How did the creation of Israel affect Jewish communities in the Middle East?

Govornik: Roy Casagranda
Izvor: https://minbarlive.com/videos/how-did-the-creation-of-israel-affect-jewish-communities-in-the-middle-east

> This talk examines how the 'Judeo-Christian civilization' narrative is used to justify Israeli policy, and traces the historical destruction of thriving Jewish communities across the Middle East following Israel's creation.

SAŽETAK

The speaker challenges the 'Judeo-Christian civilization' framing invoked by Israeli leadership to secure Western support, arguing it distorts a thousand years of history in which Christians and Jews were rarely allied. The talk traces the historical presence of Jews throughout the Middle East—in Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, and Esfahan—where they built prosperous, integrated communities that flourished for centuries. The speaker notes examples of Jewish prominence under Islamic rule, including Maimonides and other physicians employed by Saladin, and a Jewish Wazir in medieval Granada. The core argument is that Israel's creation precipitated the collapse of these ancient Middle Eastern Jewish communities. While acknowledging that European Jewish persecution made refuge-seeking logical, the speaker identifies the fundamental problem as the method: conquest, ethnic cleansing, and the establishment of a Jewish-only state, rather than integration or coexistence.

KLJUČNE PORUKE

The 'Judeo-Christian civilization' concept emerged from the Zionist movement and misrepresents a millennium of history in which Christians and Jews were not allies.

Jewish communities flourished in the medieval and pre-modern Middle East, integrated into societies across Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, and Persia for centuries.

Maimonides and other Jewish scholars and physicians achieved prominence under Islamic rulers, including service to Saladin.

The creation of Israel triggered the destruction of these long-established Middle Eastern Jewish communities.

> While European Jewish persecution created understandable impetus for refuge, the method chosen—conquest and ethnic cleansing—fundamentally differs from integration or coexistence.

ČLANAK

The 'Judeo-Christian civilization' narrative

When Israeli leadership, especially today, justifies Western support, they invoke the language of civilizational identity and the concept of a Judeo-Christian civilization. This framing spans a thousand years of history, but it obscures a fundamental reality: Christians and Jews were never on the same side throughout that period. Even during the Roman Empire, Romans brutalized the Jewish population. The "Judeo-Christian" idea itself emerged from the Zionist movement as a way to restructure history and religion in terms that would resonate with the average uneducated American audience.

Historical Jewish presence in the Middle East

Historically, Jews have always had a home in the Middle East. There existed wonderful, massive, beautiful Jewish communities in Morocco, Iraq, Yemen, and Egypt. The Jewish community in Esfahan, for example, had been there for approximately 25 centuries by the time Theodore Herzl appeared on the scene. These communities flourished and integrated into their societies. Saladin employed two Jewish physicians—Maimonides, the greatest Jewish philosopher of the medieval period, and another named Ibn Umayya. The Kingdom of Granada at one point had a Jewish Wazir. The Jewish community in the Middle East did well, in stark contrast to the constant persecution and terrible circumstances faced by Jewish communities in Europe.

The creation of Israel and community destruction

The creation of Israel created a catastrophic situation for these long-established Middle Eastern Jewish communities. Israel has successfully, though tragically, destroyed those communities. In a sense, it made logical sense for persecuted European Jews to seek refuge in Palestine. The fundamental disconnect, however, lies in the method: why would one go to Palestine to conquer it, ethnically cleanse it, and then create a Jewish-only state? That is where the confusion truly sets in.

#Israeli history and founding #Jewish diaspora in the Middle East #Middle Eastern history #Jewish-Christian relations #Historical narrative and framing #Ethnic conflict and displacement

Generated by MinbarLive — Knowledge Library · https://minbarlive.com/videos/how-did-the-creation-of-israel-affect-jewish-communities-in-the-middle-east