

1948年以前中國猶太人的歷史

史平樂

因為我是猶太人，我總對猶太歷史感興趣。幾乎在每一個國家都有猶太人的歷史，在中國也不例外，雖然那兒的猶太社區不爲人所知。

其實中國的猶太社區有很長的歷史。起初猶太人從中東去中國經商。有一些就留在中國，因為那兒有很好的貿易機會。沒有人知道他們是哪一年到中國的，但是最早的證據指出他們在七世紀時就已經到了：這個證據就是一張用猶太帕西文寫在紙上的信。那時，只有在中國才有紙張。

在中國最有名的猶太社區是在開封。開封的猶太會堂建於十一世紀。在十七世紀，有五千個左右的猶太人在開封，他們都很有成就。不幸的是，在十七世紀中頁，除了差不多一千個人以外，開封猶太人都在李自成和明朝之間的戰爭時死了，猶太會堂也滅亡了。開封的猶太人在1663年再一次建成他們的會堂。開封的猶太社區留存到1850年代。

開封不是唯一有據可查的中國猶太社區。1845年以後，伊拉克猶太人在上海的虹口區建立了一個社區，離通商口岸很近。一百年以後，那兒成爲一個有名的猶太難民的避風港，叫無國

籍難民限定地區。從1933年到1941年，上海收容了超過兩萬個從納粹歐洲來的猶太人。在那段時間以前的幾年，上海也收容過差不多八千個猶太人，他們是從斯大林的俄羅斯逃出來的。

另一個猶太社區在哈爾濱從1899年開始存在。在1920年有兩萬個人。有一些是在哈爾濱的中俄鐵路完成以後從俄羅斯去哈爾濱找經濟機會的。其他的是難民，逃離俄羅斯內戰，或者是在1929年的中蘇邊界衝突以後去的。

1948年以後，只有很少的猶太人留在中國，他們大多去了以色列或者美國。但是1980年代以來，因為經濟機會，很多猶太人又回去中國了。

Being Jewish, I have always been interested in Jewish history around the world. Almost every country has Jewish history, and China is no exception although its Jewish community is not very well known.

Jews in China have a very long history. Jews travelled from the Middle East to trade and it is likely that some stayed to take advantage of business opportunities. Nobody knows the exact year of Jewish arrival in China, however the earliest evidents points to Jewish existence in China before 700CE: A letter written on paper in Judeo-Persian. At the time paper was only available in China.

The preeminent Jewish community in China was that of Kaifeng. The synagogue in Kaifeng was constructed in the 11th century. In the 17th century the Kaifeng Jews reached a population of 5000 and were successful citizens. Unfortunately, the war between the Ming and Li Zicheng resulted in the destruction of the synagogue and the death of all but 1000 Jews. They rebuilt the synagogue in 1663, and the community went on to survive until the 1850s.

Kaifeng was not the only well-documented Chinese Jewish community. After 1845, Iraqi Jews established a community that would become famous as a safe haven for foreign Jewish refugees, in the Hongkou district not far from the treaty port. From 1933 to 1941 Shanghai played host to more than 20000 Jews from Nazi Europe. The city also hosted about 8000 who fled Stalin's Russia some years before that.

Another Chinese Jewish community existed in Harbin from 1899. Most of them came to Harbin from Russia to seek economic opportunity after the railroad was complete and to escape the Russian Civil War and the 1929 Sino Soviet border conflict. Their highest population was 20000 in 1920.

After 1948, only a small number of Jews remained in China. Most left for Israel or the United States. However, since the 1980s many Jews have come back to China to take advantage of economic opportunities.

New vocabulary:

猶太人 - you2tai4ren2 - Jews

感興趣 - gan3xing4qu4 - to be interested

歷史 - li4shi3 - history

幾乎 - ji1hu1 - almost

例外 - li4wai4 - exception/to be an exception

雖然 - sui1ran2 - although/even if

社區 - she4qu1 - community

不為人所知 - bu4 wei2 ren2 suo3zhi1 - not well known

其實 - qi2shi2 - actually/in fact

起初 - qi3chu1 - originally

中東 - zhong1dong1 - Middle East

經商 - jing1shang1 - trade

留 - liu2 - stay/remain

機會 - ji1hui4 - opportunity

證據 - zheng4ju4 - evidence

指 - zhi3 - indicate/refer

世紀 - shi4ji4 - century

猶太帕西文 - you2tai4pa4xi1wen2 - Jidi (Jewish Iranian dialect written in Hebrew characters)

紙張 - zhi3zhang1 - paper

信 - xin4 - letter

有名 - you3ming2 - famous

開封 - Kai1feng1 - Kaifeng

猶太會堂 - you2tai4hui4tang2 - synagogue

建於 - jian4yu2 - built in

千 - qian1 - 1000

有成就 - you3cheng2jiu4 - successful

左右 - zuo3you4 - about

不幸的是 - bu4xing4de5shi4 - unfortunately/inopportunately

中頁 - zhong1ye4 - middle (of a period)
李自成和明朝之間的戰爭 - li3zi4cheng2 he2 ming2chao2 zhi1jian1 de zhan4zheng1 - the war between the Ming Dynasty and the peasant rebel Li Zicheng
滅亡 - mie4wang2 - to be destroyed
留存 - liu2cun2 - to survive/remain
年代 - nian2dai4 - decade
有據可查 - you3 ju4ke3cha2 - well documented
伊拉克 - yi1la1ke4 - Iraq
通商口岸 - tong1shang1kou3an4 - treaty ports (opened to foreign trade as part of the 19th century Unequal Treaties)
成為 - cheng2wei2 - become
難民 - nan4min2 - refugee
避風港 - bi4feng1gang3 - place of refuge
建立 - jian4li4 - establish/set up/found
虹口區 - hong2kou3qu1 - Hongkou district (Shanghai Ghetto)
無國籍難民限定地區 wu2 guo2ji2 nan4min2 xian4ding4 di4qu1 - Restricted Sector for Stateless Refugees
收容 - shou1rong2 - to shelter
萬 - wan4 - 10,000
納粹歐洲 - na4cui4ou1zhou1 - Nazi occupied Europe
逃出 - tao2chu1 - to flee/escape from
那段時 - duan4shi2 - that time period
另一 - ling4yi1 - another
哈爾濱 - ha1er3bin1 - Harbin
鐵路 - tie3lu4 - railway
完成 - wan2cheng2 - completion
其他的 - qi2ta1de - the rest (of a group)
俄羅斯內戰 - e2luo2si1 nei4zhan4 - Russian Civil War
中蘇邊界衝突 - zhong1su1 bian1jie4 chong1tu1 - Sino Soviet Border Conflict