

Anti-Semitism in the People's Republic of China

The Last Jew of Harbin

Since the beginning of the war in the Middle East, anti-Semitism on the Chinese Internet has skyrocketed. Censorship allows the agitators to get away with it, even though China once emphasized its goodwill towards Jews. What happened?

Georg Fahrion reports from Harbin / Jan. 9, 2024

When Shabbat begins on a Friday evening, Dan Ben-Canaan eats Chinese jiaozi, dumplings filled with pork. The 78-year-old Israeli is not devoutly religious, and it is difficult to live kosher in Harbin anyway. After all, he is the only Jew in this city of seven million in Heilongjiang, a province in China's icy northeast.

[...]

Tuvia Gering has some answers to this question. The Israeli China expert can be reached by phone in Jerusalem, he has just taken 24 hours off from his reservist service in the army. In peacetime, **he conducts research at the Tel Aviv Institute for National Security Studies (INSS)** on his country's relations with the People's Republic, and lately he has spent a lot of time studying Chinese anti-Semitism.

This has been increasing for several years. "The geopolitical context is important: China's rivalry with the United States," says **Gering**. The conspiracy myth of Jewish capital, which supposedly determines U.S. policy, is compatible with parts of the Chinese public.

For example, the Global Times recently addressed the question: "Do Jews control America?" In the process, the party newspaper came to the conclusion: "In the spheres of economics and finance, Jewish influence is even stronger than in politics." And: "Jews almost control public opinion in the United States." A cartoon in the newspaper showed a red-faced devil sitting on Uncle Sam's shoulder and demanding, "Support Israel!"

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