

ANDERE JUDEN The English Summary

Other Jews

Page 5:

«Verlier die Perspektive nicht»

DON'T LOSE YOUR PERSPECTIVE

Thilo Sarrazin's statements on a specific Jewish gene were also covered by Israeli media, but caused no true excitement. Incomprehensible as it is that race theories can still be spread in Germany, talk about the Jewish gene also exists in Israel, originating, for instance, from Eli Yishai, Interior Minister and leading politician of the Shas Party. In fact, there is a (controversial) school of thought according to which Jews share certain DNA sequences. Jewish genetics also preoccupy the evangelical preacher John Hagee from Texas, who has supported the most radical elements of the Israeli settler movement with millions of dollars and political lobbying for years. However, the use of genetics in order to establish social or political status is dangerous.

Pages 6, 7, 8:

«Mission erfüllt»

MISSION COMPLETED

Since their deportation to Assyria, the ten lost Israelite tribes have supposedly appeared time and again all over the world. When Chief Rabbi Ovadia Joseph announced in 1973 that the Ethiopian Falashas were descendants of the Dan tribe, he could not have been as certain as he seemed. Nevertheless, his rabbinical expertise enabled Operation Moses, a mass exodus of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. The myth of the ten lost tribes keeps triggering a chase for discovery of their descendants. Just a



few similarities to Hebrew in a language can lead to absurd assertions, and still today whole groups are waiting to be embraced as Israel's lost confreres. The author, citing two controversial stories on the subject, believes that it is often next to impossible to find the truth in such shifting myths.

Pages 9, 10, 11:

«Die Alten vom Berge»

THE OLD PEOPLE FROM THE MOUNTAIN

For about 2500 years, the Caucasian Mountain Jews in Muslim Azerbaijan have preserved their Jewish identity by following the traditions of their fathers. They try to be a global model for the peaceful coexistence of Muslims and Jews. Approximately 30000 Jews live in Azerbaijan today. Legally and



socially, they are completely emancipated. They are referred to as «Mountain Jews» because their languages and habits resemble those of the neighbouring mountain people. Their ethnic origins are not sure, but legend has them as one of the ten lost tribes. Indeed the Jews and Muslims of this region could teach the world about friendship. There is mutual respect and concern, and the shared experience of living through the horrors of the Soviet regime has made them strong allies.

Pages 12, 13, 14:

«Am Sambatyon»

ON SABBATYON

The history of the modern age and Jewish history overlap in the myth of

the ten lost tribes. The same year that Columbus discovered America – 1492 – marked the beginning of the bloody expulsion of the Marranos, the Christianised Jews of Spain and Portugal



who fled to the east and rediscovered their lost Judaism there. And the Christians, having gone to colonise the West, later came to the conclusion that the Indians in America were of Jewish origin and part of the ten lost tribes. They were made Christian in mass baptisms. But the most amazing story is that of the conquistador Antonio de Montezinos, formerly Aaron Levi, who in the midst of this baptism, far removed from the Inquisition, rediscovered his Jewish roots.

Pages 15, 16, 17:

«Eine Geschichte der friedlichen Koexistenz»

A HISTORY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

The Jews from Cochin in the Indian State of Kerala do not really have the profile of a typical Jewish communi-



ty. A group of just 2400 people at the height of their existence before the Aliya of 1948, they never suffered from anti-Semitism, were divided into «black» and «white» ones according to their complexion, and were totally accepted by their Hindu neighbours. Around 8000 Cochin Jews live in Israel today. In Kerala, a state-sponsored project to encourage tourism to the area has meanwhile started to reconstruct the synagogues left behind with a small group of Jewish brothers and sisters who still live there. The complexions of Cochin Jews in Israel differ greatly from that of other Jews, a fact that has never has interfered with their integration in their new homeland.

Pages 18, 19, 20:
«Fluchtpunkt spanische Karibik»
VANISHING POINT:
SPANISH CARIBBEAN

The University of New Mexico has taken up a large-scale project ON the history and presence of so-called Crypto Jews in Cuba, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico and Jamaica which formerly were under Spanish rule. Only today, 500 years later, the offspring of



the Conversos in different parts of the former Spanish world appear publicly. The study aims to uncover the relationships among historical communities of hidden Jews and their offspring in present day Mexico, South America, Spain and Portugal, and it tackles demographic issues such as their professional life and migration patterns. The Crypto Jews represent a significant element in the multi-ethnic mosaic of the border regions of Spanish South



America. The study wants to shed light on this so far unknown environment.

Seiten 21, 22, 23:
«Die dritte Diaspora»
THE THIRD DIASPORA

Salonika, formerly known as the Jerusalem of the Balkans, was once the home of a Sephardic community speaking Ladino. The descendants of the Sephardic Jews from the Ottoman Empire are spread all over the world today, and Ladino is used only in cyberspace. Yet, this language formerly called «Espanyol» or «Spanyol», used to be an important factor of identity and solidarity when it developed after the majority of Jews expelled from Spain in 1492 had settled down in the areas of the Ottoman Empire. They were so numerous that the Jews already living there were soon integrated in the Sephardic communities and adapted their languages and traditions. The decline of Sephardic Salonika started 1912 with the city's inte-



gration into the Greek state and its Hellenisation.

Pages 24, 25, 26, 27, 28:
«Die heimlichen Juden New Mexicos»
THE HIDDEN JEWS
OF NEW MEXICO

Historical evidence from archives in Mexico, Portugal and Spain as well as recent findings of genetic research clearly reveal a Jewish presence in the Southwestern U.S. and in Mexico dating back far longer than to 1840, when Middle-European Jewish merchants



got there. In New Mexico, the author met descendants of Jewish families whose ancestries trace back to Spanish and Portuguese Jews converted by force to Catholicism in the 16th century. Their families have clandestinely kept up their Sephardic traditions alive for more than 400 years on American soil. After the USA had conquered New Mexico in 1846, Mormonism and Protestantism offered such Crypto Jews a rather inconspicuous way to turn their back to Catholicism.