

TIMELINE: Zionist Congress

1895 Herzl meets with Baron Moritz de Hirsch, one of the richest men of his time. In 1891, Hirsch founded the Jewish Colonization Society to help resettle Russian Jews in Argentina. Herzl tries to convince the Baron that something more is needed. He fails to win the Baron over.

1895 In the summer, Herzl outlines a 65-page pamphlet, which he calls: *Address to the Rothschilds*. He plans to show it to the wealthy Rothschild family to enlist their help.

1895 Herzl meets with Max Nordau in Paris, a writer with a worldwide reputation who, like Herzl, has been pushed back to the Jewish people by anti-Semitism. Nordau says he is ready to help. He gives Herzl a letter of introduction to another famous Jewish writer living in England, Israel Zangwill.

1895 Herzl meets with Israel Zangwill in England. Zangwill is also won over to the cause.

1895 Herzl changes his mind about showing his pamphlet to the Rothschild family. He resolves instead to bring his ideas to the public. He reworks his *Address to the Rothschilds* and gives it a new title: *Der Judenstaat*, or “The Jewish State: An Attempt at a Modern Solution of the Jewish Question.”

1896 In February, Herzl publishes *The Jewish State*. Reaction to the pamphlet is strong. In Vienna it is the talk of the town, both for good and ill.

1896 *The Jewish State* comes to the attention of Reverend William Hechler, chaplain to the British embassy in Vienna. Hechler goes to meet Herzl and promises his aid.

1896 Hechler arranges a meeting between Herzl and the Grand Duke of Baden.

1897 Herzl is urged to take the leadership of the Zionist movement. He agrees and organizes the first Zionist Congress, which takes place in Basle, Switzerland from August 29-31.