

Do you really know the Jews?

世界を動かす陰の力

2000年もの昔、エルサレムにあったユダヤ人の小国家がローマ軍に敗れ、民族は四散した。それ以来、世界各地でキリスト教徒などに虐げられてきた。ユダヤ人はそれをバネとして金融業、国際貿易などに励み、あるいは学問、芸術などに打込んだ。こうしていま、政治、科学、文芸、新聞、産業など多くの分野で偉人を輩出している。第二次大戦後、国連の肝入りでユダヤ人のための国家イスラエルが誕生したが、彼らは昔の母国の完全な再建を目指し、エルサレムを中心としたパレスチナの地で国連も認めない強引な領地拡張を進める。これが中東での21世紀最大の問題である。

There are many famous Jews who have had a great impact on the world. Among them are Marx, Freud and Einstein. Karl Marx (1818–1883) was a Jew born in Germany who spent most of his life doing research in the British Museum and wrote “Das Kapital,” the bible of Marxism. Sigmund Freud (1856–1939) was a Jew born in
5 Austria who studied medicine at the University of Vienna, but was not allowed to remain at the university because he was a Jew. He conducted research on hysteria and dreams, and became the creator of psychoanalysis. Albert Einstein (1879–1955) was born in Germany, studied in Switzerland, later lived in the United States and became the father of theoretical physics.

10 In order to understand Judaism we have to recognize the fact that Judaism, Christianity and Islam are religions that are very closely related to each other. The belief in one God, Jehovah, is shared among those religions. The Old Testament was written over a one thousand-year period before Christ was born, and it became the sacred book of Judaism. Christianity was born after the death of Jesus Christ in
15 about 30 AD. According to Christians, Christ was not God, but the son of God. The disciples of Christianity added the New Testament, which is a collection of their sacred books, along with the Old Testament. Islam was born 600 years after Christianity with the Prophet Mohammed (570–632) as its founder. The holy book of Islam is the Koran. It contains the teachings of Mohammed as well as material from the Old
20 Testament and New Testament.

Jerusalem is the Holy City for all of these three religions, a dusty ancient city in a corner of the Palestinian region. Jews made Jerusalem their ancient capital and built