AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK
THE ANNUAL RECORD OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
The 2002 American Jewish Year Book, the 102nd in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year's volume features three specially commissioned essays. Marilyn Henry's "Fifty Years of Holocaust Compensation" presents a comprehensive picture of the complex process of securing some financial redress for the victims of Nazism, and illuminates the issues that are still unresolved.

Harris O. Schoenberg, in "Demonization in Durban: The World Conference Against Racism," shows how Israel's enemies, under the auspices of the UN, perverted the rhetoric of human rights to defame the Jewish state in 2001.

Jim Schwartz, Jeffrey Scheckner, and Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, in their "Census of U.S. Synagogues, 2001," provide the first denominational and geographic breakdown of American synagogues in more than 60 years.

(Continued on back flap)
American Jewish Year Book
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.
Volume 102 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK covers the events of the year 2001. The first of three specially commissioned articles, Marilyn Henry's "Fifty Years of Holocaust Compensation" presents a coherent picture of the complicated process of securing some financial redress for Nazi depredations against the Jews. But, as Harris O. Schoenberg shows in "Demonization in Durban: The World Conference Against Racism," even as the blatant racial anti-Semitism of the Nazi era fades into history, anti-Israel bias, a more subtle form of Jew-hatred, seems to have taken its place. The third special article, "Census of U.S. Synagogues, 2001," by Jim Schwartz, Jeffrey Scheckner, and Laurence Kotler-Berkowitz, sounds a happier note. The first such census since 1936, it provides telling evidence of a diverse and dynamic American Judaism.

For Jews, 2001 was a year of momentous events, and all of them are covered in the YEAR BOOK’s regular articles about Jewish life in the United States, Israel, and other countries around the world. Two related themes that surface in virtually all of these articles are the widespread impact of ongoing violence between Palestinians and Israelis, and the threat of international terrorism—especially in light of the horrific events of September 11, 2001.

Updated estimates of Jewish population are provided for the United States and for the world. Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as obituaries and religious calendars, round out the 2002 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We gratefully acknowledge the indispensable role played by Denise Rowe, our administrative assistant, in preparing the directories and the index, and the assistance of our colleagues, Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish, of the American Jewish Committee’s Blaustein Library.

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