

NOTES

CHAPTER I. POLITICAL TALENT

1. Rachel Halperin, Menachem's sister, Menachem Begin Heritage Center, June 2000.
2. Rabbi Chaim Soloveitchik (1853–1918) preferred to focus on religious studies and rejected the idea of Zionism; see Immanuel Etkes, *The Gaon of Vilna: The Man and His Image* (Zalman Shazar, 1998), 164–222. His son, “Brisker Reb,” Reb Velvel (1886–1959), went his father's way and said, “Even if our prime minister were the ‘Chafetz Chaim,’ we should not accept the idea of a Jewish state before the return of the righteous messiah.” See *The Wall*, a collection of essays to strengthen religion, vol. 45; Neturei Karta pamphlet, 2000, 4.
3. *Hebrew Encyclopedia*, vol. 9, 901.
4. During the uprising, brought about by the Ukrainian authorities in 1648–1649 and led by Bogdan Chmelnitski (1595–1657), tens of thousands of Jews were murdered and many women were raped. The surviving Jews migrated west and suffered drastic changes to their way of life. After many Torah centers were destroyed, interest grew around the secret doctrine of the Kabbalah, and many Hasidim joined the mystical movement established at the time; for more details see Mordechai Vuremband and Betzalel S. Ruth, *The People of Israel: 4,000 Years* (Massada, 1966), 292–293.
5. Rachel Halperin, Menachem Begin Heritage Center, June 2000.
6. A document from 1904 signed by Ze'ev-Dov has been preserved in the manuscript section of the National Library in Jerusalem. In the document, written in Yiddish, Ze'ev-Dov bluntly condemns the prohibition to eulogize Herzl in synagogues and accuses the religious leaders of Brisk of corruption in their election process.
7. Rachel Halperin, Menachem Begin Heritage Center, June 2000.
8. Aviezer Golan and Shlomo Nakdimon, *Begin* (Yediot Ahronot, 1978), 13.
9. Dov Levin, “The Crossroad in the Relations between the Lithuanians and the Jews in World War II,” *Kivunim Chadashim, Journal of Judaism and Zionism*, 1976, 30.
10. Headlines such as the following appeared in newspapers at the time (translated from the Yiddish): “Failed Attempt at Blood Libel in Chabli” (*Di Yiddishe Shtime*, March 17, 1938); “Hooligans Attack Jews” (*ibid.*, November 13, 1938); “Not a Day Passes without the Beating of a Jew” (*Falk Blatt*, March 31, 1939).
11. Rachel Halperin, Menachem Begin Heritage Center, June 2000.
12. Rachel Halperin, Menachem Begin Heritage Center, June 2000. During World War I, Henry Morgenthau Sr., father of U.S. treasury secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr., was known for his sympathy for the Jews. He wrote to his