

BEYOND THE CONTRACTIONS OF  
RELIGION AND NATIONALISM:  
ON THE ENDURING RELEVANCE OF  
HERMANN COHEN'S CRITICISM OF ZIONISM  
AND ITS UNHOLY ALLIANCE WITH ORTHODOXY

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Abstract

This essay presents Hermann Cohen's critique of Zionism as a national contraction of Jewish ethical monotheism. Against all national, social or political transformations of the monotheistic God into a mythological god, Cohen takes prophetic messianism as a point of departure for a critique of the dialectics of enlightenment. The Jewish nation beyond sovereignty symbolizes the messianic aim of a history beyond domination.