



The Merchant of Venice

The Representation of Jews in Michael Radford's film

What did you learn about the treatment of Jews in the late 1500s in Venice from your reading of *The Merchant of Venice*?

Fill in the main ideas presented in the crawl in the opening sequence of the film. Note the visual details and actions that support the main idea.

Main Idea	Visual Details and Actions
intolerance	the burning of Hebrew texts

Fill in the chart after viewing each scene.

Scenes	Does this scene reflect the main ideas presented in the opening sequence?	How is Shylock presented?
Shylock visits a synagogue.		
Shylock has dinner with Bassanio.		
Shylock discovers Jessica has run away.	no	He is despairing. He misses Jessica.
Shylock insists on having his bond.		
Shylock prepares to take Antonio's pound of flesh.		

Does the rest of the film, or what you've seen of it, uphold the ideas presented in the opening sequence?

Based on these scenes, what is your perception of Shylock? How does Radford present him? Does he seem deserving of the treatment heaped upon Jews as depicted in the opening sequence?