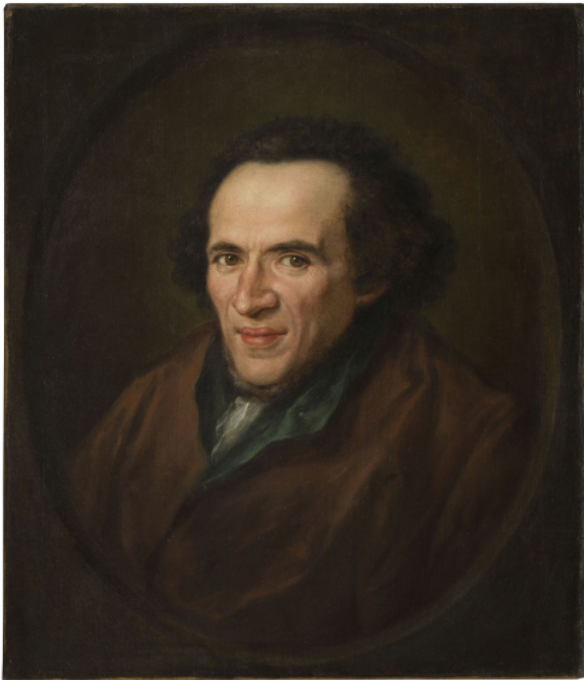


Moses Mendelssohn (1783)

Abstract

The philosopher and political publicist Moses Mendelssohn (1729-86) was one of the most prominent advocates of Jewish civic rights in the eighteenth century. A lifelong friend of the philosopher and playwright Gotthold Ephraim Lessing (1729-81), who modeled his dramatic poem *Nathan the Wise* (1779) on him, Mendelssohn argued for the separation of religion and state in his treatise *Jerusalem, or: On Religious Power and Jewry* (1783). His writings and his translation of the Hebrew Bible into High German gave impetus to German Jewish cultural assimilation. In his view, faithfulness to the Jewish religion did not necessarily entail social or cultural distancing from non-Jewish Germans. Oil on canvas by Johann Christoph Frisch (1738-1815), 1783.

Source



Source: Johann Christoph Frisch, Portrait of Moses Mendelsohn, oil on canvas, 1783. Jewish Museum Berlin

<https://objekte.jmberlin.de/object/jmb-obj-542195>

JMB

Recommended Citation: Moses Mendelssohn (1783), published in: German History in Documents and Images,
<<https://germanhistorydocs.org/en/the-holy-roman-empire-1648-1815/ghdi:image-2763>> [July 16,

2024].