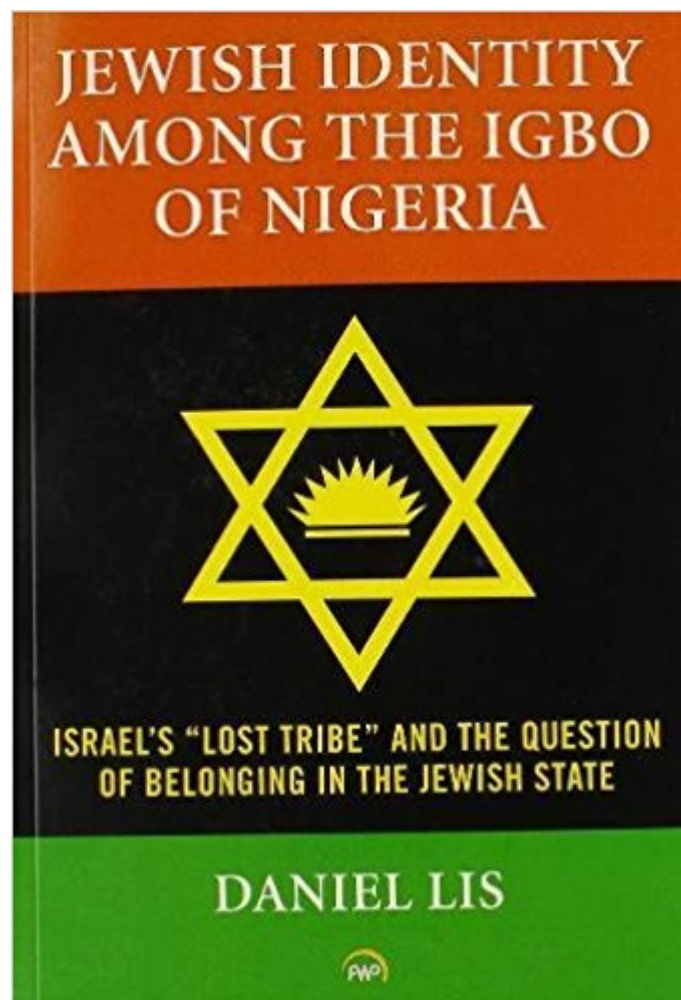




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# **JEWISH IDENTITY AMONG THE IGBO OF NIGERIA: Israel S Lost Tribe And The Question Of Belonging In The Jewish State**



## Synopsis

Among the 20 to 30 Million Igbo people in Nigeria, there is a widespread belief that the Igbo originated in ancient Israel. Recently a number of Igbo Jewish communities have been established in Nigeria. Although some Igbo have made their way to Israel, the Israeli public is largely unaware of the fact that there are in addition 20 to 30 Million Igbo people in Nigeria that have been called by some The Jews of West Africa . Igbo Jewish identity has significant political implications for Nigeria as well as Israel. This book offers for the first time an in-depth study and a genealogical history of the Igbo's long-time and controversial narrative of a possible Jewish origin and thereby engenders a new reading of Igbo history. This interdisciplinary research monograph describes different layers of identity and shows step by step throughout the last 250 years of Igbo history how Jewish identification has been part of Igbo identity and cultural practice. The book then shows the place of the Igbo in post-Biafran Nigeria and how in the ethnically and religiously fractured state, the Judaizing Igbo encouraged by parts of the Jewish world - increasingly orient themselves towards normative Judaism. The author finally provides new ground for the discussion of how Jewish identity is constructed in the age of globalization and the state of Israel. Provides a treasure-trove of well-documented information concerning the Jewish identity of Nigeria's Igbo, their relationship to the State of Israel, and their tragic recent history. Prof. Jonathan D. Sarna, Joseph H. & Belle R. Braun Professor of American Jewish History, Brandeis University A compendium of well-crafted incisive analysis of the historicity of the Jewish theory of Igbo Origins, the work opens up a new vista in the emerging globalization of Igbo studies. Thus Daniel Lis by this work has proved that the study of the Jews as a distinct people cannot be complete without the further insight into the Igbo question. Dr. N. Tony Nwaezeigwe, Acting Director, Centre for Igbo Studies, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria An excellent, fascinating, original and well documented study of the Igbo. No other book examines this subject in such depth. Dr. Arye Oded, African Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem A meticulously researched and documented study that greatly advances understanding of the history of Jewish identification and practice among the Igbo in Nigeria and in contemporary Israel. An essential contribution to the budding literature on Judaism and Jewry in West Africa. Prof. William F.S. Miles, author of *Jews of Nigeria: An Afro-Judaic Odyssey* Daniel Lis, from the Institute for Jewish Studies, University of Basel, Switzerland, is one of the foremost researchers on Jewish identification among the Igbo. Chika Oduah, for CNN

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

DANIEL LIS is a Swiss-Israeli research fellow at the Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Basel where he teaches and researches about African Jewry. He is also a recent visiting research fellow at the S. Daniel Abraham Centre for International and Regional Relations at Tel Aviv University.

GREAT BOOK. SHIPPED AS AGREED.

Daniel Lis did a great work on Igbo history. I am an Igbo, and I have been very active in the field of Igbo history for many years, yet I am admitting that this work revealed so much to me. His book 'Jewish Identity Among The Igbo of Nigeria' reached many unexplored and under-explored areas of the Igbo people's connections and dealings with both the Jews in Diaspora and the ones in the State of Israel. If he had not brought out the information, would the Igbos have known that while the Igbo tragedy called the Nigeria-Biafra which took at least three million Igbo lives raged, that Israelis demonstrated in front of the Knesseth against what one of the protesters-a chief rabbi of Israel then, likened to another Auschwitz, because there was evidence that genocide was being carried out against the Igbos. And how many Jews would have learned that the much liked Dr. M.I. Okpara, the second most Igbo political leader in the years -1960-1970, had declared publicly that he viewed himself, to use his words, 'I view myself almost as an Israelite, and I would always go to Israel', and this was when Israelis were barred officially from entering some non Igbo parts of Nigeria. Lis brought out these and much more in the encyclopedic work. The book is an indispensable resource for anybody that wants to understand recent Igbo history, and will be a very influential book in the future. It will be of interest to anybody that wants to learn about the Igbos, and will be of very serious

value to Israelis and Jews too, because it highlighted many issues that would be helpful in managing Igbo-Jewish relations presently and in the future. Remy Ilona Attorney, Graduate Assistant in the Religious Studies Dept of the Florida International University, Miami, U.S.A.

It is a very good book to read and the references will prove priceless to researchers. It delves quite a bit, into the politics of recognising the Igbo as possibly, a 'lost' Jewish or Hebraic people and shows why that particular prospect is fraught with difficulties presently (meaning at the time this review or Daniel's book was written). Identity constructions are one thing, drawing near enough to a peoples' self-understanding vis-a-vis themselves and some of their leading lights can be a different proposal. I think the author, Daniel Lis manages to approach closely to both things and he has done it unbelievably well. As this field of research continues to grow in importance, this book might be viewed variously by most and increasingly as a very important 'invitation to treat'. Thank you, Daniel Lis.

The true Hebrews are the African Americans, Native American Indians, Mexicans, and Haitians. Esau is the red dragon Revelation 12:3 talks about and Genesis 25:25 defines Esau as the white man. The white man has done everything in the world to hide our true heritage but Yahawashi Messiah told the truth.. To get the rest of the bible purchase the apocrypha KJV 1611 bible. They couldn't justify keeping themselves as the noted as the superior race when really they are the inferior race. The true Israelites know that they are not occupying the Holy land. Those are Romans. Yahawashi whom you call Jesus was Black. Revelation 1:14-15, hair like wool and feet like fine brass. You can twist it all you want to America but when Yahwah comes back the reign of the Gentiles will be ended and the white man will bow at all 12 tribes feet and know that Yahwah has loved us and not forsaken His people.

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