

# Myths - 1



An alleged desecration...



Two of a series of six panels...



Panels from a woodcut...

IN THE MIDDLE AGES, belief in miracles and legends is common. Two myths with an anti-Jewish character appear throughout Europe: Jews desecrating the Host; and Jews committing ritual murder. Both myths survive into the 20th century. Other popular beliefs during the Middle Ages have Jews grow hems and tails - attributes of the devil.

After the Church in 1215 establishes the doctrine that the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ is contained in the consecrated Host and wine, stories begin to surface that Jews steal, mutilate or burn the Host in order to kill Jesus once more. Miracles form an elementary part of this myth: the mutilated Host starts to bleed - thus proving the doctrine and the truth of the Christian faith

## *Anti-Jewish Myths, cont.*



"The Murder of Simon of Trent..."



"The Martyrdom of Simon of Trent"

According to the "blood libels," Jews are killing Christian children in order to satisfy their supposed need for "Christian blood" in making Passover bread or in other religious rituals. While higher authorities of the Church and state often oppose the stories, the myth lives on in popular belief, supported and encouraged by local clergy who launch

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION SEARCH *BEYOND THE PALE: THE HISTORY OF JEWS IN RUSSIA*, J KNIESMEYER, AND D. BRECHER

## EXHIBIT GUIDE [\(expand\)](#)

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Herzl Yankl Tsam, the only Jewish officer in the 19th century. Drafted into the army as a 17-year-old Cantonist, he was made a captain only after 41 years of service. In spite of pressures, he never converted to Christianity. See [The Russian Empire: Life in the Pale of Settlement](#)

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## LINKS TO RELATED SITES

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[Russian-Jewish Culture and Heritage](#)  
[Russian Culture and History](#)  
[Russian Language Sites](#)  
[Judaism and Jewish Heritage links](#)  
[General History links](#)

RUSSIAN JEWISH CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

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### **Virtual Jerusalem's Commonwealth of Independent States**

Virtual Jerusalem's information on Judaism in the C.I.S. (former Soviet Union), including [Jews in Russia](#) and the [Ukraine](#).

### **Machanaim**

Torah and Jewish Heritage for Russian-speaking Jewry. Established in 1979 in Moscow as an underground network of Torah and Judaism learning. In 1987 it was re-established in Jerusalem to provide Jewish education for Russian speakers in Israel and over the world.

### **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research**

Dedicated to the study and preservation of the Eastern European Jewish heritage.

### **The Institute for Jewish Studies in the C.I.S.**

Website discussing the work of Rabbi Adin Steinsaltz, founder of Rabbi Steinsaltz's other pioneering efforts in Russia include the founding of [the Jewish University of Moscow](#) and the Jewish University of St. Petersburg.

### **Shamir - Russian Jewry**

A non-profit organization "dedicated to the professional and spiritual renaissance of Russian Jewry," and has published over 400 books on related subjects.

### **Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ)**

A grassroots organization advocating for Jews and human rights in the former Soviet Union.

### **Jewish Heritage Society (Moscow)**

### **Birobidzhan**

Part of the award-winning photojournalism site, ["The Russian Chronicles"](#) featuring information about the Jewish Autonomous Region founded in 1934 as a "homeland" for Soviet Jews. Of special interest is [The Last Jews of Birobidzhan: A Photo Essay](#).

### **A Brief History of Khazaria**

Discusses the medieval Jewish kingdom of Khazaria in southern Russia.

### **Into the Light - Images of Ukrainian Jewry**

A collection of photographs by Dmitry Peysakhov documents the Jewish people and places of modern Ukraine, and includes "Jewish Life in Kiev," "Stones of Sorrow" (Jewish Cemeteries in

Ukraine), "Jewish Faces," "Babi Yar," and "Into the Light" (The Jewish Shtetl Today).

### **The Jews of Bukhara**

An outline of the history of the Jewish community of Bukhara (also written Bokhara or Bochara), Uzbekistan, by Donna L. Carr.

### **Vinnitsa Region Jewish Community**

David Dickerson documents the Jewish history and culture of the Vinnitsa region in the Ukraine.

### **Russian-Jews archive and mailing lists:**

Topics of interest for Russian Jews.

### **Eastern European Jewish History Discussion List (EEJH)**

Details on how to join the Eastern European Jewish History and Culture e-mail discussion list.

## **RUSSIAN CULTURE AND HISTORY**

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**Russian History** links from Bucknell University's **Russian Studies Department**

### **Russian News Navigator**

Links to Russian Newspapers and Magazines in Russian and English

**Russian Life** magazine.

### **Friends and Partners**

Extensive information and Links to Russian culture and heritage and relations with the United States.

Library of Congress' **Soviet Archive Exhibit**

### **Russian Sites and Links Galore!**

### **Russia Alive!**

### **Glasnet:**

A Russian web server/ISP that contains a number of links to Russian culture and heritage sites, including a **Virtual Tour of Russia**.

### **Slavic Interest Links**

Oleh Baran's **Ukraine** page connects you to all things Ukrainian on the Web.

### **Virtual Guide to Belarus**

Yahoo's **Russian links**

## **RUSSIAN LANGUAGE**

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### **Glasnet:**

The Russian web server/ISP has a number of links to Russian culture and heritage. In English also.

### **Glasnet Judaism Page**

### **Cursor:**

Israel internet magazine in Russian.

### **Jewish Heritage Society (Moscow)**

**Machanaim** : Torah and Jewish Heritage Center for Russian Speaking Jewry. Also in English.

## **JUDAISM AND JEWISH CULTURE**

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### **Virtual Jerusalem**

Andrew Tannenbaum's **Judaism and Jewish Resources**

### **Jewish Communication Network (JCN)**

Also see their directory and search engine at **J C Navigate**

David Dickerson's **Jewish Cultural Links**

### **Heshye Engelsberg's Jewish Links**

### **Jewishnet**

Yahoo's [Judaism links](#)

## GENERAL HISTORY LINKS

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The University of Kansas' [Index of World History Links](#)

University of California, Riverside's [Horus History Links](#)

Research Institute for the Humanities' [History links](#)

Rhodes College's [History Internet Resources](#)