

## Contents

Preface .....	V
Introduction .....	1
Why Bickerman? .....	1
A Russian Jew .....	4
An Historian of the Jews .....	7
Goals .....	9
The Sources .....	11
An Entire Life .....	15

### Part One

#### The Life

Chapter One: An Historian's Past .....	18
Basic Biography .....	18
Bickerman's Silence About Himself .....	25
A Postivism at Odds with Memoir .....	28
Skeletons in the Closet .....	30
Joseph Bickerman's Autobiography .....	34
Bickerman's Silence in Context .....	36
Bickerman's Oral Autobiography .....	38
In Russia .....	38
An Officer in the White Army .....	39
Women .....	41
Escape From France .....	43
"T.B. Deported by the Germans, Ps. 35:17" .....	45
Conclusion .....	48
Chapter Two: Father and Son .....	50
Joseph Bickerman, Russian <i>Maskil</i> .....	50
Joseph Bickerman the Russian Jew .....	52
Father and Sons on Zionism .....	53

Joseph Bickerman the Russian Liberal .....	55
Fighting The “Kommikike” Conspiracy .....	56
A Minority View .....	62
Joseph Bickerman and Simon Dubnow .....	68
Joseph Bickerman and German Culture .....	71
Joseph Bickerman: Conclusion .....	74
 Chapter Three: Becoming an Historian .....	 77
Rostovtzeff’s Student .....	78
Why History? .....	80
Russia vs. Berlin .....	82
Failure in Berlin .....	86
No <i>Halbgebackenes</i> .....	91
The German Academy .....	96
Jews in the Academy in the Weimar Years .....	99
A German Jew? .....	108
A Second Chance .....	112
Wider Implications .....	116
 Chapter Four: The Nazi Era: 1933–1942 .....	 118
Helping Hands .....	120
From Berlin to Paris .....	121
Flirting with the Hebrew University .....	125
Staying on in Paris .....	127
Fleeing France .....	130
Conclusion .....	139
 Chapter Five: From <i>Life</i> to <i>Work</i> .....	 143
Professor Bickerman .....	148
Leaning Right in a Left-Wing Academy .....	151
Bickerman the Russian .....	156
Bickerman the Jew .....	164

## Part Two

### The Work

Chapter Six: The Chain of Scholarly Tradition: Scaliger, Bernays, and the <i>Philosophes</i> .....	172
Jacob Bernays .....	173
Joseph Scaliger .....	176

Covering up for Scaliger – Following in the Footsteps of Bernays .....	179
The <i>Philosophes</i> .....	180
Conclusion .....	183

Chapter Seven: The Jury of His Peers: Täubler, Tcherikover, Momigliano, and Smith .....	185
Eugen Täubler (1879–1953) .....	185
Victor Tcherikover (1894–1958) .....	190
Arnaldo D. Momigliano (1908–1987) .....	193
Morton Smith (1915–1991) .....	205

Chapter Eight: A Classicist Having Fun .....	211
A Surprising Lacuna .....	212
Repercussions .....	215
Classicism and Anti-Semitism .....	216
The Pressures on a Jewish Classicist .....	218
The Classicist in Context .....	222
Franz Rosenzweig (1886–1929) .....	226
The God of History and the Faith of a Historian .....	228
A Religious Response to the Holocaust .....	232
Schmidt on Bickerman's Faith .....	235
Conclusion .....	236

### Part Three

#### A Usable Past

Chapter Nine: The Jews who got it Wrong: The Hellenizing Reformers .....	240
Modern Ideological Commitments .....	248
Ancient Hellenists and Reform Judaism .....	249
Back to Russia .....	253
The Example of M.O. Gershenzon (1869–1925) .....	257
Jewish Communists .....	262
Beards .....	264
Past and Present in <i>Die Makkabäer</i> = <i>The Maccabees</i> .....	267
Conclusion .....	268

Chapter Ten: The Jews who got it Right: Maccabees, Pharisees, Rabbis, and Diaspora Jews .....	270
Those Hellenistic Pharisees .....	279
Jewish Law for the Gentiles: The Jewish <i>Ius Gentium</i> .....	281

Diaspora Jews who Got it Right .....	282
What Kind of Hybridity Was This? .....	284
Where Does Bickerman Fit? .....	287
The Blessings of Roman Rule .....	290

Conclusion: The “Captive Child” Returns Home .....	293
For Other Audiences .....	295
Bickerman’s Life Experience: A Twentieth Century Tale .....	298
The Absence of the Third Bickerman – One Last Time .....	300
Final Arrangements .....	301

## Part Four

### Appendices, Bibliographies, Acknowledgements, and Indices

Appendices .....	306
Time Line .....	322
Bibliography – Archives .....	325
Bibliography – Publications of Joseph and Jacob Bi(c)kerman(n) .....	332
Bibliography – Publications of E.J. Bickerman .....	333
Bibliography – Works About Elias Bickerman .....	334
Bibliography .....	335
Conversations .....	348
Acknowledgements .....	350
Index of Sources .....	355
Index of Ancient and Medieval Persons .....	357
Index of Modern Persons .....	359
Index of Places .....	365
Index of Subjects .....	368