



# Moses Mendelssohn

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# Early Life

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- Moses was a German/Jewish philosopher and critic
- Also known as the “Jewish socrates ”
- He was born on September 6,1729 in Dessau, Germany
- He died on January 4,1786 in Berlin,Germany



# Moses most famous works

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- The translation of the Torah in German
- “Letter on Feeling ” was about the importance of spiritual feelings
- “Phaedon, or on the immortality of the soul ” focused on the immortality of the soul against materialism
- “Jerusalem, or On Religious Power and Judaism ” a book that talks about how Jewish faith is compatible with citizenship and that Judaism is a rational religion

# What was his main objective?

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- One of his main objectives was that the individual could be free of choosing the religion that they wished to follow
- Focused on Haskalah, which was a movement to revive Jewish culture “ Jewish Enlightenment ”
- Questioned the existence of God
- He believed that there was a connection between reason and common sense
- Argued that any person had the right to express their own opinion

# Who was his audience?

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- His audience was mostly made up of Jews because he supported Judaism and fought for the acceptance of Jews in Europe and in Germany
- Religious people because Moses focused on the importance of individuals religious beliefs
- Secular people followed him because he pointed out ideas such as the Enlightenment

# What was his definition of a just society?

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- Moses believed that a Just society had to have a fair government because common people had to be treated equally
- He argued that a society had to be tolerant
- Moses wanted everyone to be treated equally no matter their social status

# What was his relationship with the government?

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- Moses had a fair relationship with the government because he would fix the correspondence between the Jewish community council and the government
- He disagreed with some of the choices that the government took such as differentiating the Jews from society
- Believed that revolts should be fair

# What were his views towards education?

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- Moses believed that women also deserved to have an education
- Women were allowed to be in the Haskalah
- Everyone had the right to learn new things not just of religion but also of science and math

# What were his views towards religion?

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- Moses believed that every individual had the right to follow any religion of their choosing
- He wanted to revive Jewish culture
- Religion did not determine your social status

# Resources

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Moses Mendelssohn | German-Jewish Philosopher and Scholar." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

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