

WALTER BENJAMIN (1892-1940)
German-born; Marxist leanings;
Messianic interests; Jewish, but not
traditionally observant

“OLD TESTAMENT” AND JEWISH
POLITICAL THEOLOGY:
Exodus, Sinai, Covenant
Judges, Kings
Messianism
law and justice

“EGYPTIAN GOLD”:
classical pagan and philosophical
traditions, variously reconcilable and
in tension with Christianity

WARBURG SCHOOL
art historians, iconographers,
iconologists, associated with Aby
Warburg (includes Panofsky, Saxl,
Wind)
pagan interests as well as Catholic
and Reformation

CARL SCHMITT (1888-1985)
conservative Catholic;
becomes Nazi jurist

REFORMATION
undoing authority of Pope,
rethinking the Eucharist
vernacular Bibles;
new forms of life?

MEDIEVAL CATHOLIC FORMS
the regalia of the Papacy
Eucharist and liturgy
Christology
rites and rituals of coronation,
marriage, burial

HENRY VIII

SECULAR STATE FORMS
territorial sovereignty
state overignty
sovereignty of the people

ERNST KANTOROWICZ (1895-1963)
German-born; aristocratic values;
non-observant Jew; emigre to US
(Berkeley, then Princeton)

POLITICAL THEOLOGY: A MAP

HANNAH ARENDT (1906-1975)
studied Christian theology
dissertation on St. Augustine
political thinker in Greek tradition
wrote on matters pertaining to
Jews, Judaism, and Israel
born in Germany; emigree

