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Shlomo Avineri is professor of political science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and former Director-General of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the first government of Yitzhak Rabin. He has been Visiting Professor at CEU in the Nationalism Studies Program and the Jewish Studies Program in 2002/2003. His latest publication (with Zeev Sternhell) is *Europe's Century of Discontent: the Legacies of Fascism, Nazism and Communism* (The Magnes Press, Jerusalem, 2003). He is the recipient of the Israel Prize, the country's highest civilian decoration.

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Esther Benbassa is professor of Modern Jewish History at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Sorbonne, and director of the Alberto Benveniste Center for Sephardic Studies and Culture (EPHE). Her books translated into English are *Haim Nahum: A Sephardic Chief Rabbi in Politics* (1995), *The Jews of France: A History from Antiquity to the Present* (1999), and with Aron Rodrigue, *A Sephardi Life in Southeastern Europe* (1998) and *Sephardi Jewry: A History of the Judeo-Spanish Community, 14th–20th Centuries* (2000). She is also the author of *Une diaspora sépharade en transition (Istanbul, XIX^e–XX^e siècles)* (1993). She edited or coedited *Cultures juives méditerranéennes* (1985), *Mémoires juives d'Espagne et du Portugal* (1996), *Transmission et passages en monde juif* (1997) and *L'Europe et les Juifs* (2002). Jean-Christophe Attias and Esther Benbassa already coauthored in English *Israel, the Impossible Land* (2003), *The Jews and their Future. A Conversation on Judaism and Jewish Identities* (forthcoming) and *The Jew and the Other* (forthcoming), in French *Dictionnaire de civilisation juive* (1997), and edited *La Haine de soi : Difficiles identités* (2000).

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Michael Brenner is Professor of Jewish History and Culture at the University of Munich, the first such chair at a German university, established in 1997. He has also taught at Brandeis University and Indiana University. His publications include *The Renaissance of Jewish Culture in Weimar Germany* (Yale University Press, 1996) and *After the Holocaust: Rebuilding Jewish Lives in Post-War Germany* (Princeton University Press, 1997). He is co-author and co-editor of the four-volume *German-Jewish History in Modern Times* (Columbia University Press, 1997–98) and co-editor of various other books. He serves as chairman of the Wissenschaftliche Arbeitsgemeinschaft des Leo Baeck Instituts in Deutschland and is a member of the Academic Advisory Committee of the Jewish Museum in Berlin.

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