

JEWS IN BOHEMIAN LITERATURE, 16TH TO 18TH CENTURY

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On the basis of printed literature from the period, the author examines whether and to what extent Bohemian society from the 16th to the mid-18th century was interested in Jews. The focus is mainly on the period before the Battle of the White Mountain, a period during which the ancient image of the Jews, under the influence of humanism and reformation, underwent a perceivable change. Though developments in the Bohemian Lands did resemble those mainly in Germany, there are some aspects specifically Bohemian, above all a relative lateness in dealing with the "Jewish Question". Another characteristic is the great involvement of the Catholic Church and above all the Jesuit Order in anti-Jewish campaigns. The reformation, on the other hand, had a positive influence on the treatment of the Jewish topic. After the Battle of the White Mountain, what positive developments there had been were reversed, and printed literature from the Bohemian Lands shows a marked increase in anti-Jewish propaganda. Only in the 18th century, in the context of the emancipation of Jews in Bohemia, did a more liberal approach reappear.