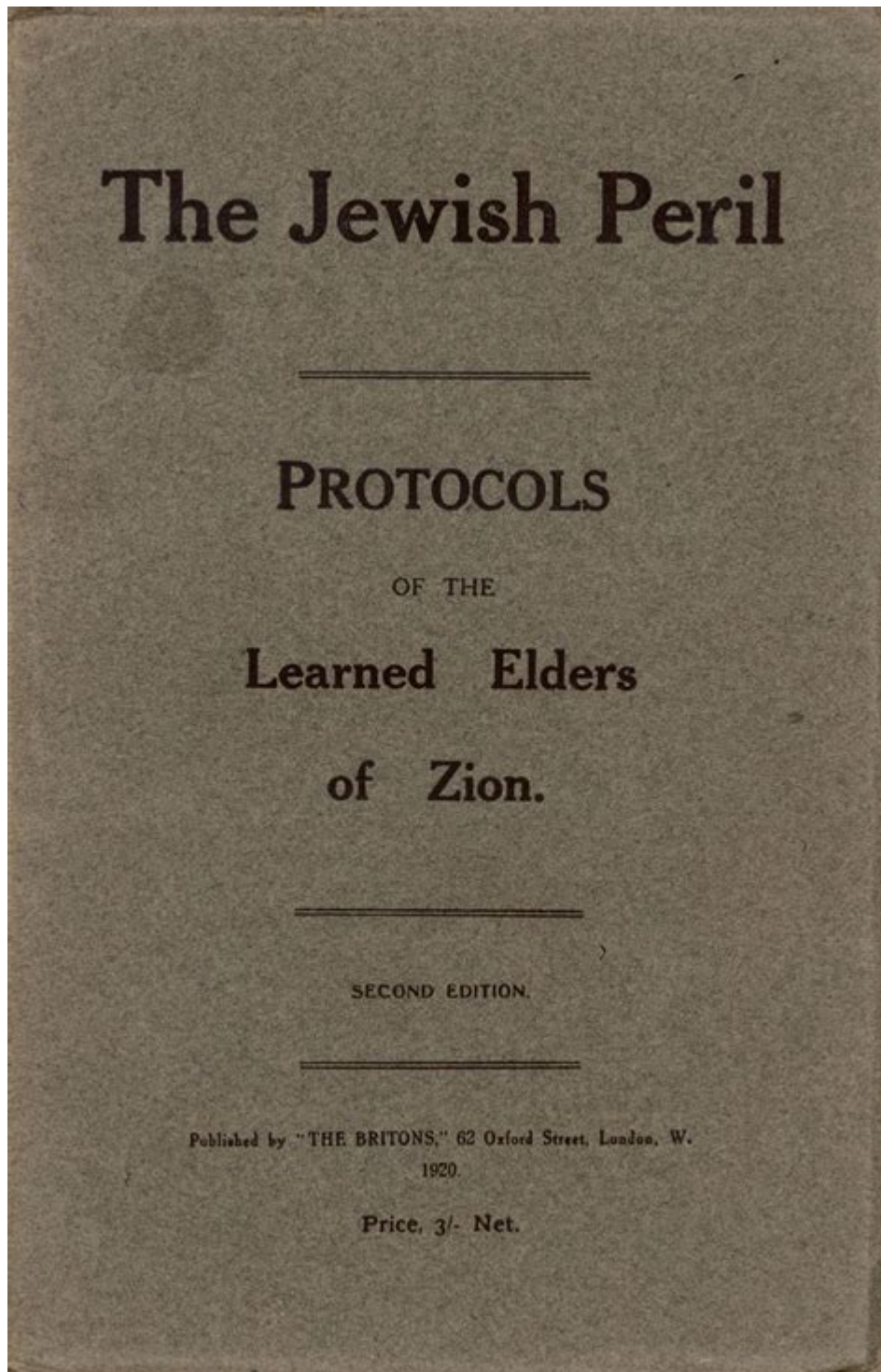


The Learned Elders Of Zion



The Learned Elders of Zion: Unveiling the History and Impact of a Controversial Text

The phrase "The Learned Elders of Zion" evokes strong reactions. For some, it represents a

historical touchstone, a pivotal text in the development of antisemitic conspiracy theories. For others, it's a cautionary tale about the dangers of misinformation and its devastating consequences. This blog post delves into the history of this infamous text, exploring its origins, content, impact, and lasting legacy. We'll examine its role in shaping antisemitic ideologies and analyze its continued relevance in understanding modern forms of prejudice. Prepare to uncover the truth behind this controversial document and its enduring influence.

H2: Origins and Authorship of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion"

The infamous text commonly known as "The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion" didn't appear out of thin air. Its origins are murky and shrouded in controversy, further fueling its dubious credibility. While often attributed to a mysterious group of Jewish elders, scholarly consensus points to its fabrication. The most widely accepted theory traces its origins to Russian secret police fabrications, likely drawing inspiration from existing antisemitic tropes and literature. It's believed to have been compiled from various sources, including fictional works and plagiarized passages, cleverly woven together to create a narrative of a Jewish global conspiracy to dominate the world. The exact authorship remains a mystery, adding to its aura of intrigue and furthering its manipulative power.

H2: Deconstructing the Narrative: Key Themes and Propaganda Techniques

The "Protocols" present a meticulously crafted narrative of a Jewish cabal secretly plotting world domination. This narrative employs several key propaganda techniques:

H3: Conspiracy Theory:

The core of the "Protocols" is a complex conspiracy theory, portraying Jewish leaders as master manipulators secretly pulling the strings of global events. This appeals to a sense of unease and fear, offering a simplistic explanation for complex societal problems.

H3: Stereotyping and Demonization:

The text employs classic antisemitic stereotypes, portraying Jewish people as greedy, deceitful, and power-hungry. This dehumanizes the targeted group, making it easier to justify prejudice and violence.

H3: Appeal to Fear and Prejudice:

By playing on existing societal anxieties and fears, the "Protocols" tapped into pre-existing prejudices, making its message more palatable to a receptive audience. This fear-mongering tactic was highly effective in disseminating its hateful message.

H3: Forgery and Deception:

The fabricated nature of the text itself is a crucial aspect of its propaganda. The false veneer of authenticity lent credibility to its malicious claims, making it more persuasive to those who lacked critical thinking skills.

H2: The Impact and Legacy of "The Protocols"

The impact of "The Protocols" has been profoundly destructive. Its publication marked a turning point in the history of antisemitism, providing a seemingly credible basis for persecution and violence against Jewish communities globally.

H3: Rise of Antisemitism:

The "Protocols" played a significant role in fueling the rise of antisemitism in the early 20th century, inspiring pogroms and contributing to the Holocaust. Its insidious message resonated with extremist groups and individuals, providing them with a justification for their hateful ideologies.

H3: Political Manipulation:

Authoritarian regimes readily adopted and promoted the "Protocols" as propaganda tools, using it to consolidate power and scapegoat minority groups. This manipulation highlights the dangerous potential of fabricated narratives to influence political discourse and actions.

H3: Modern Relevance:

While the "Protocols" have been widely discredited, its themes and techniques continue to reappear in modern conspiracy theories. The enduring power of its narrative underscores the persistent challenges in combating misinformation and prejudice.

H2: Debunking the "Protocols": The Importance of Critical Thinking

It's crucial to understand the "Protocols" not simply as a historical artifact but as a warning against the dangers of misinformation and the manipulative power of propaganda. Recognizing the techniques employed in this fabricated text helps us to critically evaluate information and identify similar patterns in contemporary narratives. Promoting media literacy and critical thinking skills is essential in combating the spread of hate speech and conspiracy theories.

Conclusion

The "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion" stands as a stark reminder of the destructive power of antisemitism and the dangers of unchecked misinformation. Understanding its origins, content, and impact is vital to combating prejudice and building a more tolerant and informed society. By analyzing its manipulative techniques, we can better equip ourselves to identify and challenge similar narratives in the present day, safeguarding against the resurgence of such harmful ideologies.

FAQs

1. Are there any credible translations of "The Protocols"? No. All existing translations are of a text that has been proven to be a forgery. Any attempt to present it as anything other than a fabricated piece of antisemitic propaganda is disingenuous.
2. Who ultimately benefited from the spread of "The Protocols"? Authoritarian regimes and individuals promoting antisemitism benefitted most, using it to consolidate power and persecute Jewish communities.
3. Why does the text continue to circulate despite its known falsity? It resonates with pre-existing prejudices and anxieties, offering a simplistic explanation for complex issues, making it appealing to those seeking scapegoats.
4. What steps can be taken to prevent the spread of similar narratives? Promoting media literacy, critical thinking, and fact-checking initiatives are crucial in combating misinformation and hate speech.
5. How does the "Protocols" relate to modern conspiracy theories? It serves as a blueprint, demonstrating the effectiveness of conspiracy theories in creating fear and division, and the ease with which fabricated narratives can spread and gain traction.

the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Sergei Nilus, Victor Emile Marsden, 2019-02-26 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is almost certainly fiction, but its impact was not. Originating in Russia, it landed in the English-speaking world where it caused great consternation. Much is made of German anti-semitism, but there was fertile soil for The Protocols across Europe and even in America, thanks to Henry Ford and others.

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the learned elders of zion: *The Jewish Peril* , 1920

the learned elders of zion: Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Serg'iei Nilus, Victor E. Marsden, 2003-12-01 The Protocols was supposedly written in 1897 from the minutes of 24 secret meetings between Jews and Freemasons in which they conspired to bring down Western civilization and jointly rule the world. In reality, it is nothing of the sort. In 1921, Philip Graves of the London Times revealed The Protocols to be a fraud, showing it to be based on a French satire aimed at Napoleon III. It is the most notorious and most successful work of modern antisemitism, and was used as part of a propaganda campaign by the Russian secret police in 1905.

the learned elders of zion: The Dialogue in Hell Between Machiavelli and Montesquieu Maurice Joly, 2003 Joly's (1831-78) Dialogue aux enfers entre Machiavel et Montesquieu is the major source of one of the world's most infamous and damaging forgeries, The Protocols of the Elders of Zion. That, however, was concocted some two decades after he died, and American political scientist Waggoner points to Joly's own text for evidence that he was not anti-semitic and was an intransigent enemy of the kind of tyranny the forgery served during the 1930s. He translates the text and discusses Joly's intentions in writing it and his contribution to the understanding of modern politics. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR.

the learned elders of zion: The Paranoid Apocalypse Richard Landes, Steven T. Katz, 2012 This text re-examines 'The Protocols of the Elders of Zion's' popularity, investigating why it has persisted, as well as larger questions about the success of conspiracy theories even in the face of claims that they are blatantly counterfactual and irrational.

the learned elders of zion: The Global Impact of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion Esther Webman, 2012-03-29 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion has attracted the interest of politicians and academicians, and generated extensive research, since the tract first appeared in the early twentieth century. Despite having repeatedly been discredited as a historical document, and in spite of the fact that it served as an inspiration for Hitler's antisemitism and the Holocaust, it continues, even in our time, to be influential. Exploring the Protocols' successful dissemination and impact around the world, this volume attempts to understand their continuing popularity, one hundred years after their first appearance, in so many diverse societies and cultures. With contributions from leading scholars in the field, the book covers themes such as: Why have the Protocols survived to the present day and what are the sources from which they draw their strength? What significance do the Protocols have today in mainstream worldviews? Are they gaining in importance? Are they still today a warrant for genocide or merely a reflection of xenophobic nationalism? Can they be fought by logical argumentation? This comprehensive volume which, for the first time, dwells also on the attraction of the Protocols in Arab and Muslim countries, will be of interest to specialists, teachers, and students working in the fields of antisemitism, the far right, Jewish studies, and modern history.

the learned elders of zion: *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* , 1970

the learned elders of zion: A Lie and a Libel Benjamin W. Segel, 1996-10-01 A strange and repugnant mystery of the twentieth century is the durability of the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a clumsy forgery purporting to be evidence of the supposed Jewish plot to rule the world. Though it has been exposed as a forgery, some apprentice brownshirt is always rediscovering it, the latest in a line of gullibility that includes, most famously, Henry Ford. Recently it has been translated into Japanese and circulates once again with renewed virulence in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. In 1924 in Germany the Jewish author and journalist Benjamin Segel wrote a major historical exposé of the fraud and later edited his work into a shorter form, published as Welt-Krieg,

Welt-Revolution, Welf-Verschwörung, Welt-Oberregierung (Berlin 1926). Translator Richard S. Levy, a specialist on the history of anti-semitism, provides an extensive introduction on the circumstances of Segel's work and the story of the Protocols up to the 1990s, including an explanation of its continuing psychological appeal and political function.

the learned elders of zion: A Rumor About the Jews Stephen Eric Bronner, 2014-12-16 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion is among the most infamous documents of antisemitism. A forgery created in Russia by the czarist secret police and quickly translated into a host of languages, it portrayed Judaism as a worldwide conspiracy dedicated to the destruction of Christian civilization. The appearance of the Protocols sparked a number of bloody pogroms and it helped shape the thinking of right-wing movements worldwide from Hitler's Nazis to contemporary antisemitic groups in Russia, the Middle East and the United States. A work of intellectual history, *A Rumor About the Jews* by Stephen Eric Bronner expresses the connection between antisemitism and the overarching political assault upon the enlightenment legacy, taking the reader on a historical journey that provides a new and penetrating understanding of an insidious ideology and its broader implications.

the learned elders of zion: Protocols of the Meetings of the Learned Elders of Zion , 1945

the learned elders of zion: A Rumor about the Jews Stephen Eric Bronner, 2018-08-30 In its portrayal of Judaism as a worldwide conspiracy dedicated to the destruction of Christian civilization, the Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion remains one of the most infamous documents ever written. Despite being proven a crude forgery, the pamphlet managed to pervade twentieth-century thinking, often being twisted to suit its handlers' purposes, and to justify the most extreme persecution of the Jews. In *A Rumor About the Jews*, Stephen Eric Bronner provides a history of this notorious fabrication—one which has renewed salience in a “post truth” society dominated by “fake news”—and explores its influence on right-wing movements throughout the twentieth century and the ongoing appeal of bigotry. This new edition of Bronner's 2000 classic (described by Kirkus as the best short book on anti-Semitism) expands the arguments of the first edition, bringing the work up to date in a new political context.

the learned elders of zion: The Russian Protocols of Zion in Japan Jacob Kovalio, 2009 Before World War I, Japan did not have an antisemitic tradition of its own. Although influences of Western antisemitism reached the country in the late 19th century, it was only during Japan's participation in the Siberian Intervention of 1918-22 that the Protocols of the Elders of Zion made their way to Japan. The dissemination of this work promoted conspiracy and scapegoating antisemitism in the country. In 1920-21, several Japanese translations of the Protocols appeared, and the topics of Jewish omnipotence and the Jewish peril (Yudayaka in Japanese) became widespread in the mass media and in literature. One of the themes discussed was the Jewish character of the Bolshevik Revolution. Discusses writings by Eiju Oniwa, Tsuyanoske Higuchi (aka Baiseiki Kitagami), Seika Ariga, Minetaro Yamanaka, Tokio Imai, etc., as well as the writings of those who criticized the conception of the Jewish world conspiracy and rejected the Yudayaka and the veracity of the Protocols: Sakuzo Yoshino, Tokusaburo Hatta, Kametaro Mitsukawa, Masao Kinoshita, and others. In 1929 a roundtable on the Jewish problem was organized by the magazine Heibon.

the learned elders of zion: License to Murder Alex Grobman, 2011 In our world today, several people, groups and minorities are singled-out for persecution. Yet there is one group that overwhelmingly has faced a more sustained, vicious, and relentless hatred: the Jews. Many people have negative perceptions about Jewish people and the state of Israel. The question is, why? The why is a bit elusive. But we know some of the sources, and sadly, the legacy of the notorious forgery, The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion has created widespread fear and hatred of the Jewish people. Purported to be a strategic document for taking over the world, the Protocols is actually a product of the Czarist police in Russia, not long before the Communist Revolution. Now, in *License to Murder*, esteemed scholar Alex Grobman has written a brilliant examination of this famous document, and his historical grasp is important to understand, if we are going to effectively battle persecution in our

world today.

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the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Meetings of the Learned Elders of Zion Sergie Nilus, 2003 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion was supposedly written in 1897 from the minutes of 24 secret meetings between Jews and Freemasons in which they conspired to bring down Western civilization and jointly rule the world. In reality, it is nothing of the sort. Protocols tells of a Jewish plot to take over the world. Historians have long said the work is a forgery concocted by Czar Nicholas II's secret police to blame Russia's troubles on Jews. In 1921, Philip Graves of the London Times revealed The Protocols to be a fraud, showing it to be based on a French satire aimed at Napoleon III. Professor Nilus was a priest in the Orthodox Church in Russia. He published the first Russian language edition in 1905. In 1920 Henry Ford bought The Dearborn Independent, a virile and very independent journal published in his home town. He used it to publish the Protocols of the Elders of Zion and a series of articles about the book, as part of his series of 81 articles (between 1920 and 1922) on the Jewish Question in America, which he called the world's foremost problem. The Dearborn Independent was distributed nationwide to Ford dealer showrooms and was offered free of charge to the general public. The relevant articles are collected here so that the whole can be studied at one time. This book is an important document in the history of anti-Semitism, and has been used as required reading in many university anti-Semitism courses.

the learned elders of zion: The International Jew Henry Ford, 1920

the learned elders of zion: The Emergence of Iranian Nationalism Reza Zia-Ebrahimi, 2016-03-15 Reza Zia-Ebrahimi revisits the work of Fath?ali Akhundzadeh and Mirza Aqa Khan Kermani, two Qajar-era intellectuals who founded modern Iranian nationalism. In their efforts to make sense of a difficult historical situation, these thinkers advanced an appealing ideology Zia-Ebrahimi calls dislocative nationalism, in which pre-Islamic Iran is cast as a golden age, Islam is reinterpreted as an alien religion, and Arabs become implacable others. Dislodging Iran from its empirical reality and tying it to Europe and the Aryan race, this ideology remains the most politically potent form of identity in Iran. Akhundzadeh and Kermani's nationalist reading of Iranian history has been drilled into the minds of Iranians since its adoption by the Pahlavi state in the early twentieth century. Spread through mass schooling, historical narratives, and official statements of support, their ideological perspective has come to define Iranian culture and domestic and foreign policy. Zia-Ebrahimi follows the development of dislocative nationalism through a range of cultural and historical materials, and he captures its incorporation of European ideas about Iranian history, the Aryan race, and a primordial nation. His work emphasizes the agency of Iranian intellectuals in translating European ideas for Iranian audiences, impressing Western conceptions of race onto Iranian identity.

the learned elders of zion: The Perennial Conspiracy Theory Michael Hagemeister, 2021-11-22 The Perennial Conspiracy Theory is a collection of essays on The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a fake document which has created a pernicious antisemitic conspiracy theory. The author analyses the murky origins of this notorious forgery and the contested claims of authorship. He explores the impact of the Protocols on various countries during the interwar years including Soviet Russia, the United Kingdom, France, Nazi Germany, and the United States. He also profiles figures closely associated with the dissemination of antisemitic conspiracy theories, such as Sergei Nilus and Leslie Fry, as well as examining the controversies arising from the famous Bern trial related to the Protocols. The book concludes with an assessment of the ongoing influence of the Protocols in post-Soviet Russia. This volume will be of interest to researchers and students working in the fields of antisemitism, conspiracy theories, the far right, Jewish studies, and modern history.

the learned elders of zion: The Lie That Will Not Die Hadassa Ben-Itto, 2020 Of all the libels that have served as a means of incitement of hate against Jews, and as intellectual justification of anti-Semitism, the myth of the so-called 'Jewish Conspiracy' to gain domination of the whole world, as embodied in the forged Protocols of the Elders of Zion, is probably the most devious and

the most dangerous. Previously only analyzed in academic, footnoted studies, the history of the Protocols is presented here by Judge Hadassa Ben-Itto in an eminently readable, fascinating account, telling the stories of the numerous people involved over the hundred years that the forgery has existed. Above all, this is the story of a judge who follows the Protocols into lawyers' chambers and into courtrooms in Switzerland, South Africa, Germany, the United States, and Russia, and presents the reader with a detailed critical analysis of legal proceedings which culminated in fascinating courtroom drama. The truth is revealed again and again, but the lie will not die.

the learned elders of zion: Socialism of Fools Michele Battini, 2016-04-05 In *Socialism of Fools*, Michele Battini focuses on the critical moment during the Enlightenment in which anti-Jewish stereotypes morphed into a sophisticated, modern social anti-Semitism. He recovers the potent anti-Jewish, anticapitalist propaganda that cemented the idea of a Jewish conspiracy in the European mind and connects it to the atrocities that characterized the Jewish experience in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Beginning in the eighteenth century, counter-Enlightenment intellectuals and intransigent Catholic writers singled out Jews for conspiring to exploit self-sustaining markets and the liberal state. These ideas spread among socialist and labor movements in the nineteenth century and intensified during the Long Depression of the 1870s. Anti-Jewish anticapitalism then migrated to the Habsburg Empire with the Christian Social Party; to Germany with the Anti-Semitic Leagues; to France with the nationalist movements; and to Italy, where Revolutionary Syndicalists made anti-Jewish anticapitalism the basis of an alliance with the nationalists. Exemplified best in the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, the infamous document that leaked Jewish plans to conquer the world, the Jewish-conspiracy myth inverts reality and creates a perverse relationship to historical and judicial truth. Isolating the intellectual roots of this phenomenon and its contemporary resonances, Battini shows us why, so many decades after the Holocaust, Jewish people continue to be a powerful political target.

the learned elders of zion: Fakes, Lies, and Forgeries Sheridan Libraries, Neil Weijer, Walter Stephens, Janet E. Gomez, John Hoffmann, 2014 In addition to providing a checklist of 70 treasures from the Arthur and Janet Freeman Bibliotheca Fictiva Collection, this beautifully-illustrated volume includes five essays that explore the phenomenon of forgery as a creative literary form and provide an interesting and informative sense of the broader collection. With nearly 1,700 individual items, the Bibliotheca Fictiva Collection is the largest and most comprehensive collection of books and manuscripts of forgery in the world. Highlights include editions of Jesus' posthumous Letter from Heaven, eyewitness accounts of the Fall of Troy, annotated books from Shakespeare's personal library, Alpine inscriptions recording Noah's settlement of Vienna after the Flood, and a first-hand account of the discovery of Homer's tomb. The collection was assembled over a 50-year period and acquired by the Sheridan Libraries of Johns Hopkins University in 2011. Exhibition: Johns Hopkins Krieger School of Arts, Baltimore, USA (05.10.2014 - 01.02.2015).

the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Createspace Independent Pub, 2016-11-16 The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion The Protocols is a fabricated document purporting to be factual. Textual evidence shows that it could not have been produced prior to 1901. It is notable that the title of Sergei Nilus's widely distributed edition contains the dates 1902-1903, and it is likely that the document was actually written at this time in Russia, despite Nilus' attempt to cover this up by inserting French-sounding words into his edition. Cesare G. De Michelis argues that it was manufactured in the months after a Russian Zionist congress in September 1902, and that it was originally a parody of Jewish idealism meant for internal circulation among antisemites until it was decided to clean it up and publish it as if it were real. Self-contradictions in various testimonies show that the individuals involved-including the text's initial publisher, Pavel Krushevan-purposefully obscured the origins of the text and lied about it in the decades afterwards. If the placement of the forgery in 1902-1903 Russia is correct, then it was written at the beginning of the anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire, in which thousands of Jews died or fled the country. Many of the people whom De Michelis suspects of involvement in the

forgery were directly responsible for inciting the pogroms.

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the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Anonymous, 2023-07-18 Widely regarded as a forgery and an anti-Semitic hoax, The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion is nonetheless a famous and controversial text. Purportedly a secret plan for Jewish domination of the world, the Protocols have been debunked by numerous scholars and experts, yet they continue to inspire conspiracy theories and anti-Semitic sentiment to this day. This work has been selected by scholars as being culturally important, and is part of the knowledge base of civilization as we know it. This work is in the public domain in the United States of America, and possibly other nations. Within the United States, you may freely copy and distribute this work, as no entity (individual or corporate) has a copyright on the body of the work. Scholars believe, and we concur, that this work is important enough to be preserved, reproduced, and made generally available to the public. We appreciate your support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.

the learned elders of zion: Masters of Discourse Israel Shamir, 2008 Welcome to the new world order, where mass media, a fully integrated public-opinion-forming machine of mind control had rendered the Left and Right obsolete and subservient to Zionism. Who are the people who own and operate this machine? Are they actually the Jewish Lobby? No, says Shamir. The formidable Jewish Lobby is just the visible tip of the iceberg, while below there are miles and miles of solid ice: media lords, chief editors, their favourite university pundits - in short, the Masters of Discourse. In this third volume of his writing, Israel Shamir travels around the world to find the reason for their captive hold over our thinking.

the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion -The Great in the Small & Antichrist Sergei Nilus, Victor Marsden, 2014-09-23 The Protocols of the Elders of Zion or The Protocols of the Meetings of the Learned Elders of Zion is a Jewish plan for global domination. It was first published in Russia in 1903, translated into multiple languages in the early part of the 20th century. Henry Ford funded printing of 500,000 copies that were distributed throughout the US in the 1920s. The Protocols document the minutes of a late 19th-century meeting of Jewish leaders discussing their goal of global Jewish hegemony by subverting the morals of Gentiles, and by controlling the press and the world's economies.

the learned elders of zion: *The Jewish Peril* Sergiĭ Nilus, 2009

the learned elders of zion: Einstein's Jewish Science Steven Gimbel, 2012-05-21 This volume intertwines science, history, philosophy, theology, and politics in fresh and fascinating ways to solve the multifaceted riddle of what religion means - and what it means to science.

the learned elders of zion: *Protocols of the Meetings of the Learned Elders of Zion*, 198?

the learned elders of zion: From the Protocols of the Elders of Zion to Holocaust Denial Trials Debra R. Kaufman, 2007 In reaction to the Irving v. Penguin/Lipstadt (winter, 2000) trial, the editors

of this volume sought to provide a text that moves away from the Holocaust itself to ask broader questions about the stubborn persistence of anti-Semitic invective and historical distortion despite legal verdicts to the contrary, historical correctives and media reportage. In these essays the authors explore the assumptions and methods of their disciplines that limit or enhance the ability of any single approach (historical, legal, or journalistic) to challenge the racism and/or anti-Semitism which underlie the persistence of such forgeries as The protocols of the elders of Zion and the fallacies of Holocaust denial. Teachers of college and graduate courses on the Holocaust are increasingly faced with proliferating print and web based assertions and re-assertions of premises whose veracity have been long since disproved. This text encourages students and professionals to explore through three trial contexts (Protocols of Zion, Eichmann/Nuremberg, and Holocaust denial) the way in which claims related to the fate of Jews in the twentieth century have been made, struggled over, and fixed in the law, in historical canon and in the popular imagination. The Protocols are a forgery and crimes against humanity and genocide against the Jewish people did happen. This volume marks the ways in which we present and re-present the historical facts, the journalism, and the legal proofs that support the truth of those assertions in the face of invective and denial.

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the learned elders of zion: The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion Sergiei Nilus, 1996-06-01

the learned elders of zion: *The Prague Cemetery* Umberto Eco, 2011-11-08 The Prague Cemetery is the #1 international bestselling historical novel from the award-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *The Name of the Rose*, Umberto Eco. Nineteenth-century Europe—from Turin to Prague to Paris—abounds with the ghastly and the mysterious. Jesuits plot against Freemasons. Italian republicans strangle priests with their own intestines. French criminals plan bombings by day and celebrate Black Masses at night. Every nation has its own secret service, perpetrating forgeries, plots, and massacres. Conspiracies rule history. From the unification of Italy to the Paris Commune to the Dreyfus Affair to The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, Europe is in tumult and everyone needs a scapegoat. But what if behind all of these conspiracies, both real and imagined, lay one lone man? “Choreographed by a truth that is itself so strange a novelist need hardly expand on it to produce a wondrous tale... Eco is to be applauded for bringing this stranger-than-fiction truth vividly to life.” —The New York Times

the learned elders of zion: Antisemitic Myths Marvin Perry, Frederick M. Schweitzer, 2008 This anthology presents 90 documents that focus on the nature, evolution and meaning of the principle myths that have made anti-Semitism such a lethal force in history: Jews as deicides, ritual murderers, agents of Satan, international conspirators, and conniving, unscrupulous Shylocks.

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