American Jewish Year Book 2000
A Record of Events and Trends in American and World Jewish Life

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
THE 2000 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, the 100th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year's volume marks the centennial of the YEAR BOOK and the close of the century with Jonathan D. Sarna and Jonathan J. Golden's illuminating analysis of "The Twentieth Century Through American Jewish Eyes: A History of the American Jewish Year Book, 1899–1999."

Supplementing it is a 32-page photo insert, prepared by Ruth R. Seldin, which depicts the main themes of Jewish life during this tumultuous century from an American Jewish perspective.


(Continued on back flap)
The American Jewish Committee acknowledges with appreciation the foresight and wisdom of the founders of the Jewish Publication Society (of America) in the creation of the American Jewish Year Book in 1899, a work committed to providing a continuous record of developments in the U.S. and world Jewish communities. For over a century JPS has occupied a special place in American Jewish life, publishing and disseminating important, enduring works of scholarship and general interest on Jewish subjects.

The American Jewish Committee assumed responsibility for the compilation and editing of the Year Book in 1908. The Society served as its publisher until 1949; from 1950 through 1993, the Committee and the Society were co-publishers. In 1994 the Committee became the sole publisher of the Year Book.
Foreword

It is with great pride that the American Jewish Committee issues the centennial volume of the American Jewish Year Book. For a full century, the Year Book has been universally recognized as the authoritative source of information on Jewish life in the United States and around the world. As Jonathan D. Sarna and Jonathan J. Golden show in their superb feature article this year, "The Twentieth Century Through American Jewish Eyes: A History of the American Jewish Year Book, 1899-1999," the Year Book has not only served as a record of events and trends, but often also as a barometer of communal priorities and as a catalyst for change.

In the pages of the Year Book's 100 volumes one can trace the full trajectory of the Jewish experience over the last tumultuous century—the great migration of East European Jews to the United States and their difficult process of Americanization; the persistence of anti-Semitism around the world that culminated in the horrors of the Holocaust; the progress of Zionism from its meager origins to its great triumph in the creation of the State of Israel; the concern that Jewish communities have felt for each other, leading to heroic projects of rescue and relief; and the ongoing challenge, for American Jews, of developing a vibrant Jewish culture and a distinctive Jewish identity under conditions of acceptance and equality unprecedented in Jewish history.

On this auspicious occasion, I wish the American Jewish Year Book many more years of distinguished service as a lucid interpreter of the Jewish experience and an indispensable resource for Jewish life.

David A. Harris
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