

The Jews of India



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(Quinton Balistreri)

THE JEWS OF INDIA



Renaissance Publishers, 2016. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Contents: Foreword. Preface. Introduction. 1. Jews of Kerala. 2. Bene Israel Jews of India. 3. The Calcutta Jews. 4. Bene Menashe Jews of Mizoram and Manipur. 5. Bene Ephraim Jews of Andhra Pradesh. 6. Recent Jewish immigrants in India. 7. Indian Jews in Israel. 8. Conclusion. Bibliography. Index. The Jews of India, a microscopic marginal community among other communities settled in India, have become an important part of the Indian history. The Jews, who first landed in the port cities of India such as Cranganore and Cochin in the South, Surat in Gujarat, Konkan in Maharashtra and Calcutta in undivided Bengal in the 17th and 18th centuries respectively for the purpose of trade and commerce and to save themselves and their religion from the onslaught of the Muslims, were never very numerous. Yet they have left their distinct mark in the economic, commercial, socio-cultural history of India. The Cochin Jews of Kerala, the Bene Israels of Gujarat and Maharashtra, particularly in Bombay and Poona and the Baghdadi Jews of Bombay and Calcutta, have left behind a rich heritage in the Indian cities where they settled. Though always a miniscule community compared to other marginal communities in India, the Indian Jewish communities, contributions to the economic and socio-cultural development as well as to the cultural panorama of the metropolises in Kerala, Bombay, Poona, Ahmadabad and Calcutta, were vast, remarkable and praiseworthy. The socio-cultural, economic, religious and philanthropic activities of the Jews of India are reconstructed in this study with the help of both archival materials and contemporary sources. The focus of this study is on the contributions of the Jews in India and also highlights the question of Jewish identity in the historical and social aspects and shows how their identity is manifested and preserved...



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