

The thesis deals with the most influential family of the group of Baghdadi Jews, which came to Bombay in the first quarter of the 19th century. It focuses on activities of the family in Bombay – in and outside the Jewish community, among the British and in the majority society; and especially on its influence on the developement of the city itself, her trade and industry. The consequent identity change and secularisation of the group and its relationship to other minorities is discussed as well. The topic is viewed in the context of Baghdadi Jewish diaspora in Asia. The thesis is based on available information sources and on visit to Bombay, studied period is limited by arrival of the group and by its departure at the beginning of the 20th century.