Gershom Gerhard Scholem

Sabbatai Sevi, the apostate messiah, makes for a bizarre and ridiculous episode in the history of religion; to even lavish this amount of scholarly attention on the subject may seem like a willful act of perversity. I should. Cowardice is an active quality.
Sabbatai Tsevi, the apostate messiah, makes for a bizarre and ridiculous episode in the history of religion; to even lavish this amount of scholarly attention on the subject may seem like a willful act of perversity. I should. Cowardice is an active quality. Sabbatai Zevi (Hebrew: שַׁבְבַּתַּי צְבִי, other spellings include Shabbetai Ẓevi, Shabbeṭâʾī ʿĀy āʾseâ.jtÂʿ, Shabsai Tzvi, and Sabetay Sevi in Turkish) (August 1, 1626 - c. September 17, 1676) was a Sephardic ordained rabbi, though of Romaniote origin and a kabbalist, active throughout the Ottoman Empire, who claimed to be the long-awaited Jewish Messiah. He was the founder of the Sabbatean movement.