

History 7320y
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RABBINIC AUTHORITY IN MEDIEVAL ASHKENAZ AND SEPHARAD

An in-depth analysis of the function and authority of individual rabbis and of the rabbinate in the communities of Western Europe over the course of the middle ages. Requirements for the course include careful preparation for each session and the submission of a full-length research paper.

I Introductory session and survey of the secondary literature

II Emergence of the Rabbinate in Western Europe

G.D. Cohen ed., Sefer ha-Qabbalah by Abraham Ibn Daud, pp. 63-64 (Heb)
S. Z. H. Halberstam ed., Yehudah b. Barzilai al-Bargeloni (ha-Barzeloni), Sefer ha-Shetarot, pp. 131-135
I. Elfenbeim ed., Teshuvot Rashi, No. 70, specifically pp. 81-84 and 86-88

III Origins of Semikhah and the Professional Rabbinate in Ashkenaz

Responsa of R. Meir of Rothenburg in I. Agus, Teshuvot Ba'alei ha-Tosafot, Nos. 90 and 91
Teshuvot R. Yaakov Weill (Jerusalem, 1987/1988), Nos. 151 and 163

*NO CLASS WILL BE HELD ON PRESIDENT'S DAY, FEBRUARY 21. YOU MAY WISH TO DEVOTE YOUR TIME TO THE PREPARATION OF A PROSPECTUS AND BIBLIOGRAPHY WHICH IS DUE ON FEBRUARY 28.

IV More on the Ashkenazi Rabbinate

Teshuvot ha-MaHaraM, Cremona edit, No. 190
Terumot ha-Deshen, Pesakim u-Ketavim No. 64
Terumot ha-Deshen, She'elot u-Teshuvot No. 341 (last few lines)

V The Rabbinate in Christian Iberia

Teshuvot ha-ROSh Section 17, No. 8
Teshuvot ha-RaShBA Vol. 6 No. 254

VI Rabbi Isaac bar Sheshet Perfet and the Rabbinate in France

Teshuvot ha-RIVaSh, Nos. 268-272

VII The Situation in Renaissance Italy

Teshuvot of Yaakov Yisrael Finzi and Aharon ben Yisrael Finzi of Reggio in R. Bonfil, The Rabbinat in Renaissance Italy [Hebrew], pp. 215-217

VIII Conflict between Sephardic Exiles and Other Mediterranean Jews

Teshuvot ha-MaHaRIK, section 83

S. Bernfeld ed., R. David ben Judah Messer Leon, Kevod Hakhamim, pp. 53-56

R. David ben Hayyim ha-Kohen, She'elot u-Teshuvot (ha-RaDaKh), No. 22

IX Developments in Late Medieval Ashkenaz

A. Kober, "Documents Selected from the Pinkas of Friedberg, a Former Free City in Western Germany," PAAJR 17 (1948), pp. 45-46

J. Katz, "On the History of the Rabbinat at the Close of the Middle Ages," [Hebrew] in E. Z. Melammed ed., Sefer Zikaron le-Binyamin de Preis, pp. 285-289