

# SPARTA AND THE JEWS

What's the connection?



Sparta from the legend...to history  
Geographic location  
Social structure  
Licurgo's political organization  
Spartan ideology  
Sparta: a positive model to be imitated?

The interpretations of Sparta  
In ancient times  
In the renaissance and in the modern age  
Between 800's and 900's  
A most correct interpretation  
From Sparta to the Holocausto:  
Racial purity

# SPARTA AND THE JEWS

Deportation of the Jews  
The destruction of the jewish state  
The diaspora  
The jews in the middle ages  
In the modern age  
In the contemporary age  
The Holocaust

The jews  
Ancient times  
The land of canaan  
The jewish nation  
The exodus  
Unification of kingdom  
Division of kingdom



# SPARTA

FROM THE LEGEND...

...TO HISTORY



# GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION





# SOCIAL STRUCTURE

## Spartan Social Structure

### **Spartiates**

Born into or adopted by a Spartan family.

Could hold office and vote in the Assembly.

Owned land and paid community fees.

Were full-time soldiers, supported by estates.

### **Perioeci**

Had no Spartan parents or was an untrained adult Spartan.

Had legal protections.

Could not own land or vote.

Were merchants and artisans.

### **Helots**

Born as slaves, descended from the first inhabitants of the region.

Severely oppressed by Spartiates.

Worked the land and supported Spartan families.

Could own some personal property.

# LICURGO'S POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

## APELLA

5000 Uguali

with the right to citizenship



## GHERUSÌA

28 Gheronti



2 Re



## MAGISTRATES

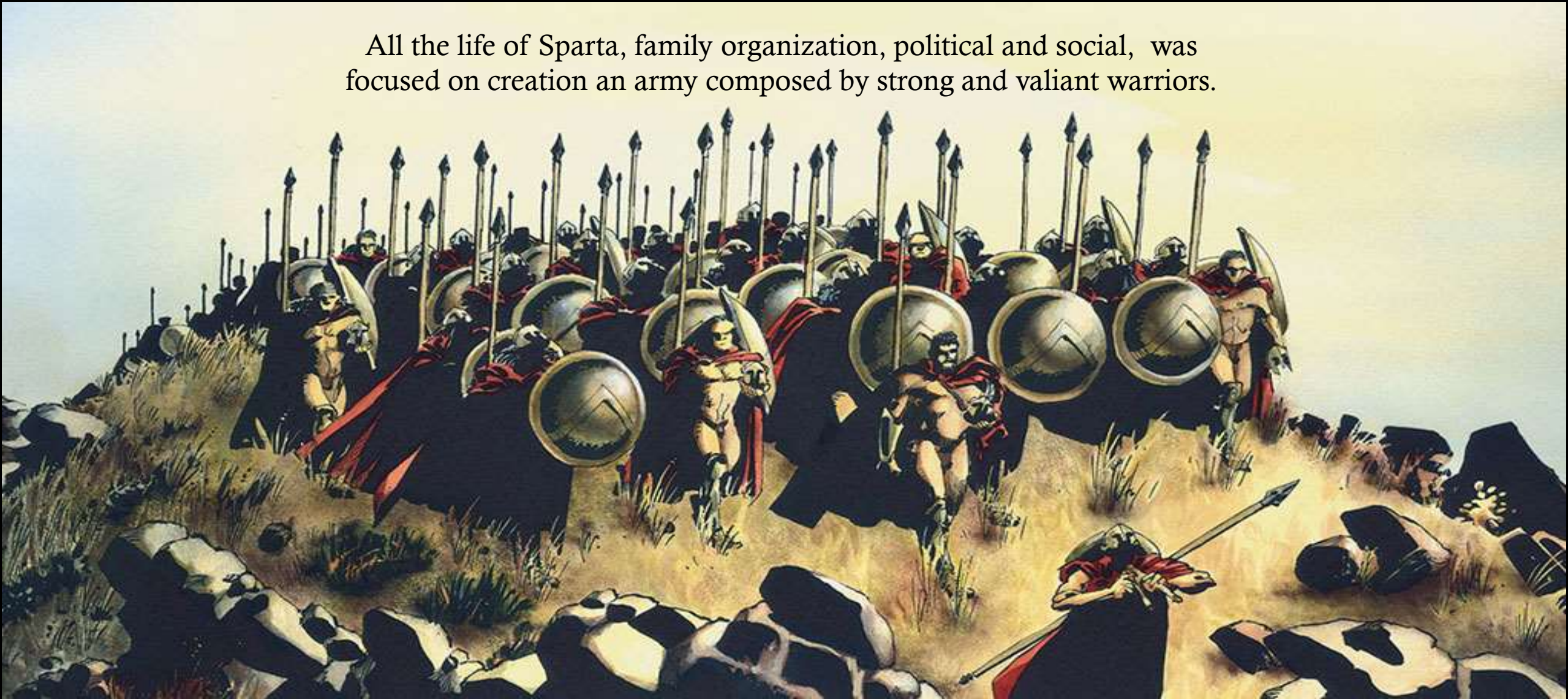
5 Éfori





# SPARTAN IDEOLOGY

All the life of Sparta, family organization, political and social, was focused on creation an army composed by strong and valiant warriors.



# Sparta: a positive model to be imitated?



- ❖ Severity in education
- ❖ Respect for the elderly
- ❖ Heroic vision of virtue
- ❖ Love of the motherland





**There are various interpretations...**



# IN ANCIENT TIMES → THE LEGEND IS BORN



Senofonte



Platone



Plutarco

Sparta's heroic vision is exalted:  
good functioning, the refutation of money as a moral law,  
the abolition of private propriety and family



# IN THE RENAISSANCE AND IN THE MODERN AGE



some positive aspects of Sparta are re-evaluated:

(education, respect and sobriety, the virtue and glory of women)

even if the intellectuals were more attracted to the activity of Athens than from the Sparta heroism.



# The two German interpretations between 800's and 900's

Hegel



Sparta was estimated infinitely less interesting than Athens, for the lack of respect for the individual and his poor intellectual development.



Nazism



It made of Sparta the model of a Greek city by placing it among the great ancestors of the Third Reich, for militaristic education, the refused of democracy and the suppression of sick children and the exploitation of the inferiors.



Which interpretation is the most correct one?



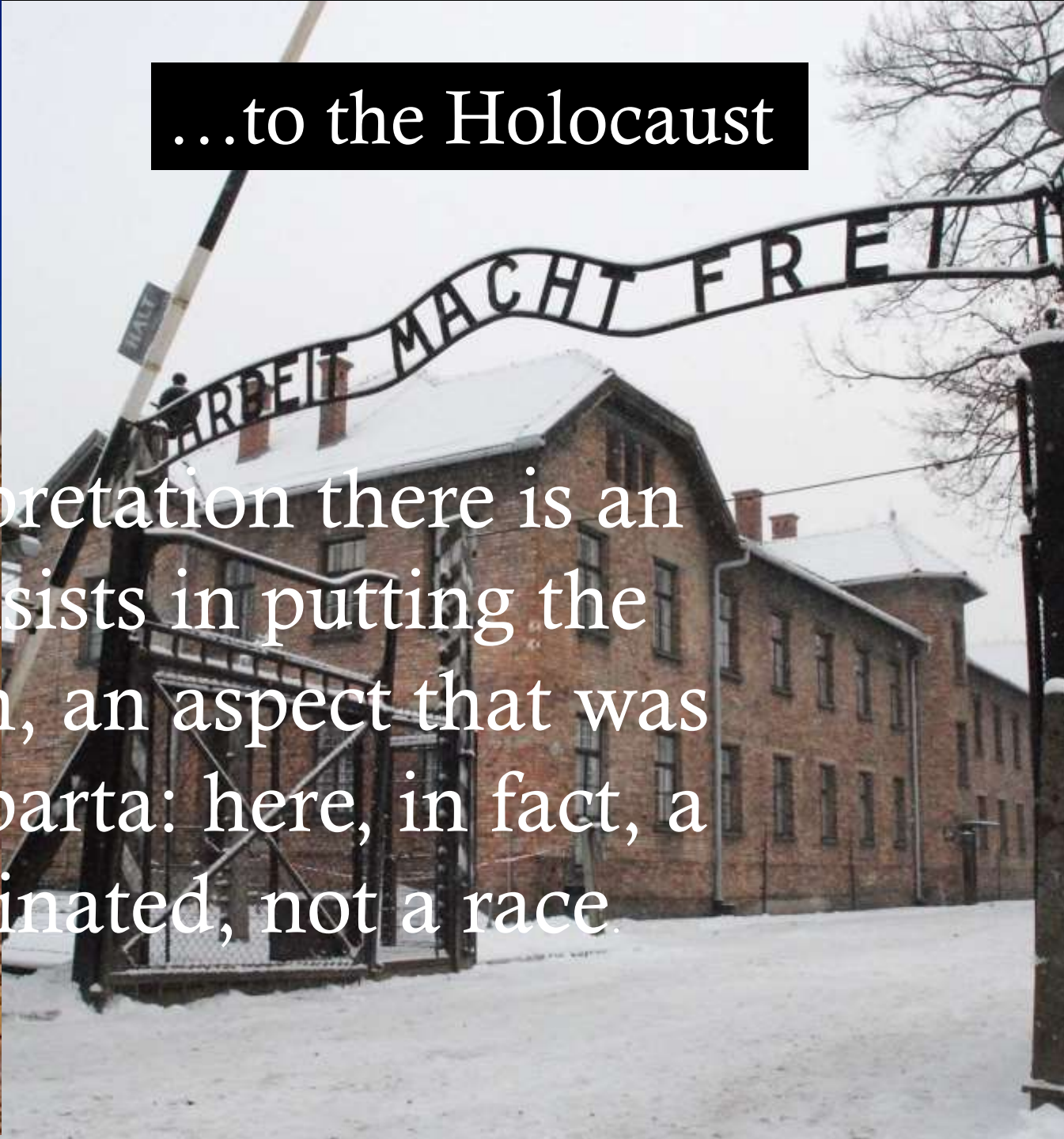
Paradoxically, it is the vision carried forward by Nazism, that shows us how in Sparta a small group of man, with brutality and terror he had managed to exploit a great number of them, while previous interpretations had idealized Sparta as a positive moral model.

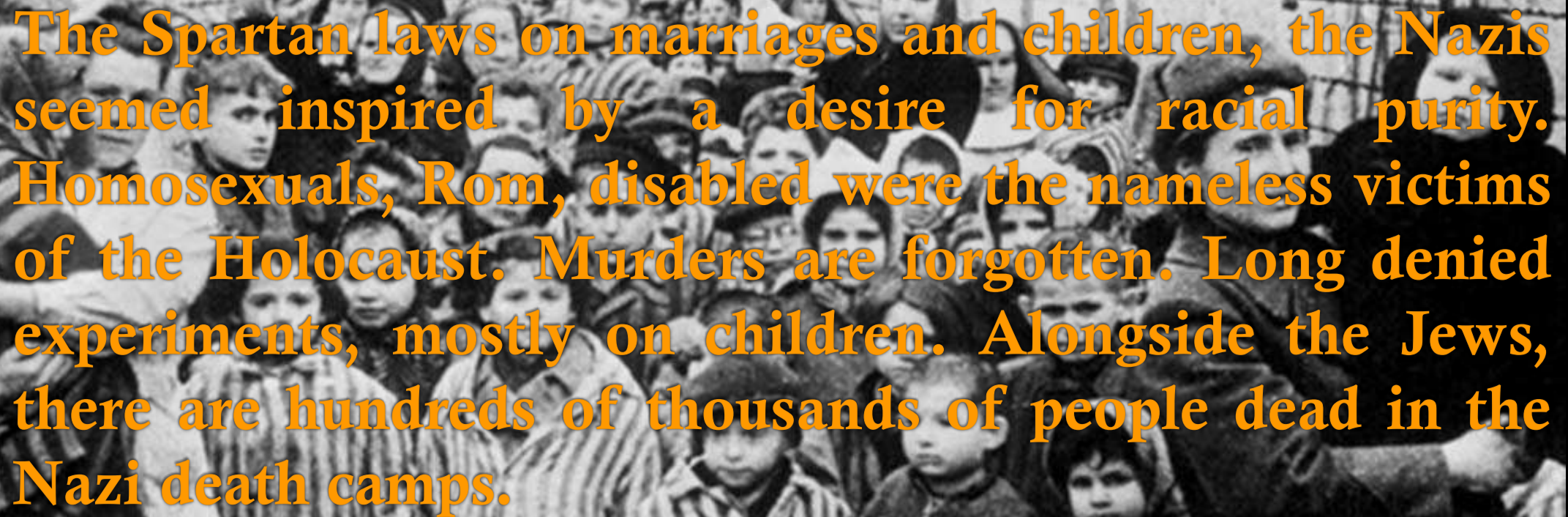


from Sparta...

...to the Holocaust

. But in this interpretation there is an error, which consists in putting the accent on racism, an aspect that was not present in Sparta: here, in fact, a social class dominated, not a race.





The Spartan laws on marriages and children, the Nazis seemed inspired by a desire for racial purity. Homosexuals, Rom, disabled were the nameless victims of the Holocaust. Murders are forgotten. Long denied experiments, mostly on children. Alongside the Jews, there are hundreds of thousands of people dead in the Nazi death camps.



# But who were the Jews?

from the roots ... to the diaspora





# THE ANCIENT AGE

The Hebrews name indicates that group of tribes of the Near East appeared in the second half of the 2nd millennium BC in Palestine (source: the Holy Bible).



Torah, holy book for the Jews



# PALESTINE: THE LAND OF CANAAN



According to the biblical sources, Abraham, under the guidance of God, between the twentieth and nineteenth centuries BC, led the Jewish people from Mesopotamia to which that was the "promised land" of his God.



# THE FOUNDATION OF THE JEWISH NATION

The twelve sons of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, were the patriarchs of the twelve tribes that made up the Jewish nation, some in Egypt.



# EXODUS: THE ESCAPE FROM EGYPT



Reduced in slavery by the Egyptians, the Jews, in 1250 BC, they returned to Palestine under the guidance of Moses (Book of Exodus).

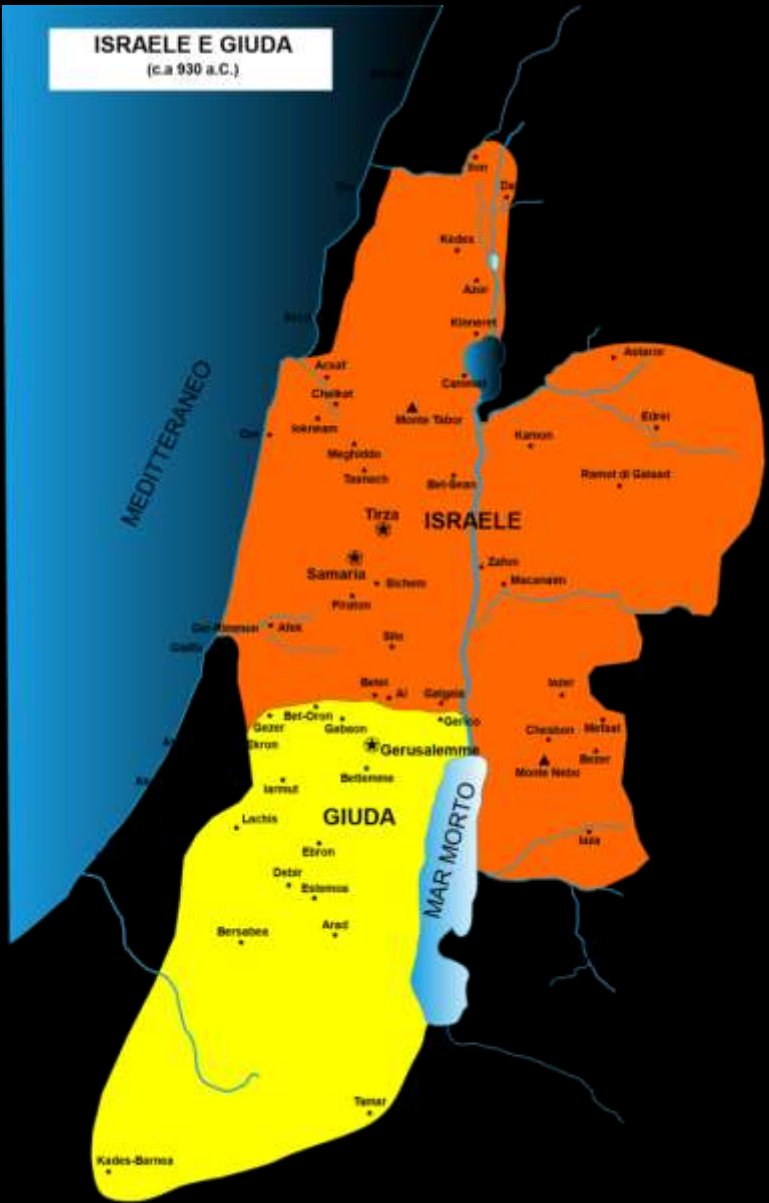


# FROM UNIFICATION ...

The first king was Saul. He succeeded to David who strengthened the kingdom and brought the capital to Jerusalem. The successor Solomon fortified the city and built the great temple for the worship of Jhavé.



ISRAELE E GIUDA  
(c.a 930 a.C.)



# ... TO THE DIVISION OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL

At his death the Jewish nation split into two states: the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah.



# DEPORTATION OF THE JEWS BY THE ASSIRES

In 701 d.C. the Assyrians conquer the kingdom of Israel. The picture shows the deportation of the Jews to Assyria.



# THE DESTRUCTION OF THE JEWISH STATE



Sargon II  
from Assyria,  
722 a. C.



Nabucodonosor  
from Babylon,  
587 a.C.



Ciro II  
from Persia,  
539 a.C.



Alessandro Magno  
from Rome, 332 a. C.





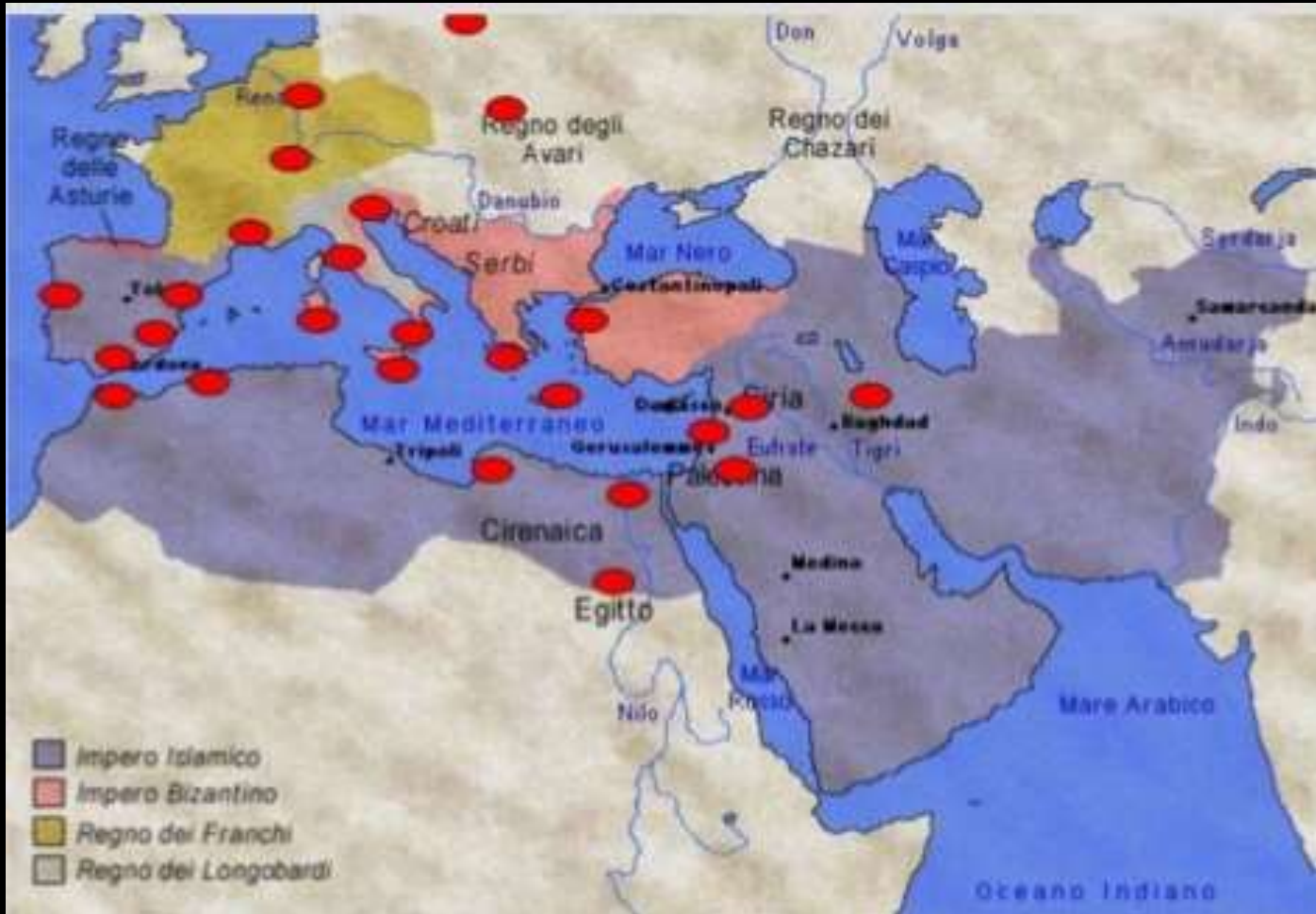
# THE DIASPORA

The end of the Jewish political entity in Palestine accentuated the phenomenon of the diaspora, while the birth of Christianity gave rise to a religious hostility that intensified in the following centuries



# THE JEWS IN THE MIDDLE AGES

In the late Middle Ages, Jews settled in large and small cities, as in European rural centers.



# MODERN AGE

The situation of the Jews worsened with the Counter-Reformation: they were forced to live in a separate district: ghetto.

During the Middle Ages there were already Jewish neighborhoods throughout Europe that were generally called "giudecca".



The building, pictured, was built by the bank family Sala in the late 1300s and early 1400s. Located in the ancient Jewish quarter of Giudecca (Jurèca in Sicilian) of Trapani.



# CONTEMPORARY AGE

At the end of the 19th century the several Jewish communities living in the countries of Eastern Europe, especially in Russia, still suffered persecution and massacres (→ pogrom).



# THE HOLOCAUST



The advent of Nazism produced the most severe anti-Jewish persecution recorded in history; it began in 1933 with the promulgation of the first anti-Jewish racial laws, led to the deportation and mass extermination perpetrated in 1941-45 (→ shoah).



# SPARTA AND THE JEWS

what is the connection?

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