

2005

350 YEARS OF JEWS IN AMERICA

AMERICAN
JEWISH
YEAR BOOK

THE ANNUAL RECORD
OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

The 2005 American Jewish Year Book, the 105th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

As 2004–05 marked the commemoration of 350 years of American Jewish life, this year's volume features a special article by Jack Wertheimer, "The American Synagogue: Recent Issues and Trends," which addresses the current status and future prospects of American Jewry's oldest and most significant communal institution.

Sergio DellaPergola's article on world Jewish population not only provides updated estimates of the number of Jews in all countries, but also traces important long-term demographic shifts in Israel, the U.S., and elsewhere.

(Continued on back flap)

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**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.

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Editors

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THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE

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Preface

Volume 105 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK covers the events of the year 2004.

On the occasion of the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in North America, historian Jack Wertheimer, in a specially commissioned article, surveys the current state and future prospects of the institution that has always been, and still remains, most central to the American Jewish community—the synagogue.

Momentous long-term shifts in Jewish population patterns in the U.S., Israel, and around the world are described by the eminent demographer Sergio DellaPergola in his article on world Jewish population.

The YEAR BOOK's coverage of American Jewish life includes articles on national affairs, anti-Semitism, and Jewish communal affairs.

The article on Israel describes in detail the diplomatic, political, economic, and social developments during 2004, with much attention to the Israeli government's controversial "disengagement" initiative.

Manifestations of anti-Semitism in many countries—vandalism, physical attacks, verbal abuse, hostile editorials, and biased reporting—continued to be linked to opposition toward Israel. These disturbing events are carefully described in the YEAR BOOK's regular articles on individual countries, as are important events and trends within the Jewish communities of these countries.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as obituaries and religious calendars, round out the 2005 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of our colleagues, Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish, of the American Jewish Committee's Blaustein Library, and the contribution of Rachel Arnold, our assistant, in preparing the index.

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