: Territory and Settler Politics in Israel/Palestine,” *Middle East Report*, Summer 1998, <http://www.merip.org/mer/mer207/yift.htm> accessed 25 July 2002.

³⁴ Balakan, *Die Sozialdemokratie und das jüdische Proletariat*, op. cit., p. 40.

Really, that the Zionists with Nordau at their head recommend themselves to the Sultan as *domestic slaves* against the Young Turks, who are trying to establish modern state relations, that they can reconcile their Jewish culture with service as Cossacks and hangmen for the Turkish autocracy, that we opponents would never have dared state. We would not have regarded the entire Zionist Congress, the ‘representation of an entire enslaved people’ as so corrupt that not a single voice, not even of a Zionist socialist, was raised against this *shameful* thought. In a genuinely bourgeois way, purchasing their ‘national liberation’ with the *enslavement* of other peoples doesn’t matter to them all in the slightest, if it only helps [their cause]. *Their culture and world view can accommodate such a burden very well.*³⁵

Very early, Balakan drew attention to the expansionist logic of Zionist colonisation:

The Zionist leaders want to extend colonisation to the areas around Palestine, as Palestine will soon offer insufficient room for the Jewish masses who crave entry. On the other hand, a greater Palestine is necessary, with a view to the future ‘national market’ – again the bourgeois, capitalist signature. The Zionist ‘statesmen’ don’t even have a corner of Palestine yet, but already have the land hunger of ‘genuine’ diplomats.³⁶

Jewish social democrats in Galicia and their allies therefore opposed Zionism not only because it was a diversion from Jewish workers’ struggles against exploitation and oppression in Europe, but also because of its implications for Palestine’s Arab inhabitants. Balakan’s pamphlet was published in German, not a language accessible to most Galician Jews. To provide Party members and supporters with a consistent social democratic perspective in Yiddish, the JSDP began to publish the weekly *Der sotsial-demokrat* in October 1905. In May 1906, it carried a systematic, if brief account of the national movement in the Arab world. This was a review, translated from the left-wing Polish journal *Krytyka*, of Neguib Azoury’s *Le réveil de la nation arabe dans l’Asie turque* (*The awakening of the Arab nation in Turkish Asia*). Azoury, an important figure in the rise of Arab consciousness, described the emergence of an Arab national movement against Turkish domination. Zionist colonisation was accelerating the development of this movement. The review was sarcastically entitled “Good prospects for the Zionists in Palestine.” But, written in the period before Zi-

³⁵ Ibid., pp. 44-45, emphasis in the original.

³⁶ Ibid., p. 47.

onism gained the support of its first powerful imperialist backer, Britain, its conclusions proved to be overoptimistic. “The Zionist daydreams, which have never been more than daydreams, will soon come to nothing compared to this [Arab national] movement.”³⁷

The following year, the *Sotsial-demokrat* published “A letter from Jerusalem,” to arm its readers with further, very practical arguments against Zionism. The letter described the prevalence of disease in the city, the extent of class differences which drove a large proportion of Jewish worker immigrants back to Russia, the prevalence of religious fanaticism, and confused class relations.³⁸

Outside the main cities, the JSDP’s main political competitor in organising Jewish workers was Zionism. Combatting Zionism was therefore an element in the JSDP’s practical organising work as well as its propaganda. One of the new Jewish Social Democratic Party’s efforts to expand beyond its initial strong-holds took place in Podgórze.

With the support of the Kraków JSDP, members in Podgórze, just across the bridge over the Vistula, held a meeting attended by 100 people on Saturday 8 July 1905. A university student, Leon Feyner chaired, while Pesakh Dembitser, a Kraków worker, was one of the main speakers. The formal presentations focused on the importance of organisation, particularly the central social democratic commercial workers’ union, and the way the activities of Poale Zion amongst commercial workers weakened it. In the course of the upturn in workers’ struggles, the union had recently won shorter hours for many of its members. Unfortunately for the Zionists present, the first of their speakers to be recognised in the discussion was a student, with little grasp of how workers’ organised.

Then comrade Grossman spoke. He showed how false the Zionist ‘love’ of the Jewish people was. With sharp words and quotations from the Zionist press, he demonstrated what a swindle these people’s position on the revolution in Russia was. Further, the speaker gave a popular explanation of the meaning of socialism, how enormously significant and vital it was for the working class. Finally, he proved the necessity of a workers’ organisation in general and the JSDP in particular.

Two more Zionists intervened to retrieve their position, before the young JSDP heavy weights from across the river in Kraków, Grossman, again, Papier and Dembitser resumed their hammering of Zionism. Towards the end of the

³⁷ “Gute oyszikhten far di Tsionisten oyf Palestina,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 11 May 1906, p. 4.

On Azoury’s significance see Weinstock, *Zionism*, op. cit., pp. 81-83.

³⁸ “A brief fun Yerusholaim,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 2 August 1907, p. 2.

meeting, a majority of those present elected a local agitation committee to build a JSDP presence in the town. A week later, at the next local JSDP gathering, 65 mainly older, married workers, joined the organisation.³⁹ In early November, a meeting of over 100 women, also organised by the JSDP, established an association of women workers in Podgórze.⁴⁰

The issues between PZ and the JSDP were not just abstract questions. Shop assistants in Podgórze were working up to 17 hours a day. The Zionists launched a petition for shorter hours which the employers simply rejected. The JSDP was prepared to lead strikes and boycotts in pursuit of better wages and shorter hours.⁴¹ Jewish social democrats were in the vanguard of the upsurge of class struggle, triggered by the revolution in Russia, amongst Jews in Galicia in 1905 and 1906.

JSDP organising in Brody on the Russian border, on the other side of Galicia also began in mid-1905. Yehusha Necker came out from Lemberg to give a talk on organisation and events in Russia, on 8 July. The following Saturday, Karol Eyneygler spoke on the political situation in Europe. In a case of political harassment typical of eastern Galicia, the police did not permit him to address the meeting in Yiddish, because he hadn't obtained permission first. So he spoke Polish but, using the disruptive activities of Poale Zionists in the audience as an excuse, the police soon dissolved the meeting altogether.⁴² The Tarnopol Party Committee sent comrade Temperberg to the *shtetl* (Jewish village) of Skalat in eastern Galicia to combat Zionist influence there. His speech had the desired effect. The 60, mainly older workers present disowned the Zionists and decided to organise a memorial meeting for the Bundist hero Hersh Lekert.⁴³

In a report of July 1905 to the Bund on the progress of the new Party, Grossman noted that "an important part of our battle is the battle with Zionism and Poale Zionism."⁴⁴ A few months later, he made the same point in an appeal to the General Austrian Social Democratic Party Congress against its Executive's decision not to recognise the JSDP as a component of the General Party. He stressed that his Party was politically orthodox. The key decisions of the Party's founding Congress on its relationship to the General Austrian and Polish Social Democratic Parties and to Zionism, placed the Jewish organisation on the same political basis as the rest of the Austrian social democratic movement.⁴⁵ The report which accompanied this appeal drew parallels between the

³⁹ *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 4-5, July-August 1905, pp. 38-39.

⁴⁰ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 3 November 1905, p. 3.

⁴¹ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 6 October 1905, 27 October 1905.

⁴² *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 4-5, July-August 1905, pp. 45-46.

⁴³ *Der yidisher sotsial-demokrat*, 4-5, July-August 1905, pp. 43-44.

⁴⁴ Letter from Henryk Grossman, Kraków 27 July 1905, Bund MG2 F107, Bund Archive YIVO, New York.

⁴⁵ Jüdische sozial-demokratische Partei in Galizien, *An die Sozialdemokraten in Oesterreich!*, *Der Sozialdemokrat*, Krakau 1905, p. 1. Grossman reiterated this argument in an article for the

contending political forces in the Jewish and Polish communities in Galicia, comparing the clique of career Jews in politics with the Polish Conservative Party; the Zionists with the antisemitic all-Polish Party (the National Democrats); the Polish Democrats with the new Party of Independent Jews. “The organisation of the Jewish proletariat, finally,” the report affirmed “is in the sharpest contradiction with all these parties.”⁴⁶

Conflicts with Zionists and Poale Zionists were also apparent in the campaign over universal suffrage which flared up in Austria in the course of the Congress of the General Social Democratic Party, when the Tsar conceded a constitution in Russia at the end of October.⁴⁷ Grossman and Jonas Blum reported on the Congress and the movement for electoral reform to a Party meeting in Kraków on Saturday 4 November, helping to build a rally on Sunday. Around 20,000 people turned out for the protest.⁴⁸ The following weeks saw hundreds of meetings and demonstrations in favour of universal suffrage in Galicia and across the Austrian empire. Police attacked rallies in Lemberg and Tarnopol.⁴⁹

On Sunday the 5th, there was a public meeting on electoral reform and the elections to the *Kehilos* (local Jewish administrations with authority, under Austrian law, over Jews in religious and related matters) in Kraków, organised by the party of the “Independent Jews,” also known as the Jewish Democrats. In the course of his speech Grossman, attacked the Zionists who had demanded that the meeting not take place because Jewish blood was being shed in Russia, condemning them for calling on people “not to struggle, but to weep.” While supporters of the JSDP were in the majority at the meeting, the Zionists created such a racket that it was dissolved. The Jewish social democrats then unfurled their banner and sang revolutionary songs. The *Sotsial-demokrat* pointed out that the Zionists had acted like the police in disrupting the meeting.⁵⁰ In Chrzanów, about 45 kilometres to the west of Kraków, local Zionists behaved in a similar way in May-June 1906. The Mayor expelled two JSDP members from the town, after Zionists had denounced them.⁵¹

theoretical journal of the Czech social democrats, Jindřich Grossmann, “Židovská Strana Sociálně Demokratická v Haliči,” *Akademie: Socialistická Revue*, 1906. German translation: “Die Jüdische Sozialdemokratische Partei in Galizien,” in Raimund Löw, *Der Zerfall der “Kleinen Internationale”: Nationalitätenkonflikte in der Arbeiterbewegung des alten Österreich (1889-1914)*, Europaverlag, Wien 1984, pp. 220-227.

⁴⁶ Jüdische sozial-demokratische Partei in Galizien, *Bericht zum Gesamt-Parteitage der Oesterreichischen Sozialdemokratie in Wien 1905 (1 Mai-23 Oktober 1905)*, *Der Sozialdemokrat*, Krakau 1905, p. 1.

⁴⁷ William Alexander Jenks, *The Austrian electoral reform of 1907*, Columbia University Press, New York 1950, p. 41.

⁴⁸ Józef Buszko and Henryk Dobrowolski, *Udział Galicji w rewolucji 1905-1907*, Wydawnictwo Literackie, Kraków 1957, p. 92.

⁴⁹ *Jahrbuch der Sozialdemokratischen und Anarchistischen Bewegung des Jahres 1905*, C 1021, Archiv der Bundespolizeidirektion Wien, p. 41.

⁵⁰ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 10 November 1905, p. 3.

⁵¹ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 8 June 1906, p. 4.

The Zionists, who up until recently had rejected any involvement in the politics of particular countries as a diversion from their goal of a state in Palestine, now argued, rather inconsistently, that representatives in the *Reichsrat* (Austrian parliament) should be elected by “national curia” (nationally homogenous, non-territorial electorates). The main argument for proportional representation and nation curia was that these electoral systems would resolve the national question. The same was true of the government’s proposal that electorates be drawn up so they were nationally homogenous. Grossman’s conclusion on this point was convincing: “electoral systems, even the best of them, won’t end national struggles.”⁵²

When the first *Reichsrat* election under universal suffrage was finally held, in May 1907, the Jewish social democrats campaigned against Zionist candidates and in favour of those belonging to the PPSD. The JSDP’s priority was that socialist rather than Zionist or bourgeois Jewish candidates should win in the urban electorates where many of the voters were Jewish.⁵³

Although they were not standing for the seat which encompassed the Jewish area of Kraków, the Kazimierz, Grossman attacked the Zionists, who were contesting the elections elsewhere in Galicia, in a speech at a large public meeting. Their election campaign did not raise the issue of Palestine, their preoccupation for fifteen years. Instead the Zionists’ election program consisted of the demand for more Jews in the *Reichsrat*. The Jews in the right wing Polish National Council made the same demand. In practice, therefore, the Zionists were promoting clericalism amongst the Jews and therefore amongst the Poles. For socialists, on the other hand, religion was a private matter: religious edicts should not be issued in parliament. To what extent were the Zionists to be believed when they declared themselves to be both democrats and loyal to the existing Austrian regime?⁵⁴

Grossman wrote a substantial pamphlet on the emergence of the JSDP in 1907, the most sustained and sophisticated justification for the Party’s existence. Its twin targets were Zionism and the Polish nationalism of the PPSD. Jewish bourgeois nationalism, in the form of Zionism, like Polish nationalism, demanded an independent territorial state. Zionism had, Grossman argued, no practical program and refused to fight for democracy here and now, let alone for the immediate interests of the working class:

⁵² Henryk Grossman’s speech on the campaign for electoral reform to the second Congress of the JSDP, “Der II oyserordentlikhe kongres fun der Jud. Sots. Dem. Partey, II fortsetzung,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 15 June 1906, p. 3.

⁵³ For an example of the JSDP’s critique of Zionism see “Der bankrot fun’m tsionizm,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 13 July 1906, p. 1; “H. G.” (presumably Henryk Grossman), “Polenklub, Yidenklub un der Tsionistisher sharlotanizmus,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 28 September 1906.

⁵⁴ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 1 April 1907, p. 4.

It is absolutely clear that even the greatest reactionary can demand a people's or even a 'socialist' republic in Palestine, and as a result fail to take advantage of the existing constitution or to *struggle* for the democratisation of a given country. This indirectly bolsters the absolutism of the clerical and warmongering Austrian bureaucracy. This reactionary standpoint found its best expression in the formula that Zionism, as a *general-nationalist* movement, cannot limit itself to any particular class or group; on the contrary it must include people from all social strata and from the most diverse political camps, uniting East, West, North and South.⁵⁵

Jewish workers in Lemberg, however, had developed a practical political program, before the emergence of a political Zionist organisation.⁵⁶ Seeing through the nationalist phraseology of Zionism with its failure to oppose the policies of the imperial bureaucracy, they set up their own independent party in Galicia, in 1892. This party, although it soon collapsed, sought a federal relationship with other national social democratic currents in Galicia, anticipating the federal organisational form adopted by the General Austrian Social Democratic Party in 1897.⁵⁷

Grossman argued that the PPSD was progressive because it opposed Zionism and identified the common fate of the Jewish proletariat with the proletariats of other nations in Austria. This amounted to a positive, if abstract invocation of Marxist principles. But the version of socialism the PPSD presented to Jewish workers was too abstract. It did not address their immediate problems as both an oppressed and an exploited group; it offered no guidelines for contemporary political practice or struggles against oppression. PPSD leaders maintained that the Jewish question would be resolved under socialism. In this way, Grossman explained, they promoted passivity amongst the Jewish masses.⁵⁸

So there was a basic similarity between the PPSD and Zionist positions. By pointing to a solution in the distant future, under socialism or a Jewish state in Palestine, they "*cut themselves off* from the real context in which a solution to this question is necessary." "Both make a mockery of historical circumstances of time and place."⁵⁹

By removing themselves from the real circumstances, which form the *basis* of the Jewish question, both tendencies have unequivocally shown that *the organic connection between the Jewish question* (like any other social issue) *and the given socio-political system of a state*, is a mystery to them. So too is

⁵⁵ Grossman, *Bundizm*, op. cit., pp. 14-15, emphasis in the original.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 13-14, 16.

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 16, 24.

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 30-32.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 33, 37, emphasis in the original.

the corollary that the Jewish question which has arisen on a particular socio-political basis cannot be solved separately from that basis and its circumstances. This can only occur *through a struggle on the basis of these social circumstances and against them*.⁶⁰

No wonder that, over the period between 1897 and 1899, the Jewish workers' movement led by the Polish Social Democratic Party declined and "through its material neglect of the Jewish workers' movement, the PPSD helped to deliver the Jewish working class to the swindle of Zionist ideology."⁶¹ The Polish Party had "turned the class struggle of the Jewish proletariat into a chauvinist fight between *two nationalisms*." The logic and the damaging consequences of the nationalism of the dominant groups in Austrian social democracy were very clear in Grossman's critique of the PPSD's capitulation to the ideology of the Polish bourgeoisie.

Jewish workers, Grossman pointed out, could not wait for the ultimate victory of socialism or a Jewish state in Palestine before taking up the struggle against social and national oppression. Hence the appeal of the model provided by the Bund.⁶² It applied the insight that "[s]ocialism acquires strength in a given country or people only *when it applies its theory to the specific development and problems of that country or people*."⁶³ The "analysis of *all the practical interests* of the Jewish workers' movement and all the important phenomena of Jewish social life" was a precondition for making socialism relevant to Jewish workers and winning them from rival ideologies.⁶⁴ Only a Jewish working class party, Grossman argued, as he had for several years, could do these things.

In *Bundism in Galicia*, he also offered a distinctive account of the relationship between class interest and political organisation. His brief analysis paralleled Lenin's polemics on the issue and anticipated Lukács's and Gramsci's post-war discussions of the role of the party in the development of class consciousness.⁶⁵

⁶⁰ Ibid., pp. 33-34, emphasis in the original.

⁶¹ Ibid., pp. 34-35.

⁶² Ibid., pp. 37, 39, emphasis in the original.

⁶³ Ibid., p. 41, emphasis in the original.

⁶⁴ Ibid., p. 41, emphasis in the original.

⁶⁵ See, for example, V. I. Lenin, *What is to be done?*, in V. I. Lenin, *Selected works*, volume 1, Progress, Moscow 1977, (originally published February 1902), pp. 126, 145; V. I. Lenin, *Two tactics of social-democracy in the democratic revolution*, in Lenin, *Selected works*, volume 1, op. cit., (originally published July 1906), pp. 425, 524-525; the discussion of Lenin's organisational response to the 1905 revolution in Tony Cliff, *Lenin, volume 1: building the party*, Pluto, London 1975, pp. 171-183; Georg Lukács, *History and class consciousness*, Merlin, London 1971 (1923), pp. 46-82, 149-222; *Lenin*, NLB, London 1970, (originally published as *Lenin*, Verlag der Arbeiterbuchhandlung, Wien 1924), pp. 24-38, 49-50; Antonio Gramsci, *Selections from the prison notebooks*, International Publishers, New York 1971, pp. 10, 330, 340.

Recognition, based on scientific socialism that all forms of social consciousness are to be explained in terms of *class* and group interests is of great practical significance in the assessment of a proletarian party, i.e. social democracy. It is also significant to the extent that it remains true *in reverse*. That is, when the class interests of the proletariat find their expression in party consciousness (in the form of a program) and when this party consciousness is the multi-faceted expression of the proletariat's class interests, and the most far-reaching interpretation of the conclusions drawn from the objective trends of actual social development. Workers' parties do not always fulfil this requirement (as evidenced by the PPSD). Both the character and the content of collective party thought remain *directly dependent on the particular party's adjustment to the very working class* whose expression it should be.

The question, therefore, of establishing the Jewish workers' movement on the basis of Marxism (i.e. of fulfilling the above-mentioned tasks, of making abstract socialist theory into the blood and flesh of the workers' movement; in other words of adjusting it to the development of Jewish society and its particular problems), could only, we repeat, be a result of the closest possible adaptation of the party organisation to the historical forms of the Jewish proletariat's condition. It could only result from the mutual organic growth of the party organisation with the workers' movement itself, just as the latter has grown out of capitalist society.⁶⁶

Given the constraints faced by Jewish social democrats in Galicia – the nationalist hostility of the PPSD and its opportunist alliance with the equally nationalist German-Austrian Party inside the General Party – the construction of such a Jewish workers' movement could only be undertaken by a Jewish social democratic party. Grossman, however, transformed the immediate circumstances which had pushed him and his comrades to establish such a national organisation into a principle.⁶⁷ He projected backward the organisational form imposed on the Jewish working class to say that this was the only possible form of organisation for all workers parties in Austria from the late 1890s. If, however, the Polish and German social democrats had opposed national oppression in Austria as seriously as the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party did from its refoundation in 1903, there would have been other organisational choices available to the Jewish working class in Galicia.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Grossman, *Bundizm*, op. cit., pp. 42-43, emphasis in the original.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 43.

⁶⁸ See for example, V. I. Lenin, "Does the Jewish proletariat need an »independent political party«," (originally published in *Iskra* 34, 15 February 1903), *Lenin on the Jewish question*, International Publishers, New York 1974, p. 24; in a draft resolution, not apparently placed before the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party's Second Congress in 1903, Lenin affirmed "that, in particular, complete unity between the Jewish and non-Jewish proletariat is moreover especially necessary

When the PPSD approved the repackaging of its rump “Jewish section” as the “Jewish Social Democracy of Galicia” in 1908, the JSDP immediately started to campaign to ensure that no-one would be misled by the change of label. Grossman addressed meetings on the issue in Kraków and Lemberg. A Poale Zionist and another Jewish national socialist spoke during the discussion in Lemberg, accusing the JSDP of demanding too little and lacking national spirit. In his reply, Grossman conceded some of their case:

That you are nationalists, we don't want to dispute with you. That is, actually, the difference between you and us. We are Jewish social democrats and you Jewish nationalists. We lead the class struggles of the Jewish proletariat. We fight for equality. We want the Jewish nation to be equal to all other nations. Cultivating nationalism with its accompanying chauvinism, you want to capture the Jewish proletariat in the net of chauvinism, under the mask of your peculiar socialism.⁶⁹

These arguments found an audience in the Jewish working class. At their respective Party Congresses in 1908, both the JSDP and PZ claimed about 3,500 members.⁷⁰ But the overwhelming majority of the JSDP's members lived in Galicia. This was not true of the labour Zionists. There were substantial labour Zionist organisations in Vienna and groups in the Bohemia and Moravia.⁷¹ In Galicia, the JSDP was therefore a significantly larger Party. Within a short period of its formation, the JSDP had become the dominant organisation amongst Jewish workers in the province.

In its coverage of the JSDP Congress, the *Sotsial-demokrat* made a side-swipe at both the PPSD and PZ, pointing out that the Congress itself demonstrated that the Jewish proletariat was capable of both making its own decisions and conducting class struggles in the diaspora.⁷² Grossman's presentation, however, focussed its criticism on the mainstream Jewish parties, more formidable

for a successful struggle against anti-Semitism, this despicable attempt of the government and the exploiting classes to exacerbate racial particularism and national enmity,” V. I. Lenin, “Draft resolution on the place of the Bund in the Party” (written in June-July 1903), in *Lenin on the Jewish question*, op. cit., p. 26.

⁶⁹ *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 26 June 1908, p. 4. The attempts at disruption by Poale Zionists during the meeting continued after it was over. But when Jewish national socialists, including a gangster who had organised an attack and drawn a gun on the JSDP secretary Henryk Shveber and Leyb Landau in Przemyśl in 1907, tried to unfurl a Poale Zionist banner, “our Lwów [Lemberg] comrades taught him better.”

⁷⁰ Jakob Grobler and Henryk Shrayber, “Berikht fun der Eksekutiv-komitiet tsum III Partey-tag in Lemberg 1908,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 9 October 1908, p. 2. The ironic report in the JSDP's newspaper was very sceptical about the PZ's claimed membership, “Der kongres fun di »alveltlikhe Poale-Tsion« fin Esterreykh,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 19 June 1908, p. 3.

⁷¹ Kener, *Kvershnit*, op. cit., p. 106.

⁷² “Der III. kongres fun der YSDP in Galitsie,” *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 23 October 1908, p. 1.

opponents than PZ. The Zionists' political perspectives had undergone a rapid evolution around the time universal suffrage was introduced for the elections to the *Reichsrat*. Agitation for the Hebrew language showed "how dear the education of the [Yiddish speaking] Jewish masses is to the hearts of the Zionists." Their stock in trade, bemoaning the injustices which befall the Jews, formerly the speciality of liberal Jewish politicians, was "no positive program which can constitute the basis for the revitalisation of Jewish society and the reconstitution of the structure of Jewish social life." The reactionary party of the "Poles of Mosaic faith," who participated in the right wing Polish caucus in the *Reichsrat* only showed an interest in the Jewish masses immediately before elections. "Their sole program is the hunt for seats in parliament, it doesn't go further than that." The "Independent Jews" in Kraków, although they called themselves the Jewish Democratic Party had done deals with the reactionaries. Grossman wrote that they "pursue a policy which politically corrupts the Jewish masses by means of democratic philanthropy: cheaper homes, coal etc. Their political activity is never more than a struggle for pitiful steps forward and not a struggle for the principle of real equality for the Jews."⁷³

The resolution which summed up Grossman's and his Party's political perspectives in relation to Galicia emphasised the need for self-reliance. The General Party's representation in the *Reichsrat* had disintegrated into separate national caucuses shortly after the first elections under universal suffrage in 1907. A parliamentary symptom of the concessions made by the constituent organisations of Austrian social democracy to nationalism. In a tacit acknowledgement of this nationalist degeneration, the resolution failed to mention the wider Austrian social democratic movement.

The Jewish Social Democratic Party of Galicia regards itself as isolated in the struggle for the political and social struggle for the emancipation of the Jewish working class. Both the Polish and the so-called Jewish parties are hostile to this struggle.

The complete lack of real democracy means that the pseudo democratic Polish parties regard the Jewish proletariat's struggle as separatist agitation and harmful to the country.

The Jewish proletariat cannot in the least rely for support in its liberation struggle on Zionism, after the series of shifts the Zionists have engaged in over the past two years. Rather, Zionism is one of the greatest opponents of the cultural revitalisation of the Jewish masses.

The so-called 'Independent Jews,' cut off from the centres of the Jewish masses, quite apart from their minimal local significance, have proved them-

⁷³ "Der III. kongres fun der YSDP," *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 30 October 1908, p. 3.

selves to be opportunists. They have moved from the path of struggle to that of 'democratic philanthropy' and demoralising compromises.

We assert that the unheard of means the Polish Social Democratic Party employs in its fight against us damage both the Jewish and Polish proletariats. The PPSD alone bears and will bear responsibility for this.

For these reasons, the Jewish proletariat has to conquer its political rights and build its political influence with its own forces in the struggle against all Polish and Jewish parties.⁷⁴

The JSDP, however, was still prepared to work with the PPSD in the interests of the whole working class. In the lead-up to the 1911 *Reichsrat* elections, the PPSD's "Jewish Social Democracy" and the JSDP agreed to fuse. Part of the deal was that the JSDP would withdraw its candidates for the election and throw its support behind those of the PPSD. In Lemberg, the PPSD's Herman Diamand won a large majority over the prominent Zionist, Adolf Stand.⁷⁵ PZ also contributed to this success. PZ had begun to move to the left in 1905, under the influence of revolutionary events in Russia. The Labour Zionist organisation supported social democratic candidates in 1911, rather than Zionists as it had in 1907. The Labour Zionists also seem to have responded to the disinterest of the General Zionists in the problems faced by workers, by accommodating to the more militant and successful JSDP, since they were concerned that supporting bourgeois Zionist candidates would undermine their goal of affiliating to the Socialist International.⁷⁶

The outbreak of war in 1914 severely disrupted the JSDP. The regime imposed martial law in Galicia. Many Party members were conscripted and many others became refugees as the Russian front swept back and forth, devastating the east of the province. For a couple of years the JSDP did not function at all. Before the war, however, and in contrast to the PPSD, the JSDP never made concessions to the (Zionist) nationalism of "its own" petty bourgeoisie and bourgeoisie. After the JSDP began to operate again, in 1917, it resumed its criticism of Zionism as an oppressive colonial enterprise, without commitment to working class struggle.⁷⁷ In 1920, after Poland was again a single independent state, the JSDP merged into the Polish Bund.

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 3.

⁷⁵ Kisman, "Di yidishe sotsial-demokratishe bevegung," op. cit., pp. 432-435.

⁷⁶ Kener, *Kvershnit*, op. cit., pp. 92-93; Kessler, *Zionismus*, op. cit., p. 91; Israel Moyshe Horn, *Mehkarim*, Neuman, Jerusalem 1951, pp. 153-156; Adolf Böhm, *Die Zionistische Bewegung bis zum Ende des Weltkrieges*, 2nd edition, Hazaah Ivrit, Tel Aviv 1935, pp. 365-366.

⁷⁷ See, for example "Di Juden-pogromen in Palestina un der Tzionizm," *Der sotsial-demokrat*, 1 May 1920, p. 7