

*How did Jews manage to survive for 4000 years in the hostile and merciless world in which their chances of survival were close to zero?*

## **LAW OF CONSERVATION OF JEWS (English Edition)**

By Valdemar Malin

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# LAW OF CONSERVATION OF JEWS

VALDEMAR MALIN

**Law of Conservation of Jews**

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## CHAPTER 1: HISTORY AND DEMOGRAPHY

Chapter 1 offers a very brief description of 3500-year-long Jewish history and gives an unusual interpretation of it. It is based on the exhaustive analysis of Jewish demographics, from the Exodus from Egypt in 1440 before Common Era (BCE) to modernity up to 2019 Common Era (CE).

Chapter 1 includes the following topics:

- *People, History, Demography and Demographics.*
- *Biblical period.* After being enslaved in Egypt for a long time, Jews gained their freedom and independence and established themselves as the Jewish people, nation and state.
- *Ancient period.* The Jewish people lost their freedom and independence and fell under domination of and oppression by other peoples.
- *Ancient demographics.* Analysis of the unusual dynamics of ups and downs of Jewish population during the Ancient period.
- *Medieval and Modern periods.* After almost 3000-year-long oppression, dispersion and exile, the Jewish people, gained their freedom and independence again.
- *The demographic analysis* of the Medieval and Modern periods.
- And finally, *an unanswered demographic question*—how many Jews should have been today if Jews hadn't been expelled, assimilated, persecuted and exterminated for 2000 years.

### Jewish People, History and Demography

*A people* is a group of human beings connected to each other by a sense of identity or some other ties such as common territory, language, religion, culture or all of the above.

Are Jews a people? They are dispersed all over the world, speak different languages, many are separated from their religion, customs and culture. Can they be a people? Strange, but they do! Many generations of Jews in the former USSR have completely lost their identity. But one day, most of them woke up feeling that they were Jews. And they left the country heading to Israel.

What ties makes it possible? One can only guess!

*History* is the account of the past events, while *demography* is a statistical study of the population. Is there connection between them? It should be. If a population dies out, history dies along with it.

There is a discipline called *historical demography*, but it doesn't answer this question. Its focus is mainly on the quantitative study of past populations.

History doesn't make demography. Maybe demography drives history? As far as the Jewish people are concerned, it does (as will be shown in this book).

However, there is a caveat. Demographics is the data that characterize population, including the demographic factors, such as the population size, gender, age, birth rate, mortality rate, migration and

others. But for the sake of simplicity, the term demography or demographics will be used to mean only one demographic factor—the population size at a given period in history.

There are many ways to interpret history—from political, social, economic, cultural or other points of views.

Contrary to that, Chapter 1 (and the following chapters) offers an unusual approach and uncommon interpretation of Jewish history that can be called *demographic history*. This is the explanation of Jewish history from a demographic point of view. In other words, this is history told in the language of demographics.

Jewish demographics has always been the most mysterious puzzle of the world history. There have always been so few Jews in the world. Why? But the key question (and the best kept secret) is this—why do Jews still exist on the planet Earth where the chances for their survival are close to zero?

But before we start our discussion, a precaution from one of the most prominent expert in Jewish demography, Prof. Sergio DellaPergola of Hebrew University in Jerusalem that became a postulate for scholars in history<sup>1</sup>

*“Many dates and data presented in literature about the events so distant from the modern time are not scientifically substantiated and are intended to illustrate just the historic trends.”*

This’s what we have done. On the basis of numerous published sources of information and keeping in mind the postulate of DellaPergola, we looked into and analyzed a chaotic variety of known historic events, dates and data, but under a specific angle of view—a demographic one! Suddenly, this chaos morphed into a surprising and orderly regularity—Jewish history revealed its unknown and hidden trends.

Such analysis will give food for thoughts and disputes for both curious readers and skeptics. To make this food spicier, provocative questions will be asked and unexpected suggestions and assumptions will be offered (*in italics*).

## **Biblical Jews—from Bondage to Freedom**

Briefly about the events that are relevant to our discussions and known from the Biblical stories rather than the reports of archeologists.

Let’s start the countdown from the Exodus of Jews from Egypt although Jewish history dates back to the time when Abraham, a citizen of Babylonia, assembled and founded the Jewish people. (Substantiation of dates and data in **bold** is given in Appendix A3).

In **1870 BCE**, Jacob (a son of Isaac and a grandson of Abraham) came to Egypt with his extended family.

Jews lived in Egypt for many generation (**430** years) and thrived there. They multiplied rapidly, got affluent, held high-ranking positions and played an influential role in the political, cultural and economic life of Egypt.<sup>2</sup>

Worried about the Jewish influence, the Egyptians enslaved Jews forcing them to do hard labor, even tried to kill their first-born males to reduce their number and influence.

*A provocative observation. Even far back in time (more than 3.5 millennia ago), the outside world became concerned about too many Jews (although there were just 1.6%), and violently reacted to their affluence and influence.*

*This ominous scenario will become too familiar to the Jewish people during the next 3.5 millennia of Jewish history.*

In **1440** BCE, Moses led **600,000** Jews out of Egypt in search of the Promised Land of Israel.<sup>3</sup> This historic event became known as the Exodus.

The dream of Jews was to create an independent state of their own. But almost 400 years passed after the Exodus before the Jewish dream has come true.

In **1047** BCE, the United Israelite Kingdom (united monarchy) was founded by Prophet Samuel.<sup>4</sup>

*Take a note that it took so long (more than 4 centuries) for all Jews to get together, get organized and agree to live together in their own independent Israelite state as the Jewish people.*

*But what a mysterious coincidence! In **1948** (almost 3000 years later), the same number of Jews (600,000) got together and founded the same independent state Israel on the same Promised Land, again!*

*Such incredible coincidence cannot be a random event. It is something bordering supernatural!*

The first Israelite king was *Saul*. He was followed by King *David* who expanded the kingdom and made Jerusalem its capital (1010 BCE).

The kingdom reached the pick of its power under David's son, King *Solomon* who inherited the throne in **970** BCE and built the 1st Temple in Jerusalem. He reigned until his death in 931 BCE.

But after Solomon's death, the United Israelite kingdom fell apart splitting into two feuding kingdoms (**930** BCE)—Northern (Israel) and Southern (Judea).

The Jewish demographics at this period is puzzling (as everything else concerning Jews). Abraham's grandson Jacob arrived in Egypt with a group of **70** Jews (mostly his sons and grandsons). But **430** years later, Moses led **600,000** Jews out of Egypt.

*Here is the first demographic puzzle. Is such incredible population growth (from 70 to 600,000 in 4 centuries) demographically possible?*

About **440** years after the Exodus, under King David (**1000** BCE), Jewish population increased to about **1.8M** (million).<sup>5</sup>

*Another provocative observation. Only once in Jewish history (1047–930 BCE), all Jews gathered in one place, but were unable to live together more than 117 years! (Remember this important fact, we will return to discuss it later).*

117 years together? That was not bad for people who were constantly fighting each other. The United Israelite kingdom was united in name only—all three kings could not avoid feuds and infighting among Jews in their struggle for power.

No unity existed between brotherly kingdoms of Israel and Judea also. When the king of Judea Azad came to power in 732 BCE, the king of Israel appealed to him to join forces against Assyrian threat looming over both Jewish states. But Azad refused and, in fact, sided with the enemy. This ill-fated decision led to the destruction of both Israel and Judea and to almost complete extermination of the Jewish people. Well, Jews often choose a wrong road leading them to self-destruction!

*Unbelievable! Almost 3000 years have passed, but Jews continue to quarrel! It looks like the disagreements with each other about everything, as well as the absence of unity have always been the most prominent features of Jews since the ancient times.*

You may say that the other ancient people behaved the same way too. But there is a catch. The absence of unity brought all of them down. Only Jews continue to exist and... quarrel!

*It raises a stunning assumption. Could those constant feuds be a secret instrument of conservation of the Jewish people? Something like “self-detoxification of an organism!”*

*Paradox? But the whole Jewish history defies rational and logical explanations!*

By the way, a meaningful date is coming soon. In **2065**, modern Israel will be 117-year old! That's how long the ancient Israelite kingdom lasted before it fell apart—Jews were unable to live together any longer.

Will modern Israel live up to 2065? (Remember this fateful date, it will come up as an ominous prophesy later).

## **Ancient Jews—from Freedom to Oppression**

Before we get to the demographics of ancient Jews, we'll have to examine the conditions of their existence in the last millennium BCE—the period when Jews were trying to establish themselves as a people, a nation and a state.

It is known that population growth of oppressed peoples is suppressed by their oppressors who create intolerable living conditions for them. In this respect, Jews are a people of a unique fate—Jewish history is a history of a horrific oppression and balancing between existence and extinction.

During the period, from formation of the United Israelite Kingdom (1047 BCE) to its breakdown into two Jewish states—Israel and Judea (930 BCE), Jews reached the peak of their power and influence in the world living *free* and *independently* on their own land. Nothing foretold any trouble ahead.

In fact, in the United Israelite Kingdom, *all* Jews lived together as one people—for 117 years (1047–930 BCE), despite feuding with each other. Even after the breakup, although Jews lived in two rival, separate kingdoms, they were free and independent for 198 years (930–732 BCE).

Thus, by the time of the Assyrian invasion (732 BCE), Jews enjoyed freedom and independence for 315 years (1047–732 BCE)!

The breakup of the United Israelite Kingdom was a real catastrophe for the Jewish people and a breaking point in Jewish history! It was an ominous omen—Jews got off the path of unity and took the path of feuding and rivalry and, eventually, self-destruction.

The fateful decision to split the Jewish people in half has considerably weakened the power of the Jewish state. And weakness always invites invaders and conquerors, as well as the concomitant disasters!

Israel fell first under the attacks of Assyrian invaders (732 BCE). But Judea held out for another 146 years before it was taken over by the Babylonian conquerors (586 BCE).

This means that, while a part of the Jewish people (in Israel) was enslaved by Assyria for 146 years (732–586 BCE), the rest of Jews (in Judea) were still (relatively) free and independent at that time.

A strange situation. An optimist will say that, for 146 years, the Jewish people was partially free and independent, while a pessimist will consider them to be partially oppressed.

But the horror of the Assyrian enslavement in the 1st half of the last millennia BCE was just the beginning. In the 2nd half, Jews have completely lost their freedom and independence, and endured unspeakable suffering.

First, Babylonians ruled Judea for 49 years (586–537 BCE).

Then Persians—for 205 years (537–332 BCE).

Then Greeks—for 165 years (332–142 BCE), including the Maccabean revolt against Greeks that lasted for 25 years (167–142 BCE).

Only due to the Maccabean revolt, Jews gained independence in 142 BCE. But the newly formed autonomous (vassal) Hasmonean kingdom, which was partially free and partially independent, existed for just 79 years (from 142 to 63 BCE). It is not surprising because even in those turbulent years, Jews behaved as usual—feuding and fighting each other.

And finally, in 63 BCE, Judea became a province of the Roman Empire under the name of Palestine for a long time.

That's what happened to the Jewish people during the 1047-year-long period, from the formation of United Israelite Kingdom (1047 BCE) to the end of the last millennium BCE (1 BCE). So, how long were the ancient Jews free and independent during that turbulent period?

By optimistic estimates—540 years or 52% (315 +146 + 79).

By pessimistic estimates—315 years (30%).

On the other hand, Jews suffered under oppression—507 years (48%) or 732 years (70%), respectively!

## Demographics of Ancient Jews

Since the United Israelite Kingdom fell apart (930 BCE), Jewish population (1.8M) was steadily declining. Still, before the Assyrian invasion (732 BCE), there were 1.35M Jews in Israel and Judea.<sup>5</sup> But by the end of the Assyrian rule (586 BCE), only... 150,000 Jews have left,<sup>5</sup> the world population being about 80M at that time.<sup>6</sup>

Just think about it. The 1st half of the last millennia BCE was the critical time in Jewish history—the Jewish people came dangerously close to *extinction*! It was a perfect time for Jews to die out!

But here something inexplicable and mysterious has happened! Jews didn't die out in the 1st half of the last millennia BCE. It didn't happen in the 2nd half also although the tormented Judea endured even more suffering, which suppressed the growth of Jewish population even more.

Jewish population started growing noticeably only after the Hasmonean kingdom was formed in **142 BCE**.<sup>1</sup> And only by **85 BCE**, Jewish population was restored to 1.35M, again.

It seems incredible that Jews, after such unspeakable suffering, did not say good bye and quietly leave the stage of history through the back door of the new era. But Jews didn't vanish from the face of the Earth and didn't fade into Eternity for good!

Moreover, despite the increased suppression, almost completely exterminated Jewish population managed to rise miraculously, and in **66 CE**, on the eve of the great Revolt (the 1st Jewish–Roman war in 66–73 CE), instead of 1.35M, there were **4.5M** Jews in the world (as estimated by Sergio DellaPergola based on the average of several sources).<sup>7</sup>

Thus, in the last millennium BCE, Jews not only survived, but increased their number from 1.8M to 4.5M (2.5-fold)!

It's stunning how viable and unbending Jews have always been! Assyrians pillaged Israel and Judea, but Jews kept on flourishing getting richer and parading their wealth in front of the world.

In the Byzantine Empire, Judaism was banned 4 times! <sup>5</sup> But the ban didn't break the spirit of the Jewish people—they stayed loyal to their faith.

Jews were not supposed to survive for so long under the domination of so many invaders considering that Jews were not only feuding between themselves, but even helping their enemies, as well.

During the Great Revolt, Titus, the son of the Roman Emperor, took over the affluent Judea, and looted the 2nd Temple (70 BCE) full of treasures—the envy of the world.

Incredible, but Jews themselves were helping the enemies! Jews were serving not only as the Roman foot soldiers, but as generals, like Tiberius Julius Alexander. He helped Titus to loot Jewish wealth and crash the Jewish rebels who were fighting for their homeland.

Why is this picture so familiar? Because Jews make the same mistakes over and over again, some of the mistakes being suicidal!

Jews are showing off their wealth and influence to provoke their enemies, again and again! And, of course, the enemies take advantage of Jewish vanity and loot their wealth, thus, reducing Jewish wealth and influence!

Jews are fighting each other helping their enemies, again and again! And, of course, the enemies take advantage of Jewish recklessness and kill Jews, thus, reducing Jewish presence in the world!

*This picture raises a provocative assumption. What if such self-destructive behavior is also one of the instruments of conservation of the Jewish people?*

*When overheated steam is released from a vessel, the steam is wasted, but the vessel remains intact.*

## **Medieval and Modern Jews—from Exile to Freedom**

We'll discuss the conditions of existence of the Jewish people in the 1st and 2nd millennia CE (1–2019 CE).

The 1st millennium didn't bring any relief to Jews—wars, expulsions, massacres, pogroms, you name it.

The 1st Jewish–Roman war (66–70 CE) turned into a catastrophe for the ancient Jews in Judea. It ended up with the destruction of Jerusalem and the 2nd Temple in 70 CE by Titus Caesar Vespasianus, the son of a Roman Emperor. Titus has massacred 1.1M and took 100,000 Jews into captivity as slaves.

But the most ill-fated consequence of this war was a historic event that was supposed to make Jews disappear as a people forever—the Great Dispersion (Diaspora). It started before this war, but the war turned it into a mass compulsory expulsion of Jews from their homeland. Their dispersion all over the world continued for the next 2000 years until almost all Jews found themselves in exile outside of the land of Israel—the historic homeland of Jews.

Such catastrophes have never happened to any people in history! And such oppression, as well! In fact, Jews lived under oppression and enslavement almost the entire 1st and 2nd millennia CE. Judea was ruled by

- Romans for 387 years (63 BCE–324 CE),
- Byzantine—314 years (324–638 CE),
- Arabs—461 years (638–1099),
- Crusaders—192 years (1099–1291),



Mamelukes—225 years (1291–1516),  
Ottoman Turks—401 years (1516–1917)  
And Britain—30 years under the UN mandate (1917–1948).

Just think about these inexplicable facts! Jews gained their freedom, independence and their own state (the United Israelite Kingdom) for the first time in 1047 BCE after they were enslaved in Egypt for hundreds of years. They have lost everything very soon. And by their *own fault*—Jews were constantly feuding and, thus, tearing the Jewish people apart.

As you know, Jews often choose a wrong road leading them to an abyss! Obviously, Jews preferred the road of feuding instead of unity and, thus, deprived themselves the opportunity (seemingly for good) to live free on their own land in their own state.

But to blame just feuding for Jewish misfortunes would be a little too easy and simple. There must be more profound reason for that. Something strange, mysterious and even unreal was going on there.

And suddenly, in 1948 CE, almost 3 millennia later (2995 years to be precise), for the second time, Jews gained their freedom, independence and their own state (Israel); after they were under domination and oppression (optimistically) for 2455 years (82%) or (pessimistically) for 2680 years (90%).

This is just incredible! Why didn't the Jewish people disappear off the face of the Earth, if they suffered almost 2700 years of uninterrupted oppression (90% of their existence)? Moreover, why were they given the second chance to gain their freedom and independence, to restore their statehood, their ancient customs and even their language (Hebrew)?

History is a chain of random, chaotic events. But what happened to Jews doesn't look neither random, nor chaotic! You can find there signs of premeditation or regularity!

*There may be many other assumptions. But I dare to offer this one—provocative and heretical! What if the existence of the Jewish people under domination by other people is a safer strategy for the survival and conservation of always feuding Jews than independence?*

## Demographics of Medieval and Modern Jews

Such tragic historic events produced a profound effect on Jewish demographics. According to Prof. Sergio DellaPergola,<sup>1</sup> in the mid of the 3rd century CE, Jewish population dropped approximately from 4.5M to 2.0M due to the wars with and revolts against Romans. (Dates and data will be clarified later). But then, Jewish population stagnated.

For example, at the end of the 12th century CE, number of Jews was almost the same as by the beginning of the 17th century, while by 1800, there were just 2.5M Jews in the world.<sup>1</sup>

So, what's going on? About 28 centuries have passed from the time of King David (1000 BCE) to 1800 CE, but the number of Jews increased only by 38% (from 1.8M to 2.5M), while the world population grew 20-folds (from 50M to almost a billion)!

The law of survival of any living species, including humans, is defined unequivocally by merciless nature—multiply or die out! But Jews do neither.

There have always been so few Jews in the world! Jewish population repeatedly rises and falls, but has never dropped below or increased above some demographic limits? Jews just defy that law of nature and get away with it.

You may argue that such demographic limits don't exist because, since 1800, Jewish population has been growing wildly and uncontrollably.

The reason was that, suddenly, a “demographic explosion” happened in the entire Western world. It was caused by an unprecedented progress in medicine, disease prevention and sanitation.

But something mysterious happened again. The sharp increase in Jewish and the world population followed the “explosion” of Jewish intellect! It's hard to list all the contributing Jewish scientists and doctors in medicine, physiology, virology and others fields, including 59 Nobel Prize winners (of 217 or 28%) who made this progress possible.

This mystery can be explained allegorically. For 28 centuries, the world population grew rapidly, but Jewish population stagnated unable to exceed 4.5M. It looks like Nature erected a tall “demographic wall” that Jews couldn't (or not allowed to) overcome.

Then Jews resorted to “cheating”—if the increase of the birth rate doesn't work, then the reduction of the mortality rate should do. So, they sent the army of their superior intellect to storm the impregnable castle—Medicine. Jews planted their intellectual explosives under the walls of that castle and caused the “demographic explosion!” Thus, Jews overcame the demographic wall erected by Nature herself.

In other words, the unruly modern Jews dared to defy Nature (or God), as their ancient rebellious ancestors dared to revolt against God at the foot of the Mount Sinai!

*Take a note of this fact. High Jewish intellect helped Jews (and the world) to boost up their populations—a manifestation of the relationship between intellect and population. (We'll get to this later).*

*You may say that Jews achieved it not by intellect, but by cunning—Jews are very cunning, as you know! But to be cunning you have to be smart! Besides, ironically, due to the Jewish cunning, your ancestors, you and your children might have received the most precious gift—Life!*

As a result, since 1800 and by 1940, the Jewish population has exploded reaching... about 17.0M (almost 7-fold in 140 years)! Such dramatic growth has happened only once in Jewish history—in ancient Egypt!

But, suddenly, the WW2 and the Holocaust appeared on the horizon and Jewish population dropped by 6M. Such catastrophic loss (35% in 5 years) has never happened in Jewish history, as well! Just imagine that China lost 400M!

Again, as soon as Jews almost restored their losses (in 2019, there were 14.7M Jews<sup>8</sup>), new serious threats appeared—terrorism and Iran with their nuclear bomb, while anti-Semitism in the world increased sharply again.

*Considering these facts, you can't help assuming that there is some unknown law of nature that controls Jewish population keeping it within certain demographic limits.*

### **How Many Jews Should Have Been Today?**

Really, how many? “About 500–800M! If Jews hadn't been expelled, assimilated, persecuted and exterminated for 2000 years,” former prime-minister of Israel Ariel Sharon used to reply referring to the theory developed by attorney Dov Weissglas.<sup>7</sup>

But in opinion of Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, these numbers should be much lower—about 100–120M.<sup>7</sup>

Let's try to check it out independently. We'll make a very rough estimate by comparing growth of Jewish and Muslim populations in the 20th century.

Why Muslims? The rationale is that a population size is largely determined by the birth rate, which is profoundly affected by religion. Since many provisions of Islam were borrowed from Judaism, including the encouragement of having big families, both religions are comparable in this respect.

So, in 1900, there were 22M Muslims in the world,<sup>9</sup> while in 2010—about 1,540M! Roughly, Muslims increased their population almost 7-fold per century!

Let's assume that 30 centuries ago, under King David, Jewish population was 1.8M, and it grew 7-fold every century—similar to that of Muslim population.

It's possible. For example, in 1500–1655 CE (in 1.5 centuries), Jewish population of the Venetian Republic increased 5-fold.<sup>5</sup>

In Livorno, in 1601–1806 (in 2 centuries), the increase was 40-fold (20-fold per century).<sup>5</sup> As will be shown later, in 1800–1940, the increase was almost 7-fold in 140 years (almost the same rate of growth as that of Muslims in the 20th century).

So, theoretically, how many descendants could have been produced by the 1.8M ancient Jews after 30 centuries of normal existence (without persecution and extermination) if they had multiplied 7-folds per century? At least,  $7 \times 30 = 210$ -folds or almost... 380M!

This number ignores the *exponential* growth of population! (Animals and humans multiply exponentially if there are no constraining conditions). But if to take into account the exponential growth, then the number of Jews could've been even... *1 Billion*.

Like in China! So, the Ariel Sharon's numbers are not that improbable.

*A coincidence! On Mount Sinai, Moses reminded God of God's promise to give Abraham as many descendants as there are stars in the sky! (If Jews behave, of course).*

*But Jews didn't behave, of course! That's why, perhaps, there are just 14.7M Jews in 2019 instead of 1 Billion!*

Despite the rough estimate, even 1.8M vs. 380M is a mind-boggling ratio! For 30 centuries, Jews could not account for potentially 378M! In other words, while Muslims added 1,330M in one century, Jews were losing about 12.6M every century (more than population of modern Israel)!

Can science or history explain such inconceivable difference? Where did hundreds of millions Jews go?

The facts, events and assumptions cited above raise a number of provocative questions, but there is one question that has never been answered—WHY HAVEN'T JEWS DIED OUT YET?

This has been the biggest mystery and puzzle of Jewish demographics! Really, Jews separated from their homeland somehow survived having endured 30 centuries of enslavement, overall resentment, persecution and attempts of total annihilation.

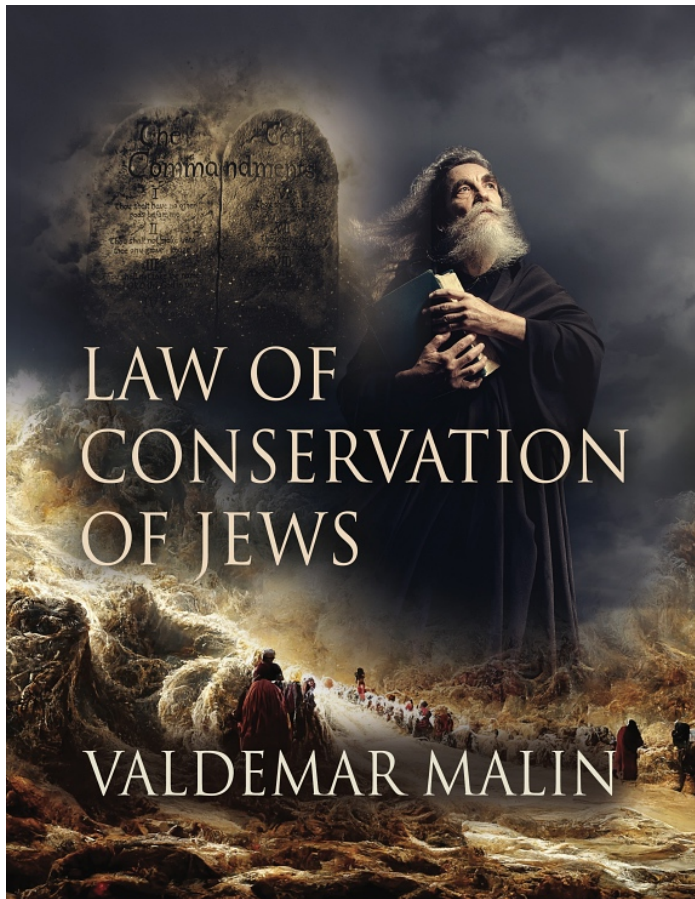
In Nature, any species just dies out when its population drops below some critical threshold. That's what has happened to other ancient peoples. They just went extinct!

But Jews didn't! The infighting and assimilation, anti-Semitism and persecution, pogroms and the Holocausts may decrease their population sharply, but to a certain limit only. To the desperation of all Jew-haters, Jews wouldn't die out, that's all! Even the Great Dispersion of Jews around the world for millennia didn't make them vanish!

*An unthinkable assumption. Maybe the dispersion is another instrument of conservation of Jews? Dispersion promotes assimilation and, thus, Jews share their genes of resilience and outstanding intellect with other peoples of the world. Who kills the goose laying the golden eggs!*

*Moreover, if 378M missing Jews were dissolved in the rest of the world, then almost everyone who lives today on the planet Earth should have a drop or two of Jewish blood circulated in their veins.*

This assumption may give a clue to another mystery of Jewish history—the ties between Jews and the world.



*How did Jews manage to survive for 4000 years in the hostile and merciless world in which their chances of survival were close to zero?*

## **LAW OF CONSERVATION OF JEWS (English Edition)**

By Valdemar Malin

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