# The Haredim - A Guide to Their Beliefs and Sectors

**Table of Contents**

[Preface 1](#_Toc499043467)

[Introduction 1](#_Toc499043468)

[Chapter One: Background—Religious Streams in Haredi Judaism 1](#_Toc499043469)

[The Development of Orthodox Jewry in Western and Central Europe 1](#_Toc499043470)

[The Early Development of Orthodox Jewry in Eastern Europe 1](#_Toc499043471)

[The Early Development of Orthodoxy among Sephardic Jewry 1](#_Toc499043472)

[Does “Haredi Society” Exist? 1](#_Toc499043473)

[Chapter Two: The Hasidim 1](#_Toc499043474)

[Overview: The Origins of Hasidim 1](#_Toc499043475)

[Hasidim in the Land of Israel 1](#_Toc499043476)

[Ger: Holiness and Politics 1](#_Toc499043477)

[Belz: The Development of Openness 1](#_Toc499043478)

[Vizhnitz: From Populism to Extremism 1](#_Toc499043479)

[Satmar: Patron of Anti-Zionist Extremism 1](#_Toc499043480)

[Medium-Sized and Small Hasidic Groups 1](#_Toc499043481)

[Habad: Theological Depth and Spirited Messianism 1](#_Toc499043482)

[Breslov: From Meditation in the Forest to Dancing in the Streets 1](#_Toc499043483)

[Chapter Three: The Litvaks 1](#_Toc499043484)

[Overview: The Origins of the Lithuanian Group 1](#_Toc499043485)

[The Development of a New Extremist Group: The “Yerushalmim” 1](#_Toc499043486)

[“Pan-Halakhism,” “Nerven,” and “Briskers” 1](#_Toc499043487)

[Stringency for the Sake of the “Most Perfect Service”: The Followers of the Hazon Ish 1](#_Toc499043488)

[An Expanding Periphery: “Modern” Haredim 1](#_Toc499043489)

[Chapter Four: Sephardic Haredim 1](#_Toc499043490)

[Overview: The Origins of Sephardic Haredism 2](#_Toc499043491)

[First Stage: The Jerusalem Branch of Sephardic Haredism 2](#_Toc499043492)

[Second Stage: “Litvish” Sephardic Haredism 2](#_Toc499043493)

[Third Stage: The Sephardic Haredism of Shas 2](#_Toc499043494)

[“Torani” and Sub-Ethnic Sephardic-Haredi Circles 2](#_Toc499043495)

[Extremist Sephardic Haredim 2](#_Toc499043496)

[“Zionist” Sephardic Haredim 2](#_Toc499043497)

[Kabbalists, “Babas” and Various Levels of Hasidim 2](#_Toc499043498)

[Chapter Five: The Yerushalmim and Other Extremist Groups: “The Edah ha-Hareidis,” and “Neturei Karta” 2](#_Toc499043499)

[Overview: The Origins of “Yerushalmi” Haredism 2](#_Toc499043500)

[The “Edah ha-Hareidis” and its Rabbinic Court 2](#_Toc499043501)

[The Hasidic Groups of Reb Areleh: Toldos Aharon and Toldos Avraham-Yitzhak 2](#_Toc499043502)

[“Neturei Karta” 2](#_Toc499043503)

[Chapter Six: Attitude to Zionism and the State of Israel 2](#_Toc499043504)

[Overview: The Origins of Haredi Objections to Zionism 2](#_Toc499043505)

[Mainstream Haredi Views: Cold Pragmatism 2](#_Toc499043506)

[Radical Haredi Views: Complete Rejection of Jewish Sovereignty 2](#_Toc499043507)

[Moderate Haredi Views: “Zionism without Zionism” 2](#_Toc499043508)

[Habad: Anti-Zionist Rhetoric with Pro-Zionist Solidarity 2](#_Toc499043509)

[Shas and Rabbi Ovadia Yosef: Ideological Flexibility and Deep Solidarity 2](#_Toc499043510)

[Chapter Seven: The Haredi Worldview and Israeli Democracy 2](#_Toc499043511)

[Arguments against the Legitimacy of the Secular-Jewish Regime 2](#_Toc499043512)

[Arguments against the Values of Freedom and Equality 2](#_Toc499043513)

[Arguments against the Principle of National Sovereignty 2](#_Toc499043514)

[“Democracy as a Tool”: The Theory of Haredi Elites and Specific Criticisms of Dual Morality 2](#_Toc499043515)

[Chapter Eight: The Haredi Worldview and the Problem of Serving in the IDF 2](#_Toc499043516)

[The Origins of Army Exemptions for Yeshiva Students 2](#_Toc499043517)

[The Development of Universal Exemption and the Growing Struggles 3](#_Toc499043518)

[Towards a New Legislation 3](#_Toc499043519)

[Rising Draft Rates: A Very Tentative Interim Summary 3](#_Toc499043520)

[Summary and Perspective 3](#_Toc499043521)

[What Have We Seen and What Have We Learned? 3](#_Toc499043522)

[Afterward 3](#_Toc499043523)

### Breslov: From Meditation in the Forest to Dancing in the Streets

### “Pan-Halakhism,” “Nerven,” and “Briskers”

### Stringency for the Sake of the “Most Perfect Service”: The Followers of the Hazon Ish

### First Stage: The Jerusalem Branch of Sephardic Haredism

### “Torani” and Sub-Ethnic Sephardic-Haredi Circles

### Kabbalists, “Babas” and Various Levels of Hasidim

### Habad: Anti-Zionist Rhetoric with Pro-Zionist Solidarity

## “Democracy as a Tool”: The Theory of Haredi Elites and Specific Criticisms of Dual