

TIMELINE: Ze'ev Jabotinsky Part 1 – An Individualist

1880 Jabotinsky is born in Odessa.

1897 Jabotinsky quits school to travel and write. He studies law in Rome and writes essays on a variety of topics for Russian newspapers.

1901 Jabotinsky, now 21, returns to Odessa to discover he is an admired and sought-after writer. At a lecture, he speaks out against socialism. Jabotinsky says, “A collectivist regime, which subjugates the individual personality, is no better than a regime of feudalism or autocracy.” Jabotinsky believes society is meant to serve the individual, not the other way around. For him, the individual is king.

1903 The first pogrom in many years takes place in Dubossary, Russia. Jabotinsky joins a self-defense group in Odessa.

1903 In April, a pogrom breaks out in Kishinev. Jabotinsky visits the town in the aftermath.

1903 Jabotinsky attends the Sixth Zionist Congress. He meets Theodor Herzl for the one and only time.

1908 Abdul Hamid’s autocratic empire is overthrown by the Young Turks, raising Zionist hopes. Jabotinsky goes to Turkey later that year.

1909 Jabotinsky is given editorial authority over a number of Zionist newspapers in Turkey.

1914 Turkey enters WWI. Jabotinsky recognizes that the Jews must fight on the side of the Allied Powers to liberate Palestine from the Turks.

1915 In Alexandria, Egypt, Jabotinsky helps form the Zion Mule Corps. with Russian war hero Joseph Trumpeldor. But Jabotinsky chooses not to join. He envisions a Jewish army.

1915 Jabotinsky heads to England in the hopes of creating a Jewish army.