

THEMES OF PERMANENT EXHIBITION

- 1. JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY IN ANTIQUITY, CHRISTIANITY'S DERIVATION FROM JUDAISM, THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS. THE DISPERSION OF JEWS DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE**
- 2. THE BEGINNINGS OF THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF DACIA**
- 3. JEWS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES IN THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES AND TRANSYLVANIA**
- 4. THE 18TH CENTURY- THE ROAD TO MODERNITY**
- 5. THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY - THE REVOLUTION OF 1848**
- 6. EMANCIPATION ATTEMPTS: A. I. CUZA, THE INDEPENDENCE WAR AND JEWISH PARTICIPATION, THE BERLIN CONFERENCE**
- 7, 8, 9. COMMUNITY LIFE, THE ASHKENAZI, THE SEPHARDI, THE NEOLOGUES, THE ORTHODOX JEWS, HISTORY OF JEWS FROM BASARABIA, BUKOVINA, TRANSYLVANIA, THE BEGINNINGS OF ZIONISM**
- 10. THE LEGAL STATUS OF JEWS, ANTI-SEMITISM, ROMANIAN ELITE FOR AND AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, EXPULSION, AND EMIGRATION**

- 11. JEWS DURING WORLD WAR I, THE PEACE CONFERENCES, AND THE STATUS OF JEWS**
- 12. JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MODERNIZATION OF ROMANIA**
- 13. INTERWAR ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST IN ROMANIA**
- 14. JEWS DURING THE COMMUNIST PERIOD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JEWS AND COMMUNISM, ANTI-SEMITISM DURING THE COMMUNIST PERIOD, THE SALE OF THE JEWS AND JEWISH EMIGRATION**

Chronology– The History of Jews in Romania

1. **JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY IN ANTIQUITY, CHRISTIANITY’S DERIVATION FROM JUDAISM, THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS, THE DISPERSION OF JEWS DURING THE ROMAN EMPIRE**
2. **THE BEGINNINGS OF THE JEWISH PRESENCE IN THE ROMAN PROVINCE OF DACIA**
3. **JEWS DURING THE MIDDLE AGES IN THE ROMANIAN PRINCIPALITIES AND TRANSYLVANIA**

2ND Century C.E. The first mentions of the Jewish presence in Roman province of Dacia: inscriptions of the names of people of Jewish origin; a ring stone with a Jewish inscription discovered at Sarmisegetuza.

MIDDLE AGES

The latter half of the 12TH Century. Benjamin of Tudela writes about the Vlachs living south of the Danube River and their relations with the Jews.

The first half of the 14TH Century. The existence of a Jewish quarter in the town of Cetatea Albă, Bolgrad-Basarabia (present-day Republic of Moldova) is mentioned.

1473-1474. The Jewish physician, Isac Beg, the envoy of Sultan Uzun Hassan to the court of King Ștefan cel Mare is accredited.

ca. 1550. The first documented mention of the existence of a Sephardic community in Bucharest.

1593-1594. The account of the Italian geographer Giovanni Antonio Magini (1555-1617) on the presence of Jews in Moldova.

June 18, 1623. Prince Gabriel Bethlen of Transylvania issues an edict granting privileges to the Jews in Transylvania.

1640. Documentary evidence on the presence of Jewish physicians at the court of Prince Vasile Lupu.

1640. *Pravila de la Govora* (the Govora Bill of Rights) is published and includes a provision referring to the status of Jews converting to Christianity. It includes several paragraphs encouraging anti-Judaism and the segregation of Jews.

1646. *Cartea românească de învățătură* (*The Romanian Book of Learning*) is issued in Iasi under the rule of Vasile Lupu. It contains legal provisions regarding Jews.

- 1653.** The chronicle of Rabbi Neta Nathan Hannover, issued in Venice, tells about Ukrainian Jews seeking refuge in Moldavia during the Cossack uprisings led by Bogdan Hmelnițchi. Nathan Hannover was a rabbi in Iași at the end of 17TH century.
- 1656-1657.** The Swedish preacher Conrad Iacob Hildebrandt describes the life of the Jewish communities in the towns of Iași, Soroca (present-day Moldova), and Alba Iulia (Transylvania).
- 1657.** Documentary evidence about the existence of some Jewish communities in Craiova and Târgoviște.
- 1676-1677.** The oldest tombstone in Piatra Neamț is discovered in the Jewish cemetery.
- 1686.** Mentions of the existence of a synagogue in the belt makers' neighbourhood in Iasi.

4. THE 18TH CENTURY- THE ROAD TO MODERNITY

- 1694-1701.** Mentions of the Jewish guild in the records of the Walachian Treasury under Prince Constantin Brâncoveanu.
- 1698.** Documentary evidence of a synagogue in Focșani.
- 1702-1704.** Documentary mentions about the activity of some Jewish physicians and apothecaries at the court of Constantin Brâncoveanu.
- 1715.** The date of the oldest funerary inscription preserved in the Jewish cemetery on Sevastopol Street in Bucharest.
- 1719.** The Ottomans designate a hereditary *Hakham Bashi* (chief rabbi) position and offer the title of Hahambaşı to Rabbi Naftali Cohen (1649-1719), a great scholar and Kabbalist. The institution of *Hakham Bashi* is dissolved in 1834.
- 1720-1721.** The conscription of people in some counties of north-west Transylvania takes place. The Jews are mentioned in the conscription order.
- 1727-1743.** The register of Prince Constantin Mavrocordat records important information on the existence of Jews in Moldova.
- 1731.** The self-aid fraternity, a Jewish society for medical and funeral assistance is created in Oradea.
- 1741.** The Jewish community in Iasi decides to elect secular leadership on a yearly basis.
- April 1756.** The earliest-known local princely decree confirming the appointment of a *Hakham Bashi*, the supreme leader of the entire Jewish community in Moldavia and Walachia.
- 1774.** A census is conducted by the Russian military administration in Moldavia. Around 1,300 Jewish families are noted.
- August 18, 1780.** The princely decree of Constantin Moruzi of Moldavia authorizes the Jews to found the borough of Șoldănești (Fălticeni). Other Jewish boroughs are founded at the end of the 18TH century on estates in Moldova: Vlădeni (1792), Șoldănești (1780), and Târgu-Frumos (1763). Jewish traders and manufacturers settled in the new towns based on signed agreements between the boyars of the estates and private people.

5. THE FIRST HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY- THE REVOLUTION OF 1848

- 1801.** In Bucharest, accusations of ritual murder lead to raids in the Jewish quarter and the killing of tens of Jews.
- 1803.** *Condica liuzilor*, a tax register of the Moldavian Treasury, records about 3,000 Jewish heads of families.
- 1804.** Prince Alexander Constantin Moruzi of Moldavia renews a rule prohibiting Jews from leasing land estates.
- 1816-1817.** *Prince Callimachi's Code* is issued in Moldavia. Article 1431 of the document authorizes Jews to buy houses and shops in Moldavian towns.
- 1818.** Ioan Gheorghe Caragea, Prince of Walachia, approves the request of the Bucharest Sephardic community to build a synagogue in Popescului suburbs.

THE MODERN PERIOD

- 1831-1832.** Organic Regulations (Greek-Ottoman enacted legislation) go into force in Walachia and Moldavia. Jews, being considered non-Christians, have no political rights.
- April 1834 – June 1849.** The reign of Michael Sturza in Moldavia grants privileges to Jews, but also imposes restrictions. Jews are encouraged to settle in Moldavia, to establish new towns, and to organise more fair days.
- 1843.** Obșteea Evreilor Lehi Pământenii (O.E.L.P.), The Guild of Native Jews, is founded and becomes the most important community of Bucharest Jews. Two important synagogues are built in the city with the guild's support: the Great Synagogue and Choral Temple. In 1874 O.E.L.P. dissolves itself, ending a period in the history of the Jewish community in Bucharest. The activity of O.E.L.P. is continued by the Choral Temple congregation. In 1895, with the approval of Ministry of Religious Affairs, the Choral Temple congregation takes on the title of "Community." The Eastern Jewish Community (Sephardim) in Bucharest functions until 1919.
- 1846-1847.** The Great Synagogue is built and inaugurated in Bucharest.
- 1848.** The first political event involving the participation of Jews in Walachia and Moldavia is the Revolution of 1848. Jewish intellectuals and craftsmen join the revolution. Jewish bankers Davicion Bally and Hillel Manoah, as well as painters C.D. Rosenthal and Barbu Iscovescu, provide active support to the Revolution.
- June 9, 1848 -** Islaz Proclamation is adopted. Article 21 provides the "Emancipation of the Israelites."
- August 1848.** The Manifesto of the Romanian Revolution in Moldavia, drafted by Mihail Kogălniceanu, is published. It stipulates the gradual emancipation of the Jews.

THE LATTER HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY

6. EMANCIPATION ATTEMPTS: A. I. CUZA, THE INDEPENDENCE WAR AND JEWISH PARTICIPATION, THE BERLIN CONFERENCE

7, 8, 9. COMMUNITY LIFE, THE ASHKENAZI, THE SEPHARDI, THE NEOLOGUES, THE ORTHODOX JEWS, HISTORY OF JEWS FROM BASARABIA, BUKOVINA AND TRANSYLVANIA, THE BEGINNINGS OF ZIONISM

10. THE LEGAL STATUS OF JEWS, ANTI-SEMITISM, ROMANIAN ELITE FOR AND AGAINST DISCRIMINATION, EXPULSION, AND EMIGRATION

August 28, 1852. A Romanian-Jewish school is opened in Bucharest with Romanian as the teaching language.

March 22, 1857. *Israelitul Român (The Romanian Israelite)*, the first Jewish newspaper in the Romanian principalities, is published in Romanian and French in Bucharest.

1857. The Choral Temple in Bucharest is founded under the name of "Community of the Israelites," with its main objective to build a modern temple. The cornerstone is placed on July 21, 1864 and the temple is opened on July 6, 1867.

January 24, 1859. The unification of Moldavia and Walachia takes place and the Romanian state is born. A. I. Cuza is elected king, the first of modern Romania, and serves in this role from 1859-1866.

1864. Prince Alexandru Ioan Cuza gives a speech in which he promises the gradual emancipation of the Jews in Romania.

1866. Following Cuza's abdication, Carol I of the House of Hohenzollern becomes the King of Romania.

1866. The first Constitution of modern Romania is enacted. Article 7 states that only Christians can become Romanian citizens. Native Romanian Jews are declared stateless persons.

1867. The Jews of Hungary, those living in Transylvania included, become Hungarian citizens and enjoy the same rights as the country's other inhabitants.

1877-1878. Romania's War of Independence. The Jewish population provides material support. Drafted Jews go to battlefields. The Zion ambulance service is established, financed and manned by Jews, operates in the combat area.

May 10, 1877. Romania declares its independence from the Ottoman Empire. On May 10, 1881, Carol I is crowned King of Romania.

1879. Under the pressure of the Berlin Conference, Article 7 of the Constitution is amended to grant non-Christians the right to become Romanian citizens. A number of 888 Jews are naturalized for having fought in, or supported, the War of Independence. Yet, the Jewish problem is not solved. Naturalization is granted on a case-by-case basis and is subject to Parliament approval. Each application form takes over ten years to process. By 1913, around 2,000 people, including the 888 war participants, are naturalized.

- December 30, 1881 – January 1, 1882.** The First Zionist Conference takes place in Focșani. Members of more than 50 colonization societies are present. In August 1882, 228 Jews from Moinești, Focșani, and other towns in Moldova leave from the port of Galati/Galatz on the Danube River aboard the *S.S. Thetis*. They set up the first agricultural colonies in Palestine: Rosh Pina and Zikhron Ya'akov, both of which are still in existence today.
- 1897.** The representatives of the Romanian Zionist Movement participate in the First International Congress of Zionism, which takes place in Basel, Switzerland.
- 1899.** The Romanian census records 266,652 Jewish residents, representing 4.5% of the country's total population.
- 1909.** The Union of Native Jews (UEP) is created with the main goal of obtaining naturalization for all native Jews.
- 1910.** N. Iorga and A. C. Cuza set up the Democratic Nationalist Party, whose ideology suggests a "nationalist solution for the Jewish problem," which eventually leads to "the exclusion of Jews and their gradual elimination from all fields of activity."
- 1913.** Nicolae Iorga's *History of the Jews in Our Lands* is published. Though it has an anti-Jewish bias, it is the first survey of the Jews in the country written by a Romanian historian.

THE CONTEMPORARY PERIOD

11. JEWS DURING WORLD WAR I, THE PEACE CONFERENCES, AND THE STATUS OF JEWS

12. JEWISH CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MODERNIZATION OF ROMANIA

- 1916 – 1919.** Romania's unifying war. Over 23,000 Jews, representing 10% of the country's Jewish residents, enlist voluntarily. Of them, 882 died in battle and more than 700 others were wounded. 825 were decorated.
- January 24, 1919.** *Mântuirea*, the first Zionist newspaper to be written in Romanian, is printed and becomes the media of the Zionist Federation. Representatives of the Zionist Federation strive for the acknowledgement of Jewish people in Romania through receiving full political, cultural, and religious autonomy. The headquarters of the Zionist Federation moves from Galați to Bucharest in 1919.
- December 9, 1919.** The *Treaty for Minorities* is enacted and, with this, all Jews become Romanian citizens.
- May 20, 1922.** The Association of Christian Students (ASC) is founded and becomes a favourable media for the Legionnaire movement. President of the Association is Corneliu Zelea Codreanu. In December, student representatives from the four universities (in Bucharest, Iași, Cluj, and Cernăuți) gather in Bucharest to compile a list of demands. Universities go on strike. Their demands include: introducing *numerus clausus*, requiring Jewish medical students to provide Jewish bodies for dissection, and the expulsion of Jews coming from provinces annexed by Romania after August 1919.

March 4, 1923. A.C. Cuza founds the National Christian Defense League (LANC). The symbol of the League is the Romanian flag with a black swastika in a yellow circle in its center.

February 24, 1924. Mârzescu Law (*Legea asupra dobândirii și pierderii naționalității române*) is adopted. In accordance with this regulation and functioning within the Court of Appeals, committees are created in order to draw up lists of Romanian citizens. Any inhabitant of the adjoining territories wishing to challenge the decision of the committees is given forty days to do so.

June 24, 1927. Corneliu Zelea Codreanu and his followers leave the National Christian Defense League and assist the Legionnaire movement by organizing the Legion of the Archangel Michael. The biweekly journal of the Legion, *Pământul Strămoșesc* (*The Fatherland*), publishes its first edition on August 1, 1927.

December 4, 1927. The Congress of Christian Students in Romania takes place in Oradea, with debates focusing on the “Jewish problem.” Jewish residents are assaulted and attacked, shops looted, and synagogues in the city destroyed. Attacks also took place in Cluj, Huedin, Ciucea, Războieni, Brașov, Timișul de Jos, Predeal, Ghimeș, Târgu Ocna, Chișinău, Iași, and Bucharest.

April 22, 1928. The Law for Religious Denominations stipulates the legal status of Orthodox, Sephardic, and Neolog Jewish communities in Romania.

April 13, 1930. C.Z.Codreanu founds the Iron Guard.

July-August 1930. Anti-semitic incidents occur in Borșa, such as the Jewish quarter being set on fire. Jewish residents find refuge in the woods nearby. In July 1930, anti-semitic acts take place in the south of Bukovina, such as attacks on Jewish homes carried out by members of Iron Guard and the destruction of the synagogue in Suceava.

May 4, 1931. The Jewish Party of the Kingdom becomes the Jewish Party of Romania. The new political party has its first congress on November 7-8, 1933. The fundamental principles of the organization are outlined: solidarity with the Romanian nation, defense of civil and political rights provided in the constitution, and ensuring full equality for Jewish citizens.

December 9-10, 1933. The Iron Guard is dissolved. Thousands of members are arrested.

July 1934. *Legea pentru utilizarea personalului românesc în întreprinderi*, the Law for the Use of Romanian Personnel in Enterprises, calls for at least 80% of personnel in economic, industrial, commercial, and civil enterprises and at least 50% of administrative boards to hold Romanian nationality. The remaining 20% can include foreign citizens, preferably those having Romanian wives and children. In addition, the President of the Administrative Council can only be a Romanian citizen. The law passed in 1934 is amended to include regulations issued on January 23, 1935. This official act classifies the staff in these fields into three categories: ethnic Romanian citizens, Romanian citizens of different ethnic origin, and foreigners. The Law and its regulations favour the ethnic criteria in recruiting personnel in these areas.

December 10, 1934. The Iron Guard is reorganized under the name For the Fatherland, a political party that earns 15.56% of the vote in the 1937 elections.

July 14, 1935. The National Agrarian Party merges with National Christian Defense League to form the National Christian Party (PNC) led by Octavian Goga and A. C. Cuza.

January 29, 1936. The Jewish Party and the Jewish Union in Romania sign an agreement and found the Central Jewish Council in Romania, whose president is Wilhelm Filderman. The Federation of Jewish Communities Unions in Romania is established.

February 22, 1937. The first edition of the newspaper *Buna Vestire*, supporting the Legionnaire movement, is published. The newspaper *Sfarmă Piatră*, founded by Nichifor Crainic, also focuses on nationalist values during this time.

13. INTERWAR ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE HOLOCAUST IN ROMANIA

January 22, 1938. Decree no. 169 for the review of the citizenship is issued. The new law negates the provisions of the Constitution from 1923 and reintroduces the question of supporting documents for Jews who held citizenship for decades. These Jews must prove again that they are entitled to receive it. As a consequence of this law, 73,253 families— i.e. a total of 252,222 Jews (36.7% of the Jewish population) lose their Romanian citizenship and become stateless.

August 23, 1939. The German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, also known as the Ribbentrop-Molotov Pact, is signed. The treaty includes a secret protocol dividing territories into German and Soviet spheres of influence. This also makes it easy for the Soviet Union to occupy Bessarabia and Southern Bukovina.

June 26, 1940. Romania receives an ultimatum from the Soviet Union demanding the withdrawal of the civil administration and Romanian army from the territory between Prut and Nistru in Bessarabia and northern Bukovina. Along with withdrawal from Bessarabia and Bukovina, physical assaults and pogrom-like actions against Jews take place.

June 30, 1940. A pogrom in Galați occurs. The Romanian army opens fire on a crowd of civilians, killing 300 people (mostly Jews) because of the refusal of citizens to be subject to the provisions of the withdrawal, such as running away under guard.

July 1, 1940. The pogrom in Dorohoi ends with the Romanian army killing 53 Jews in the Dorohoi cemetery and other areas of town.

August 8, 1940. The Gigurtu government publishes a decree on the legal status of Jews. Basically, the rights provided by the Constitution of 1923 are withdrawn. Thus, Jews are excluded from government departments, public offices, the boards of many institutions, and from many other fields of activity.

August 30, 1940. The *Dictate of Vienna* is signed and it is decided that Transylvania's northern part and Maramureș (the counties of Sălaj, Bistrița-Năsăud, Ciuc, and Someș, and most of the counties of Bihor, Trei Scaune, Mureș-Turda, and parts of Cluj) are to be given up to Hungary.

September 14, 1940. Romania is proclaimed a National Legionary State. Romania becomes a totalitarian state.

October 1940. Decree 3361 sets up the Romanization committees. Most of the laws against Jews are adopted during the National Legionary State. Jews lose their property and are no longer permitted to work in many fields.

January 21-23, 1941. In Bucharest, a pogrom takes place during the Legionnaire rebellion. At least 125 Jews are killed. Most of the killings take place in the Jilava forest, the slaughterhouse, and in the Fundeni and Pantelimon neighborhoods.

June 21, 1941. By Order no. 4147, Marshal Ion Antonescu pronounces the deportation of all Jews between 18 and 60 years old from the villages between Siret and Prut to the camp in Târgu Jiu (...) within 48 hours. Operation Barbarossa starts on June 22, 1941.

June 28-July 6, 1941. The Pogrom in Iași occurs. This is the first phase of mass physical destruction of the Jews in Romania. 45,000 Jews reside in Iasi during the summer of 1941. The pogrom is carried out on the direct orders of Ion Antonescu, demanding that the city be cleansed of all Jews and that any Jew resisting Romanian or German soldiers should be killed without mercy. Many Jews are killed at the police headquarters and over 4,500 others are forced to board the death trains, of which approximately 2,700 die. Overall, around 13,500 Jews are killed during the pogrom.

July 5, 1941. German-Romanian armies enter Chernivtsi. Executions take place. On October 10, orders to deport all Jews in the territory of Northern Bukovina to Czernowitz ghetto arrive. On October 13, the deportation of Jews from the Chernivtsi ghetto begins. Jews are taken to the railway station and are forced into freight cars, with over 100 people in each car.

July 17, 1941. The deportation and killing of tens of thousands of Jews in Chernivtsi begins. In just one day about 10,000 Jews are killed. On July 24, 1941 the first camps and the ghetto of Chernivtsi are established. The Romanian army gathers around 25,000 Jews near the village of Coslav, situated on the Nistru River.

August 19, 1941. Transnistria is controlled by Romanians. Gheorghe Alexianu becomes governor of the area.

September 15, 1941. Deportations to Transnistria begin. Over 150,000 Jews from Bessarabia and North Bukovina are deported to Transnistria on Antonescu's orders. More than 90,000 people die of starvation, disease, and quick executions.

October 9, 1941. Deportations from South Bukovina (the Old Kingdom) to Transnistria begin.

October 16, 1941. Odessa is occupied by Romanian troops after a prolonged siege. On October 22, the Romanian Military Command in town is blown up. Romanian military retaliation is directed at Jews. On October 23, 1941, Romanian troops kill about 19,000 civilian Jews, women, old people and children from Odessa, by hanging, shooting, in explosions, or by burning them alive. Another approximately 45,000 Jews are sent from Odessa to Bogdanovka camp where they are killed two months later.

December 16, 1941. Decree no. 3415 dissolves the Federation of the Union of Jewish Communities and causes the establishment of the Centrala Evreilor (Judenrat).

February 24, 1942. The *Struma*, a ship transporting Jewish emigrants, is sunk near Bosphorus. 769 passengers die, but one survives, 18-year-old David Stoliar. The emigrants left Bucharest at the beginning of December 1941 and were headed to Palestine. The emigrants' deaths is an example of indifference towards the tragedy of the Jews of all countries involved in the war.

May 25, 1942. Ion Antonescu orders the census of the Roma population. Nomadic and sedentary Roma are found to have criminal records. Of the 41,000 Roma recorded, 25,000 are deported and 11,000 die in Transnistria.

October 16, 1942. A press release, issued by the Council of Ministers, in the newspaper *Timpul* on October 16, 1942 states that deportations to Transnistria are halted. Additionally, the German plan to deport Jews from Old Kingdom to Nazi concentration camps is rejected.

May 11, 1943. The government calls for Jews to pay a new exceptional contribution of four billion lei.

October 2, 1943. Orders to repatriate Jews who were deported for “alleged violation of discipline at work” are issued.

February 1944. The repatriation of orphans with both parents dead or under the age of 15 is instituted.

March 14, 1944. Ion Antonescu orders the general repatriation of Jews who were deported to Transnistria. On the Allied Powers' radio stations, warnings are constantly addressed to those guilty of crimes against humanity.

March 19, 1944. Germany occupies Hungary. Prime Minister Kállay seeks refuge at the Turkish Embassy. On March 22, 1944, a puppet government led by Döme Sztójay, former ambassador to Berlin, gains command. On March 19, 1944, around 100 *Sondereinsatzkommando* members led by Adolf Eichmann reach Budapest. In most cases, members of the Eichmann *Sonderkommando* do not personally participate in capturing Jews, but only guide the actions of Hungarian gendarmerie and police.

April 7, 1944. Hungarian authorities adopt a decree with detailed procedures to be followed for the Final Solution of the Jewish matter. Ghettoization decree is drafted on April 26 and is put into effect on April 28, 1944.

May 3, 1944. The ghettoization of approximately 160,000 Jews in North Transylvania begins. The headquarters for *dezevreizare* (the elimination of Jews) are set up in Cluj and Lázló Ferenczy, assisted by *Sonderkommando* members, is in charge. The Jews in North Transylvania are deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest killing center in the German-occupied zone. Trains leaving different cities in northern Transylvania generally take 3-4 days to reach Auschwitz. The freight cars transport 3,000- 3,500 Jews on average. 70-90 people are crammed into each car. On July 7, 1944, Horthy, under growing Western pressure, orders a halt to the deportations. During the Holocaust, a total of 132,000 Jews from northern Transylvania, under Hungarian authority at the time, are deported and killed.

August 23, 1944. The Antonescu regime is overthrown on August 23, 1944 by King Michael I of Romania. The king orders an immediate end to Romania's collaboration with the Axis Powers and starts negotiations for an armistice with the Allied Powers.

1944-1947. It is a transition period. Community organizations and the Federation of Jewish Communities Unions, dissolved by Antonescu in 1942, are reestablished. Major newspapers like *Curierul Israelit* (*The Israelite Courier*), the most important interwar newspaper which ended its run in 1940, are issued or reissued. Also, between 1944- 1945 the most important Zionist newspaper, *Mântuirea*, is issued in a new series. International Jewish Organizations such as the Joint Distribution Committee (J.D.C.), Organization for Rehabilitation through Training (O.R.T.) and Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (O.S.E.) resume their activities in Romania.

September 12, 1944. The Armistice Agreement with Romania is signed. Article 14 stipulates that “the Romanian Government and High Command agree to collaborate with the Allied High Command in the apprehension and trial of persons accused of war crimes”.

December 19, 1944. The Romanian government adopts a law to repeal anti-Jewish legislation.

14. JEWS DURING THE COMMUNIST PERIOD, THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN JEWS AND COMMUNISM, ANTI-SEMITISM DURING THE COMMUNIST PERIOD, THE SALE OF THE JEWS AND JEWISH EMIGRATION

April 21, 1945. Decree no. 312, for “the tracking down and sanctioning of those guilty in the disaster of the country and of war crimes,” is adopted. The law establishes two People's Tribunals, one each in Bucharest and Cluj, the first dealing with war crimes in the old Kingdom and Soviet territories under Romanian control, the latter with people from Transylvania and Banat guilty of abuses and atrocities. The People's Tribunals are dissolved in June 1946, but the trials move to the Courts of Appeal. In August 1947, Law 291 is adopted, changing the legal classification of offenses for those involved in anti-semitic crimes. Romanian law for the punishment of war crimes is amended several times until 1955. These offenses are incorporated into the Criminal Code starting in 1960.

December 1947. The ships *Pan York* and *Pan Crescent* leave the port of Constanta, having on board over 15,000 Jews from Romania. It is the first time in the history of Aliyah that such a large number of Jews emigrated in groups. They are initially interned in Cyprus by the British authorities, but after May 14, 1948 are released and taken to the newly-created state of Israel.

May 14, 1948. The Proclamation of the State of Israel is issued. Between 1948- 1952 the first Romanian wave of Aliyah arrive. According to statistics, about 120,000 Jews, or one third of the total Jewish population in Romania at the time, emigrate from Romania to Israel.

September 1948. Moshe Agami, a special envoy from Israel, arrives in Bucharest with the aim of organizing a committee for the registration of the Jews who wish to leave for Israel. During negotiations on emigration with Romanian authorities, the Israeli takes into consideration the difficult economic situation of Romania and pledges to make efforts to help the country get out of the impasse.

March 1, 1949. The decision of the Council of Ministers prohibiting the activity of the J.D.C., O.R.T., and O.S.E. is made.

1949-1950. The persecution and arrest of several Zionist leaders takes place. Zionist organizations are characterized as fascist by communist propaganda. In 1954, hundreds of Zionist militants, among them important leaders such as A. L. Zissu, Jean Litman, and Misu Benvenisti, youth, and Jews who attempted to illegally leave Romania are on trial.

November 24, 1957. David Ben-Gurion sends a letter to Chivu Stoica, the President of the Council of Ministers of the Romanian People's Republic, on the issue of separated families as a result of the wave of Aliyah between 1948- 1952.

1958. Gheorghiu Dej is advised by Nikita Khrushchev to receive goods (but no money) in exchange for emigrants in order to protect the image of Romania in the event of leaks. This exchange takes place between 1959- 1965 and the State of Israel pays Romania in cattle, pigs, automated slaughterhouses, cold storage, modern packaging lines, and refrigerated trucks, among other items. In 1965, upon the objection of Nicolae Ceausescu, the exchange is switched to dollars.

1958-1965. The second wave of Aliyah takes place between 1958- 1965. About 110,000 Jews emigrate from Romania to Israel. Endless queues are formed in front of the Bucharest Police and 130,000

applications are registered. In 1966 and 1967, 550 people emigrate on average each year. The number of emigrants increases to 3,000 by 1974, but between 1975- 1989 the communist authorities limit the number of migrants to an average of 1,500 per year.

January 1992. A census of population is taken. A total of 8,955 people declare themselves as Jewish. Most of them live in the cities: Bucharest (3,877), Iași (565), Timișoara (549), Cluj-Napoca (344), and Oradea (284). The census of 2011 lists 3,271 Jews in Romania.

April 11, 1997. A Government Ordinance on returning properties belonging to the Jewish community is issued. The first to be returned is the State Jewish Theater in Bucharest. The properties given back to the Jewish community are to be administered by a foundation called Caritatea, which in turn is administered by the Federation of the Jewish Communities in Romania and World Jewish Restitution Organization.

July 7, 1998. The Government Emergency Ordinance no. 13/1998 regarding the restitution of property that belonged to communities of national minorities in Romania is issued.

2003-2004. The International Commission on the Holocaust in Romania, chaired by Elie Wiesel, is established. On November 11, 2004, the “Wiesel Commission’s” report concludes that Romanian authorities bear the main responsibility for the planning and perpetration of the Holocaust in Romania. The report's findings are recognized by the Romanian state.

2008. The Federation of Jewish Communities in Romania –the Mosaic Cult receives a new statute, replacing the status of the Mosaic Cult from 1949.

October 8, 2009. The Holocaust Memorial is unveiled in Romania.