



Muslim Narratives of Forced Assimilation

Dr. Oded Abt

Department of East Asian Studies, Tel Aviv University

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The paper examines oral and written family narratives of Muslims' descendants in Fujian and Taiwan, concerning the process of assimilation their ancestors went through since the early Ming period. The ancestors of these lineages were members of the thriving Song-Yuan era Muslim community of Quanzhou. Since the 14th century Muslims gradually assimilated into the Han population. Today, while their descendants resemble their neighbors almost completely, many still preserve family traditions commemorating their ancestors' distinct origin and the persecution and discrimination that forced them to flee the city and employ various strategies to disguise their identity. These narratives have been disseminated since the late fourteenth century through genealogical texts, oral legends, various references within the ancestral worship and symbolic imageries in the family shrines. The paper will analyze the changing roles of these family narratives as they continuously transform over time and space, from the early Ming down to the present.

Enquiry: REN Jianmin

TEL:5648-8743 E-mail: hsrenjm@gmail.com

