

Discussion Questions

When General Grant Expelled the Jews by Jonathan D. Sarna

Why was Cesar Kaskel emboldened to protest the General Orders #11 and how did he do so?
What does this reveal about Lincoln's accessibility?

Why did General Orders #11 not get enforced or become more widely disseminated?
Were you surprised by some of the protests?

What sort of treatment could those Jews who were involved with the military either as soldiers or settlers expect?

For those of you who know Isaac Mayer Wise only as the person after whom Temple Emanu-El's social hall is named, what did you learn about him?

How did Jewish leaders such as Isaac Mayer Wise and Isaac Leeser think the Emancipation Proclamation might affect Jews in America?

Which of the three possible explanations Sarna gives for Grant's having issued General Order #11 do you find most plausible?

What was Simon Wolf's conclusion about whether or not Jews should vote for Grant in 1868?

What was the amendment proposed by Senator Benjamin Gratz Brown of Missouri?
What does the outcome tell us about the position of Jews in America at the time?

How did Jews fare during Grant's administration, and how did Jews' role in government change?

What was Grant's relationship with the Jews like after finishing his terms as president?

How did rising anti-Semitism manifest itself in the late 1870s?

What paradoxical impact on Grant's reputation with the Jews did his eulogies and obituaries have?

Has your opinion of Grant changed after reading Sarna's book?

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