

Jews in South Africa: A study of their economic and political conditions until 1948

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Abstract

The history of the Jews in South Africa began under the rule of the British Empire, and followed a general pattern of increased European settlement in the nineteenth century. Early discovery and settlement from the seventeenth century to the early nineteenth century. The Jews were a tool for strengthening and strengthening diplomatic and military relations between Israel and South Africa. The Jewish community in South Africa differs from the Jewish communities in other African countries. Most of the South African Jews settled there, while the Jews of other countries immigrated most of them to Israel. The Israeli interest in the African continent is due to the fact that Israel is an advanced base for modern colonialism in the region. The reasons for Israel's interest in the black continent were in several aspects, namely: the strategic security aspect, the political aspect, and the economic aspect.

Keywords: (Jews, South Africa, Israel, Cape Town, exploration).

Introduction

matters, including: oil, intelligence support, fighting revolutionary movements, supporting client regimes, and completing suspicious arms deals. The reasons for Israel's interest in the Black Continent were represented in several aspects: the strategic security aspect, the political aspect, and the economic aspect. On the security side: Israel considers the Nile Basin, the Red Sea, and the Horn of Africa a strategic location; Where the world's oil passes from the Red Sea, the Suez Canal, the Gulf of Aqaba and the Persian Gulf, which connects to Africa⁽²⁾. As for the political aspect: Through diplomatic-political relations with Africa, Israel gained the support of these countries at the United Nations, and ended the isolation imposed on it by the Arab countries⁽³⁾.

On the economic side: Israel has established companies in Africa whose activities are distributed in many fields, such as⁽⁴⁾:

1. Agricultural industries, establishing poultry and livestock farms, and establishing agricultural training and extension centers.

The history of the Jews in South Africa began under European and British settlement, and under the rule of the British Empire, and followed a general pattern in which European settlement increased in the nineteenth century. The early patterns in Jewish history in South Africa were almost identical to theirs in the USA, but on a much smaller scale, and this includes the early period of discovery and settlement from the seventeenth to the early nineteenth century, and the Jewish community multiplied tenfold between 1880 and 1914), where it grew from (4-40) thousand Jews.

The Jews were a tool for strengthening and strengthening diplomatic-military relations between Israel and South Africa. But the Jewish community in South Africa is different from the Jewish communities in other African countries. Most of the Jews of South Africa have settled there, as for the Jews of other countries, most of them immigrated to Israel⁽¹⁾.

The Israeli interest in the African continent is due to the fact that Israel is an advanced base for modern colonialism in the region. It plays the role of protecting America's interests in the region in many

century and most of the eighteenth century, only the state religion was allowed to be observed publicly. On July 25, 1804, Dutch Commissioner-General Jacob Abraham de Mist announced the abolition of his provisions in the English occupation, and it was not re-established until 1820, that religious equality was established in the colony for all persons, regardless of creed⁽⁷⁾.

The second topic

Jews in South Africa

During the nineteenth century

Jews did not arrive in large numbers in Cape Town before the 1820s. Their first prayer in South Africa, known as the "Scholl Gardens", was established in Cape Town in September 1841, and the initial service was held on the eve of Yom Kippur in the home of settler and businessman Benjamin Norden, which lay at the corner of Weltevreden and Hof Streets in 1820⁽⁸⁾.

It was Benjamin Norden and Simon Marcus, along with a number of Jews who arrived in the early 1820s and 1830s as trading pioneers, notably the brothers Mosenthal-Julius and Adolf and James Mosenthal who started the main wool industry there⁽⁹⁾.

Between 1849-1886, Aaron and Daniel de Bass became the chief shipowner and chief seal, whaling and fisherman of Cape Town (). Jews were among the first to adopt ostriches, and played a role in the early diamond industry⁽¹⁰⁾.

South African Jews are considered to be the first to develop the diamond industry and agriculture in Cape Town. But in the eighties of the nineteenth century, they were denied many positions, including: military positions, the position of head of state, the position of minister of state and judges, and Jewish children and teachers were excluded from state-supported schools⁽¹¹⁾.

The Jews played a large role in early South African politics, as Captain Joshua Norden was shot in the head in the Xhosa War in 1846, and Lieutenant Elias de Bass fought in the same war in 1849, and Julius Mosenthal (1818-1880) was a member of the Cape Parliament. Town in the 1850s, Simeon Jacobs (1832-1883) was a judge

2. Shipping companies, such as: (Black Star Shipping) Company in Ghana, and (Fleet) Company in Liberia.
3. Established airlines, and contributed to the construction of (Accra Airport) in Ghana.
4. It established schools, universities and hospitals, such as: (Haileselassie University) in Ethiopia, and (Massawa Hospital) in Eritrea.
5. There are more than (800) Israeli companies and exporters currently operating in South Africa. Some Israeli companies specialized in mineral exploration have undertaken diamond mining operations in: Congo, Central African Republic, and Sierra Leone.

The first topic

The beginning of modern Jewish history In South Africa

First: The Portuguese Exploration Phase:

Modern Jewish history in South Africa began indirectly, prior to the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, and with the participation of some explorers and cartographers in the Portuguese exploration of the sea route to India. The Portuguese cartographers helped the Jews - who were members of the wealthy and powerful classes - Bartolomeo Dias and Vasco da Gama who sailed around the Cape of Good Hope for the first time in 1488 and 1497, and the deliberate Jews of Portugal remained free until the establishment of the Portuguese Inquisition in 1536⁽⁵⁾.

Second: The Dutch Exploration Phase:

The Dutch East India Company began the establishment of the first permanent European settlement in South Africa under Jan van Riebeeck in 1652, and it is assumed that a number of unrecognized Jews were among the first settlers in Cape Town, and non-Christian immigration to the Cape Dutch colony was generally discouraged until year 1803⁽⁶⁾.

And there were Jews among the directors of the Dutch East India Company, which ran the colony at the Cape of Good Hope for 150 years. During the seventeenth

The third topic

Jews in South Africa

From the beginning of the twentieth century to 1948

First: The Second Boer War (1899-1902):

Jews fought - on both sides - during the Second Boer War (1899-1902)⁽¹⁷⁾. It was one of the most important battles in which South African Jews participated alongside the Boers against British colonialism, in which up to 2,800 Jews participated⁽¹⁸⁾.

As well as up to 300 Jews served among the Boers during the war, and those who conscripted citizenship rights along with other bourgeoisie (citizens), and there were also a number of volunteers⁽¹⁹⁾, who fought in many major battles and clashes, especially during the guerrilla phase of the war, and (125) of them were killed⁽²⁰⁾. Eighty of them were arrested and held in British detention camps in South Africa, and a number of them were exiled to Saint Helena, Bermuda and Ceylon⁽²¹⁾.

Second: The Jews in South Africa before World War II (1939-1945):

Although Jews were granted equal rights after the Second Boer War, they were again persecuted in the years leading up to World War II. In 1930 the Quota Act of 1930 was intended to limit the entry of Jews into South Africa, and the Aliens Act of 1937, prompted by the previous year's sharp increase in the number of German Jewish refugees coming to South Africa, had almost completely halted immigration. A number of Jews managed to enter the country, but many of them were unable to do so, and approximately (5.6) thousand Jews came to South Africa from Germany between (1933 and 1939)⁽²²⁾.

Third: The Jews of South Africa and Israel after World War II (1939-1945):

When the state of the Zionist entity was established on the land of Palestine in mid-May 1948, the government of the Union of South Africa rushed to recognize the new state on May 24, and the Jews in South Africa worked to consolidate its relations with the alleged state of Israel, and two Bonanza transport planes were sent to Palestine, as well as Quantities of

of the Cape Town High Court and Acting Attorney-General of Cape Town and introduced the Responsible Government Bill in that colony, as well as the Voluntary (Repeal of Aid Aid Bill) The state for the Anglican Church) in 1872, and Saul Solomon (1817-1892) led the Cape Colony Liberal Party, and it was called (Cape Disraeli), and he was called to the first responsible government formed by Sir John Molteno, and he refused the premiership itself several times⁽¹²⁾.

Meanwhile, Jews faced significant anti-Semitism, and although freedom of worship was granted to all residents in 1870, the revised Grondwet Act of 1894 barred Jews and Catholics from military office, the office of president, secretary of state, or judge, as well as membership In the 1st and 2nd Volksrad (Parliament), and among the oversight bodies for indigenous peoples and mines, Jews were often considered Uitlanders (foreigners), and thus excluded from the mainstream of life in South Africa⁽¹³⁾.

However, a few Jews also settled among and identified with the white, Afrikaans-speaking rural population, these came to be known as the Boerejode (Boer Jews). A measure of mixed marriage also occurred, and it was generally accepted⁽¹⁴⁾. Many of them came from Lithuania; So much so that some refer to the residents as a colony of Lithuania⁽¹⁵⁾.

The South African Zionist Federation was formed in 1895, and although its members were limited individuals, they had wide influence, and the Jewish community in South Africa was active in working to establish (the State of Israel) in Palestine, and although southern Jews do not accept immigration to Israel, but they were helping Jewish immigrants from other countries by collecting huge money for them, and they did that with the Jews of Iraq when they immigrated to Israel, and their money helped build many settlements, and with the repeated recognition by the leaders of the White South African Union of the right of Jews to establish a state The Zionists in southern Africa encouraged them to practice their activities in practice, and this was revealed during the 1948 war⁽¹⁶⁾.

in society in important societal and political decisions.

While there is a lot of talk about the Israeli presence in Africa, specifically about the sources of the Nile, many forget that there is a relatively old Jewish community that formed in South Africa, and participated in the apartheid rule in it, and it is still present and strong in South Africa today. With the discovery of the Cape of Good Hope, the Jews entered for the first time to South Africa, as individuals, and then multiplied and worked in many professions, especially the trade in minerals, diamonds and others, and they made huge fortunes, and despite their small numbers, they were with the racist rule after 1910 and the white European migrations to South In Africa, they have a strong political presence through the press and in Parliament.

The great interest in the African continent shown by Israel, and the extent of the success it is achieving there, is matched by an almost complete Arab absence, both in the political and security aspects, as well as in the economic investment field.

We also deduce the extent of racism shown by Israeli society towards Africans, which is a helpful factor for Israel and its security services in recruiting Africans. To serve Israeli and American interests, which constitutes a serious threat to African national security.

We conclude that all of this will affect the equation of profit and loss for all parties. On the one hand, the presence of Africans in Israel constitutes a disturbance of the balance in the Israeli social fabric. On the other hand, Israel will achieve success in controlling economic facilities and African markets, and will be able to control most of the political regimes on the continent. It feeds tribal and religious conflicts in African countries, and sows discord among their peoples and regimes.

margins:

⁽¹⁾Theodore Parfitt and E. TrevisanSyme, *Judaization Movements: Studies in the Margins of Judaism*, Routledge Curzon, London, 2002, p. 132.

weapons, war materiel, food, medical equipment and financial aid⁽²³⁾.

The money of South African Jews had a prominent impact on the growth and development of many Israeli companies and factories, such as: the El Al airline company, the Atta company for the clothing industry, insurance companies, refrigeration factories, foundry factories, as well as banks. The Ashkelon summer resort, which was built in the place of the Arab city of Ashkelon on the Mediterranean Sea, is a testimony to the role played by the investments of South African Jews⁽²⁴⁾. The Jews of South Africa also played a role in the establishment of many kibbutzim (agricultural and military settlement) inside Palestine before the establishment of (Israel), and there were several pioneers from South Africa to settle in Palestine in preparation for the establishment of the alleged state⁽²⁵⁾.

It began a long history of cooperation between Israel and South Africa on several levels, as the Zionist Jewish community in South Africa - through bodies such as the Zionist Federation of South Africa - maintained a friendly relationship with the South African government, despite its objection to the policies of apartheid being carried out. her age, and South African Jews were allowed to raise huge sums of money; to be sent as official aid to Israel, and despite strict exchange control regulations, South African Jews were the most financially supportive Zionists abroad⁽²⁶⁾.

Also, a number of South African Jews settled in Israel, and formed a South African community in it. Perhaps the most famous South African community established in Israel is Savion, which is still the richest suburb in Israel, and large houses were built in the style that the community is accustomed to from their lives in South Africa⁽²⁷⁾.

Conclusion

There is no doubt that the Jewish community, wherever it settled, has found an influential position for itself, thanks to its control over the economy and its success in controlling most factors of production and trade, which creates an influential economic and political position

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⁽¹⁷⁾It is also known as the South African War or the Anglo-Boer War, and the Africans also call it the Second War of Independence, a war that extended from (October 11, 1899 - May 31, 1902) between the British Empire and the two Boer republics: the Republic of South Africa (Transvaal) and the Orange Free Republic, and ended The victory of the British army. It is considered the most costly war that Britain fought, and although it was not equal in power, the number of British forces during the war reached 500,000, while their number in the ranks of the Boers did not exceed 88,000 fighters. For details see: Arthur Conan Doyle, The Great Boer War, Elder Smith, London, 1900.

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⁽²³⁾Naglaa Abdel-Gawad, Op. Cit., p. 321.

⁽²⁴⁾Beinart Peter, "The Jews of South Africa", transition, No. 71, 1996, p. 60.

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⁽²⁶⁾Chris McGrill, "Brothers in Arms - Israel's Secret Deal with Pretoria", The Guardian newspaper, London, February 7, 2006, p. 76.

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