Episode 1 Transcript (English Translation)

Who Are the Jews? Why Did Europe Want to Get Rid of Them?

We're starting today a bold new reading series, and we're beginning with a book that—believe it or not—was one of the reasons my previous YouTube channel got deleted. Yes, a book that's sold in bookstores, referenced in academic work, and historically documented... but just because it dares to mention the words "Jews" or "Zionism", it becomes a target for censorship.

Let me ask:

Isn't Zion mentioned in the Bible?

Isn't Israel called the "Daughter of Zion"?

Then, by YouTube's logic, even the Bible violates its community guidelines.

But today we're not here to bow to algorithms.

We're here to understand.

To ask the questions they don't want us to ask.

The Book We're Reading:

Title: Who Are the Jews and What Is Judaism?

Subtitle: Questions of Identity and the Crisis of the Jewish State

Author: Dr. Abdel Wahab El-Messiri

What are we trying to uncover?

1. Who is a Jew?

Is there a clear definition for "Jewish"? Or does it depend on one's country, upbringing, or sect?

2. What is Judaism?

Is it purely a religion?

Or a cultural identity?

A political project?

A racial category?

3. Identity Crisis:

Who do Jewish people actually belong to?

The land they claim? The people who gathered them? The religion? Or a messianic figure they await?

4. The Jewish State Crisis:

Does a "Jewish state" even truly exist?

Or is there still a dream of a "greater" one?

Why Did Europe Want the Jews Gone?

Let's go back to 18th-century Europe.

At that time, there were about 2.5 million Jews. By the end of the 19th century, that number skyrocketed to around 16 million.

As their numbers increased, so did their involvement in money lending, charging interest, and financially burdening European countries.

With the rise of wars and economic instability, Europe could no longer "tolerate" the Jewish presence.

In countries like Germany, this escalated into persecution—and eventually the Holocaust.

So What Did Europe Do?

They pushed the idea:

Let the Jews leave. Let them go... somewhere.

Half a million Jews emigrated—mainly to the U.S. and Latin America. But that wasn't enough. Europe wanted a more permanent solution.

And so the idea of a "Jewish homeland" was born. Uganda? Ukraine? Palestine? Which land would be chosen... and why?

We'll continue this exploration in the next episode.

Presented by: Amr Shams – Out of the Matrix

And always remember:

"In a world that silences questions... writing becomes the first act of freedom."