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“Sectarianism in Islam and Muslim Communities”

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ABSTRACT

“Religious Minorities, Ethnic Minorities, Political Minorities:
Jews in the Iranian Tudeh Party”

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This presentation discusses the relations between the Jewish communities in Iran and Iraq. Following the Farhud pogroms in 1941, thousands of Iraqi Jews fled to Iran, motivated by relatives who had migrated to Iran earlier in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. With this influx of Iraqi Jews came a new brand of Jewish Leftist political activism. The existing scholarship on this community in Iraq attests to their support for the Iraqi Communist Party, especially among urbanites. Upon their arrival to Iran, these Jews joined the recently-established Tudeh Party and thus became an ethnic, religious, and political minority. In Iran they join the numerous Jews that joined the Communist Party for various reasons. Most of whom had joined the party to counter fascist and anti-Jewish inclinations in the Iranian society. After the establishment of Israel in 1948, many of the Jews that migrated from Iran (of both Iranian and Iraqi origins) became involved with socialist politics in Israel too. This paper will examine their participation in the anti-fascist front in Iran and Israel, after some migrated yet again to Israel after 1948.