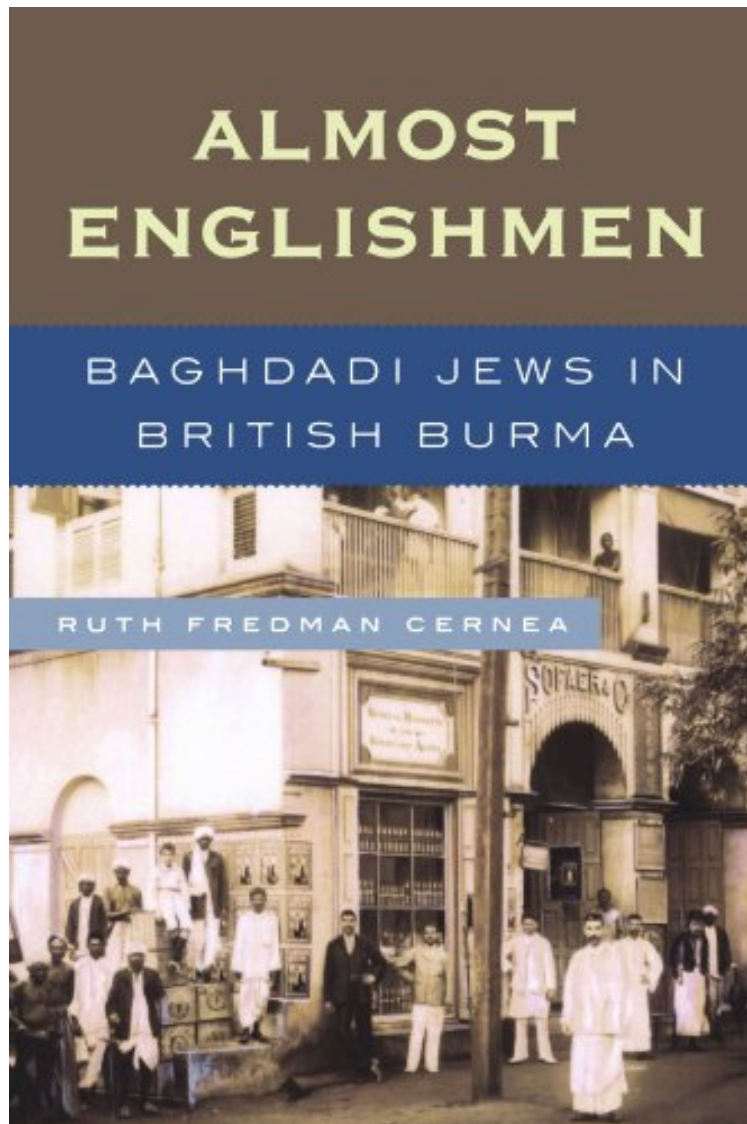


(Read ebook) Almost Englishmen: Baghdadi Jews in British Burma

Almost Englishmen: Baghdadi Jews in British Burma

Ruth Fredman Cernea
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Ruth Fredman Cernea : Almost Englishmen: Baghdadi Jews in British Burma before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Almost Englishmen: Baghdadi Jews in British Burma:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful story By Eugenia My partner and I traveled to Myanmar last February. It was a fabulous adventure. We made a special trip to see the only synagogue in that country. Yangon is a big city with a tremendously powerful history. The synagogue is especially sweet. The gentle soul who tends to the prayers and the space is generous to give visitors a warm and welcoming tour. Eddie (my partner) wanted to get the

book so I ordered it for him as soon as we got home and unpacked and slept for a week!The book is a history of the Jewish people who came to Myanmar how they made the adventure and what has become of their legacy.We both enjoyed the book.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Engaging look at unexpected communityBy Henry YuleJews in Burma are perhaps not the best known ethnic community in the world, but this short, engaging, and very well-researched book tells you all you might want to know about one of the world's least known but extremely interesting communities, that once numbered in the thousands. Good read for those already fascinated by Burma, and a good contribution to the study of the Jewish diaspora.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy YacovExelent

Before the Second World War, two golden 'promised lands' beckoned the thousands of Baghdadi Jews who lived in Southeast Asia: the British Empire, on which 'the sun never set,' and the promised land of their religious tradition, Jerusalem. Almost Englishmen studies the less well-known of these destinations. The book combines history and cultural studies to look into a significant yet relatively unknown period, analyzing to full effect the way Anglo culture transformed the immigrant Baghdadi Jews. England's influence was pervasive and persuasive: like other minorities in the complex society that was British India, the Baghdadis gradually refashioned their ideology and aspirations on the British model. The Jewish experience in the lush land of Burma, with its lifestyles, its educational system, and its internal tensions, is emblematic of the experience of the extended Baghdadi community, whether in Bombay, Calcutta, Shanghai, Singapore, or other ports and towns throughout Southeast Asia. It also suggests the experience of the Anglo-Indian and similar 'European' populations that shared their streets as well as the classrooms of the missionary societies' schools. This contented life amidst golden pagodas ended abruptly with the Japanese invasion of Burma and a horrific trek to safety in India and could not be restored after the war. Employing first-person testimonies and recovered documents, this study illuminates this little known period in imperial and Jewish histories.

The author has done a service to Jewish studies by this engagingly written book, documenting a community that has largely disappeared. She has also done a service to the descendants of the people described, who are enabled through this book to recognize their ancestral roots. (Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal Of Jewish Studies)Well-written with hardly a trace of politically-correct jargon or formulaic social-science talk . . . quite literary in its style. . . [Cernea] seems to write . . . for general readers as well as the people it directly concerns. (Asian Journal of Social Science)Almost Englishmen offers a painstaking record of the rise, flourishing, and slow death of the prosperous community of Baghdadi Jews in Burma (today's Myanmar.) With the keen eye and sympathetic ear of the anthropologist, Cernea has gathered the memories and contemporary impressions of a lost world of merchants at once devoted to tradition and enchanted by the cosmopolitan modernity of British India. (H-Net: Humanities and Social Science s Online)This newly published volume is a delight: an easy read offering a fascinating account of the lives and times of the small but significant Jewish community numbering some 2,100 at their peak of Baghdadi origin in Burma (Myanmar) during and immediately after the Raj. It is illustrated with evocative photos and inventories of community members and their subsequent emigration details. (David Simon Hadashot)The book is of interest to academics as well as non-academics who are personally committed to the history of the Jewish diaspora in South(East)-Asia. . . Cerneas analysis provides material for comparative anthropological as well as sociological and political research which is concerned with the establishment of religious minorities abroad. It offers a contribution to the analysis of international migratory movements in terms of patterns of assimilation, and the socio-political role and rights of religious minorities within the contexts of statehood and citizenship before and after colonialism. (Allegra: A Virtual Lab of Legal Anthropology)About the AuthorAnthropologist Ruth Fredman Cernea has been researching the history of the Baghdadi Jewish communities of Southeast Asia since her first visit to Burma in 1987.