

AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK

**A Record of Events and Trends
in American and World Jewish Life**

1988

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE AND JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY

The 1988 **AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK**, the 88th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

The situation of the Jewish community in South Africa is explored in two feature articles: "South African Jews and the Apartheid Crisis," by Gideon Shimoni; and "South African Jewry: A Sociodemographic Profile," by Sergio DellaPergola and Allie A. Dubb.

Articles covering Jewish life in the United States are "Intergroup Relations," by Earl Raab; "The United States, Israel, and the Middle East," by Kenneth Jacobson; and "Jewish Communal Affairs," by Lawrence Grossman. Updated estimates for the U.S. Jewish population are provided by Barry A. Kosmin, Paul Ritterband, and Jeffrey Scheckner, who also offer an essay, "Counting Jewish Populations: Methods and Problems."

Jewish life around the world is reported on in a series of articles about Israel, Canada, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Italy, Austria, West Germany, East Germany, the Soviet Union, the countries of the Soviet bloc, and Australia. New estimates for the world Jewish population are provided by U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola.

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Preface

Two articles on the Jews of South Africa are featured in the present volume. The first, by Gideon Shimoni, examines the paradoxes and pressures in the situation of South African Jewry—a privileged minority in a society based on racial discrimination. Shimoni traces changes in Jewish attitudes to the apartheid system over the years, describes responses to the present crisis, and discusses prospects for the future. In the second article, Sergio DellaPergola and Allie A. Dubb present a comprehensive analysis of the social and demographic characteristics of the South African Jewish community—similar in many ways to other Western Jewish communities, yet distinctive.

The regular articles on Jewish life in the United States are written this year by new contributors: Earl Raab on “Intergroup Relations” and Kenneth Jacobson on “The United States, Israel, and the Middle East.” “Jewish Communal Affairs,” prepared by Lawrence Grossman, is a new feature that will, it is hoped, appear regularly from now on. The section on U.S. Jewish population, which presents 1987 estimates, is again provided by a team of researchers associated with the North American Jewish Data Bank: Barry A. Kosmin, Paul Ritterband, and Jeffrey Scheckner. Accompanying the estimates is an essay describing the methods used to count Jews in the United States.

The reports on Jewish communities abroad are augmented this year by articles on Australia, Italy, and Austria, the last an account of the election of Kurt Waldheim and its effect on the country’s small Jewish community. Updated population estimates, as of 1986, are presented for Jewish communities around the world.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as religious calendars and obituary notices, round out the 1988 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We note with sorrow the death in June 1987 of Arnold Mandel, distinguished French writer on Jewish affairs, novelist, and critic, who contributed the article on France to this publication for over a quarter of a century, beginning in the 1961 volume.

We are very grateful to Michele Anish and Diane Hodges for their proofreading efforts and to Diane Hodges for compiling the index. We also acknowledge the aid of Cyma M. Horowitz, director of the Blaustein Library, Lotte Zajac, and all our other co-workers in Information and Research Services.

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