

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

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*Theodore Herzl, champion of a modern Jewish state, thought Jews had been "deformed" by persecution.*



*Courtesy of Musterschmidt Publishers, West Germany.*

A compelling speaker and writer, Herzl electrified the Jewish masses and helped transform Zionism from a longing into a political movement. Further, his organizing skills resulted in a parliament, a chief executive, and a state bank, all "in exile." But his post-1898 willingness to consider alternative sites for a Jewish colony (such as Uganda) enraged "cultural Zionists" who insisted that history made Palestine the only acceptable choice. The dispute split Zionism.

Herzl's vision of Israel was too uninspiring—even insulting—to Jews to sustain Zionism during 15 years of discouragement preceding the 1917 Balfour Declaration, in which Britain recognized Palestine as a Jewish homeland. By the time of his death, writes Kornberg, Herzl had become a liability to the movement he helped create.

### *The McGlynn Affair*

"The McGlynn Affair and the Shaping of the New Conservatism in American Catholicism, 1886-1894" by Robert Emmet Curran, S.J., in *The Catholic Historical Review* (Apr. 1980), American Catholic Historical Association, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C. 20064.

Until the late 19th century, American Catholic church leaders wielded tight control over the U.S. priesthood and appointed their own bishops without Vatican intervention. Then a brouhaha involving a rabble-rousing New York parish priest destroyed much of their independence, writes Curran, a Georgetown University historian.

An ardent socialist and champion of New York's Irish poor, Father Edward McGlynn headed St. Stephen's Church in Manhattan, one of the largest and wealthiest parishes in the city. In 1886, he angered New York archbishop Michael Corrigan by endorsing the unsuccessful mayoral campaign of reform economist Henry George.

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George railed against the evils of private property. The archbishop opposed priestly involvement in political and social issues, but he had also inherited considerable wealth from his father and identified himself with the propertied class. Moreover, he fretted over the threat that George's campaign posed to the city's Tammany Hall Democratic machine, which ran on Irish votes and which supported state aid for Catholic charities. When McGlynn defied Corrigan's orders and addressed a pro-George rally, the bishop suspended him from his priestly duties for two weeks. After George's defeat in November, Corrigan again suspended McGlynn for his continued support of George's views. He also publicly accused the rebellious priest of insulting Pope Leo XIII by preaching that the Church derives its power from the laity. The pontiff stepped in and excommunicated McGlynn in July 1887.

By 1891, George's reform movement had lost steam, and McGlynn was out of the news. Pope Leo restored McGlynn to the priesthood in 1892 — without consulting Corrigan. Dumfounded, the archbishop at first refused to receive McGlynn back into the diocese but subsequently decided to curry favor with the pope. He became a fervent defender of papal infallibility, then being questioned by many liberal European and American Catholics. In December 1894, Corrigan felt confident enough to exile the priest to a church in remote upstate New York.

Most American cardinals and bishops cheered Corrigan's victory over McGlynn. But Leo became disturbed at the turmoil in the New World and in 1893 sent to the United States a Vatican official with veto power over the appointment of bishops. By seeking Rome's aid in disciplining McGlynn, Corrigan and his supporters forfeited much of the American church's autonomy and never got it back.

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**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**


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### *The Death of the Dinosaurs*

"Extraterrestrial Cause for the Cretaceous-Tertiary Extinction" by Luis W. Alvarez et al., in *Science* (June 6, 1980), 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

What killed off the dinosaurs? Scientists at the University of California, Berkeley, hypothesize that a giant meteor struck the Earth at the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago, sending enough dust into the atmosphere to blot out the sun, suppress plant photosynthesis, and destroy prehistoric food chains.

As evidence, the authors cite dramatic increases in levels of iridium (a platinum-like metal) found in layers of the Earth's crust dated near the end of the Cretaceous period. Platinum family elements are rare in