-JEWISH POPULATION OF THE WORLD-

-By Leon Shapiro and Boris Sapir-

THE WHOLESALE extermination of Jews in Europe during the German occupation and the mass population movements in the period immediately following liberation will have to be studied carefully when sufficient data are available. Unfortunately, a large portion of this information has been destroyed, and students of the problem will have to rely on material that cannot easily be checked.

In order to make the best use of the scarce material, the writers used-in addition to data obtained by official census-such local registrations as were carried out in a number of countries for demographic or other purposes, and in some cases estimates made by reliable observers. When contradictory estimates were obtained for a given country, they were compared and checked, and conservative figures were established on the basis of a careful study of every case.1 It must be pointed out that in compiling the data the natural increase in the Jewish population could not be taken into account. except in cases when it was specifically indicated in the sourcematerial, in other instances the task would be too hazardous and hardly feasible. Changes due to migration and mass movements were studied and followed through only to the extent of the availability of the data. With these reservations, it is hoped that the present study may serve as a useful guide by presenting the demographic picture of Jewish life for the period covering the fateful decade of 1939-1948.

¹ This is not the place to elaborate on the limitations of the sources used for studying problems connected with the Jewish population. The available figures are based on estimates of varying degree of accuracy. Moreover, these estimates do not always pertain to the same year.

World Jewry

It was estimated that at the end of 1939 the distribution of the Jewish population by continents was as follows:

Continent	No.	Per Cent
Europe (including Asiatic USSR		
and Turkey)	9,739,200	58.56
America (North and South)	5,480,175	32.95
Asia	771,500	4.64
Africa	609,800	3.66
Australia and New Zealand	33,000	0.19
Total	16,633,675	100.00

In 1948 the estimated distribution was as follows:

Continent	No.	Per Cent
Europe (including Asiatic USSR		
and Turkey)	3,779,300	33.23
America (North and South)	5,777,850	50.80
Asia	1,030,200	9.06
Africa	745,500	6.55
Australia and New Zealand	40,500	0.36
Total	11,373,350	100.00

At the end of 1939 there were in Europe (including Asiatic USSR and Asiatic Turkey) about 9,700,000 Jews. After liberation, only about 3,700,000 survived the deportations and extermination, while some 5,800,000, or about 60 per cent of the total European Jewish population, was annihilated.² In terms of the world Jewish population, more than one-third of the total was exterminated—a social disaster without precedent even in Jewish history.

² Over 200,000 have succeeded in emigrating to Palestine, USA, Latin America, etc.

TABLE 13
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN EUROPE, BY COUNTRIES⁴

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Albania	1,003,124	300
Austria	6,935,000	31,000 6
Belgium	8,389,000	45,000
Bulgaria	7,048,000	45,000
Czechoslovakia	12,170,000	42,000
Denmark	4,146,000	5,500
England	49,748,000	345,000
Finland	3,906,000	1,800
France	41,000,000	235,000
Germany	65,911,000	153,000 5
Greece	7,450,000	8,500
Holland	9,636,000	28,000
Hungary	9,333,000	174,000
Irish Free State	2,972,000	4,500
Italy	45,486,000	53,000 5
Luxembourg	285,000	1,000
Norway	3,145,000	1,200
Poland	23,930,000	88,000
Portugal	8,312,000	4,000
Rumania	16,472,000	380,000
Soviet Union	187,581,000	2,000,000
Spain	27,503,000	3,000
Sweden	6,803,000	15,500
Switzerland	4,543,000	25,000
Turkey	21,273,900	80,000
Yugoslavia	14,800,000	10,000
Total	589,781,024	3,779,300

Data on the total population are taken from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Statistical Office of the United Nations, May, 1948, Vol. II, 5, Great Neck, N. Y. These data represent official figures for 1946 and 1947 provided by the various countries. Where such material was not available, data were taken from the Year Book of the United Nations, 1946-1947, N. Y. 1947, and other sources. The data on Jewish population are mostly for 1947-1948 and are based on information derived from local sources.

Including Asiatic USSR and Asiatic Turkey.

These numbers include not only local residents but displaced Jews as well.

TABLE 2 Estimated Jewish Population in North and South America, by Countries ⁶

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Canada	12,582,000	180,000
United States 7	144,002,000	5,000,000
	156,584,000	5,180,000
Argentina	16,108,000	360,000
Bolivia	3,854,000	4,000
Brazil	46,726,000	110,750
Chile	5,522,000	25,000
Colombia	10,545,000	6,000
Costa Rica	772,000	100
Cuba	5,052,000	10,000
Curacao	90,870	1,000
Dominican Republic	2,151,000	600
Dutch Guiana	171,396	1,000
Ecuador	3,340,000	3,500
El Salvador	2,047,000	200
Guatemala	3,643,000	800
Haiti	3,500,000	200
Honduras	1,220,000	150
Jamaica	1,250,209	2,000
Mexico	23,425,000	25,000
Nicaragua	1,136,000	150
Panama	641,000	1,000
Paraguay	1,200,000	3,000
Peru	7,107,000	3,000
Trinidad	535,499	400
Uruguay	2,281,000	37,000
Venezuela	4,300,000	3,000
Total	303,201,974	5,777,850

<sup>See footnote 3, p. 693.
Exclusive of Alaska.</sup>

TABLE 3
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN ASIA, BY COUNTRIES⁸

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Aden	665,000	8,700
Afghanistan	12,000,000	5,000
China	461,006,000	15,000
Dutch East Indies	70,476,000	2,000
India and Pakistan	411,500,000	30,000
French Indo-China	23,700,000	1,500
Iran	17,000,000	50,000
Iraq	4,803,430	90,000
Israel	N. A.	750,000
Japan	77,997,642	2,000
Manchuria	36,949,972	10,000
Philippines	19,511,000	1,000
Syria-Lebanon	3,006,028	20,000
Yemen	3,500,000	45,000
Total	1,142,115,072	1,030,200

⁸ Excluding Asiatic provinces of the USSR and Turkey; see footnote 3, p. 693.

TABLE 4
ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION IN AFRICA, BY COUNTRIES⁹

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Abyssinia	9,500,000	51,000
Algeria	7,600,000	130,000
Egypt	19,090,000	75,000
Libya	888,401	30,000
Morocco (including Tangiers)	8,100,000	286,000
Southern Rhodesia	1,448,393	3,500
Tunisia	2,730,000	70,000
Union of South Africa	11,600,000	100,000
Total	60,956,794	745,500

⁹ See footnote 3. p. 693.

TABLE 5

Estimated Jewish Population in Australia and New Zealand,

By Countries9

Country	General Population	Jewish Population
Australia New Zealand	7,343,800 1,802,000	37,000 3,500
Total	9,145,800	40,500

[•] See footnote 3, p. 693.

Europe

At present, about 3,780,000 Jews reside on the European continent. Out of the total Jewish population in Europe, about 2,000,000, or a little more than 53 per cent, live in the USSR. Thus, one-third of the Jewish population in the USSR was lost during the war and occupation. Unfortunately, neither the Russian-Jewish organizations nor the general USSR statistics contain information on this very important subject. Our estimates, based on a careful study of Russian and Jewish material concerning persons evacuated to the unoccupied part of the country, were borne out by data recently published in Poland.¹⁰ In Eastern Europe, outside of the USSR, there are now about 740,000 Jews or about 20 per cent of the European total. 350,000 Jews reside in Western Europe, including Scandinavia. In the so-called DP areas of Europe, namely Austria, Germany and Italy, there are about 200,000 Jews.¹¹

The Jews of Europe who survived the occupation have not always remained in the country of their origin. Mass population movements spread throughout Europe, and precluded the possibility of computing precise statistics of the losses suffered by Jews of various

¹⁰ According to Izchok Warszawski's article Der Vidisher Ontail inem Zig ibern Hitlerism, in Dos Naye Lebn, Warsaw, May 9, 1948, out of the total Jewish population of Russia, amounting to 3,050,000—1,050,000 were killed, thus leaving about 2,000,000 Jews in the USSR in 1945. This is the first statement in the press of Soviet-controlled countries confirming the extent of German annihilation of Jews in the USSR during the occupation.

¹¹ Including native Jews and Jewish DPs.

countries. It is important, however, with reservations as to the precision of the numbers, to indicate the communities which suffered most in the disaster.

TABLE 6
ESTIMATED LOSSES IN THE MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNITIES
IN EUROPE

Country	No. of Jews at the End of 1939	No. of Jews Perished	Percentage of Loss
Austria	60,000	40,000	66
Belgium	100,000	40,000	40
Czechoslovakia	360,000	300,000	83
France	300,000	130,000	38
Germany	240,000	200,000	80
Greece	75,000	60,000	80
Holland	150,000	120,000	80
Hungary	403,000	200,000	50
Latvia	95,000	85,000	90
Lithuania	155,000	135,000	90
Poland	3,250,000	2,900,000	88
Rumania	850,000	420,000	50
Soviet Union	3,020,000	1,000,000	33
Yugoslavia	75,000	65,000	86

It may be interesting to record the most important population movements which have taken place in Europe since the liberation. The general trend of displacement was from the East to the West. In February, 1946, began the repatriation of Polish Jews from the USSR to Poland. By August, 1946, when the repatriation was completed, about 140,000 Polish Jewish repatriates had been brought home. After the Kielce pogrom, on July 4, 1946, an estimated 120,000 Polish Jews fled westward.

In the spring of 1946, 30,000 Rumanian Jews who had spent the war years in Soviet Russia were repatriated to Rumania. However, it is estimated that in the ensuing years approximately 40,000 Rumanian Jews left the country. About 20,000 Hungarian and some 15,000 Czechoslovakian Jews left their countries looking for new homes. This mass migration was reflected not only in the increase

¹² Dos Naye Lebn Nos. 20 (45), 21 (46), Lodz, June 21 and 28, 1946.

of the number of Jewish DPs but also in the substantial increase of the Jewish population in France. It is estimated by reliable observers that from liberation and through the first half of 1947, some 40-50,000 Jews from Eastern Europe and from DP camps came to France, increasing its Jewish population to about 235,000, and thus making France the second largest Jewish center in Continental Europe after Rumania. In the Fall of 1945 5,500 from Denmark, who had fled to Sweden during the German occupation, returned to Denmark.

Africa

The latest data on Jewish population in Africa reveal a continuous natural increase, particularly in communities situated in the least developed areas of the Moslem countries.¹³ The estimated total of Jews in Africa amounts to about 745,000. Compared with the figure for 1946—640,000—the increase amounts to about 16 per cent. It is necessary to point out, however, that though there was a substantial natural increase in the Jewish population in that area, the fact that up-to-date data on certain countries have only recently become available may partly account for the considerable difference in figures. Outside of the Moslem countries, sizable Jewish communities may be found in the Union of South Africa and Abyssinia.

Asia and Australia

Out of an approximate 1,000,000 Jews in Asia, an estimated 750,000 are living in Israel. The other important centers are in Moslem countries. There are 37,000 Jews in Australia and 3,500 in New Zealand.

Israel

For the purpose of this study, the data on Jewish population comprise not only Israeli citizens in the territory recommended by the UN decision of November 29, 1947, and included in the state of Israel as announced by the declaration of the establishment of the state on May 14, 1948 (about 5,678 square miles), but also the Jewish inhabitants of Jerusalem. It was estimated that at the end

¹³ See section on Moslem countries, p. 703.

of September, 1948, 750,000 Jews resided in Israel. This estimate was corroborated by a statement made by Moshe Shapiro, Minister of Immigration, indicating that the total Jewish population in Israel was 740,000.¹⁴ At about the same time only 30-35,000 Arabs were in Israeli territory.

TABLE 7. JEWISH POPULATION OF PALESTINE IN 1946 BY AGE GROUPS AND Sex^{15}

Age	Male	Female	Total	Per Cent
Under 10	63,200 54,100 53,300 58,600 46,300 41,100	59,700 49,500 51,700 57,800 44,400 42,300	122,900 103,600 105,000 116,400 90,700 83,400	19.8 16.6 16.9 18.7 14.6 13.4
Unspecified	316,600	305,400	622,000 3,000 625,000	100.0

¹⁶ American Jewish Year Book, Vol. 49, Table 8, p. 472.

We do not possess, at this writing, recent data on Israel. The estimates for 1946 indicate that over 36 per cent of the total Jewish population were under 20, over 35 per cent between 20 and 39 years of age. The recent immigration to Israel (since proclamation of the State on May 14, through September, 1948) of about 53,000 brought to Israel tens of thousands of young men and women, and certainly accentuated the favorable demographic structure of the Yishuv.

Available data on gainfully employed Jews in 1947 follow:16

¹⁴ The Jewish Agency *Digest*, Jerusalem, No. 1 (221), Sept. 30, 1948, p. 37.

¹⁶ Misparim V'Uvdot al Ha-Yishuv Ve-ha-Meshek Be-Eretz Israel, January 1948, (13).

GAINFULLY EMPLOYED JEWS IN PALESTINE IN 1947

Employment	No.	Per Cent
Agriculture	32,000	12.2
Industry and Handicraft	67,000	25.5
Public Work and Building	15,000	5.7
Army	10,800	4.1
Transportation and Communication	15,800	6.0
Commerce	40,000	15.2
Finance	9,000	3.4
Professions	27,500	10.4
Civil Service	16,500	6.3
Other Services	18,400	7.0
Various	11,000	4.2
Total	263,000	100.0

Cyprus

Starting August 14, 1948, the island of Cyprus became one of the places where the non-certificated Jewish DPs were concentrated in substantial numbers. Intercepted on their way to Palestine, they were sent by the British Government to Cyprus until "a decision could be taken as to their future." From August, 1946, through the end of March, 1948, thirty-six ships brought to the island 48,024 refugees. As of April 1, 1948, over 1,000 births had occurred in Cyprus, bringing the total Jewish population which passed through the camps to about 50,000, including 10,000 children. It should be pointed out that the refugee population was not stable, as there were constant arrivals from Europe and departures to Palestine. As of December 28, 1947, the Jewish refugees in Cyprus, numbering about 16,000, were distributed as follows:

Age Group	Male	Female	Total
0 18	1,109	1,065	2,174
Over 18	8,579	5,248	13,827
Total	9,688	6,313	16,001

On January 1, 1948, the number of Jewish refugees rose to 31,134, including 6,000 children.

After the proclamation of the state of Israel, the evacuation of Cyprus gained momentum, but in the fall of 1948, about 11,000

DPs were still there. The Jewish population of Cyprus is not included in the general table of Jews in Asia, since its inclusion would duplicate the number already included in various areas.

North and South America

There are about 5,770,000 Jews in the Western Hemisphere, of whom an estimated 5,000,000 live in the United States and 180,000 in Canada.¹⁷ The figures on Latin American countries are based on recent estimates made by local observers. There are unfortunately no other reliable data except for Mexico, where a communal registration took place in 1945. According to these figures, Argentina with its 360,000 Jews has the largest Jewish community in Latin America, followed by Brazil with 110,000, Uruguay 37,000 and Chile and Mexico, 25,000 each.

Jewish Children

Unfortunately, there is as yet no adequate information as to the exact number of Jewish children in the formerly occupied European countries. By the end of 1945, it was estimated that out of 1,200,000 Jewish children up to fifteen years of age in pre-war Continental Europe, no more than 150,000 remained alive after the liberation.18 This estimate, borne out by the figures obtained from various formerly occupied countries in 1945 (excluding USSR), indicated that the ratio of children among the surviving lewish population was scarcely one-tenth of the total. It was further reported that in some communities there were children of mixed parentage. Even if one disregards this very important factor, the numbers in themselves are a warning to all persons concerned with the future of European Jewry. It is true that after the end of the war there was a natural postwar boom which was increased by a specific Jewish drive toward the re-establishment of families and salvage of the group and brought about a notable increase in the birth rate among the Jewish population throughout Europe. This was true particularly in the DP areas of Germany, Austria, Italy and Cyprus. Available data, which have to be accepted only as an indication of a trend and not as reliable recordings of the birth rate, show that 2,000 Jewish children

¹⁷ For a discussion of Jewish population in the USA, see pp. 651-89. ¹⁸ Leon Shapiro, Jewish Children in Liberated Europe, JDC Research Department, Report 1, 1946.

were born in Poland in 1947—putting the birth rate at about 22 per thousand. In Cyprus in 1947, where the eighteen-to-forty-five age bracket represented more than three-quarters of the refugees, 70 to 120 babies were born monthly. It was reported that the Jewish birth rate in Switzerland showed an upward trend in 1946 and 1947. The birth rate among the Jewish population in Belgium in 1947 was about 13 per 1,000. 22

In 1947, estimated figures on the Jewish child population in important European communities showed a considerable increase in the total number. Since about 15,000 children left Europe for Palestine after liberation, the total Jewish child population in the formerly occupied areas at the end of 1947 was about 180,000, representing a notable increase.

Jewish Child Population in Important Communities of Europe (Including to Some Extent the Age Group Above Fifteen) 1947–1948

TABLE 8

Community	No.
Poland	17,000
Rumania	50,000
Hungary	18,000
Czechoslovakia	3,500
Bulgaria	12,000
Yugoslavia	1,800
France	25,000
Belgium	4,000
Holland	3,000
Greece	1,500
Germany	28,500)
Austria	6,500 23
Italy	7,000)
Total	177,800

²³ Including DP children.

¹⁹ Report on Poland, JDC.

²⁰ Bulletin issued by the Inter-Camp Committee, Nov. 25, 1947, in Hebrew and *The Economist*, London, Feb. 14, 1948.

²¹ J. T. A., July 30, 1948.

²² Report from Belgium, JDC, August, 1948.

To this total should be added about 6,000 Jewish children from Cyprus who are actually European children on their way to Palestine. Thus, Jewish children in the low age bracket (including DPs) represent about 13 per cent of the total Jewish population (including DPs) in the respective countries. The extent of deficit in children may be seen from a comparison of these figures with statistics of Jewish children in some countries of Europe in the year preceding World War II.

TABLE 9

Pre-War Jewish Population and Number of Children
Under Fifteen Years of Age in Five Countries

Country	Census Year	Jewish Population	Jewish Child Population	Per Cent of the Jewish Population
Poland	1930 1941 1930 1939	3,113,900 356,830 150,000 444,567 240,000 4,305,297	921,714 85,996 22,400 78,244 18,960	29.6 24.1 14.3 17.6 7.9

The loss of children cannot be compensated by the temporary postwar spiral of the birth rate, even if the figures given above are accepted as being entirely reliable. The age composition of the Jewish population in Europe is a warning against any optimistic diagnosis of the situation. The deficit of children will be felt for generations, and will have an ever-increasing influence on the demographic structure of various Jewish communities.

Jews in Moslem Countries

The destruction of the great European Jewish communities naturally focused the attention of the Jewish world on the Jews in Moslem countries, most of whom have been spared the tragic experiences of war and occupation. As a result of demographic changes brought about by the loss of some 5,800,000 European Jews, the Jewish population in the Moslem countries now forms a much larger proportion of world Jewry, and may well play an increasingly important

role in Jewish life in the years to come. On the basis of local reports and the recent registration of Jews in Aden and Morocco, the total number of Jews in Moslem countries may be conservatively estimated at 900,000-1,000,000. The changes in the relative position of the Jews in Moslem countries may be clearly understood by comparing their number with the total Jewish population before and after the war. Before the war, the estimated 800,000 Jews in Moslem countries (including European Turkey and excluding Asiatic USSR) represented approximately 5 per cent of the world Jewish population of about 16,600,000. In 1948, the Jews in Moslem countries represented more than 8 per cent of the total Jewish population of about 11,000,000. Of the approximately 2,000,000 Jews in Asia and Africa, (including European Turkey) about one half live in Moslem countries. Their importance can easily be seen from the fact that they probably constitute the only Jewish group in which the natural reproduction rate still shows an upward trend. The Jewish population is distributed among fourteen Islamic countries as follows:

Asia		Africa
Aden ²⁴	8,700	Algeria 130,000
Afghanistan	5,000	Egypt
India ²⁵	30,000	Libya 26,000
Iran	50,000	$Morocco^{26}$ 286,000
Iraq	90,000	Tunisia 70,000
Syria-Lebanon	20,000	
Turkey	80,000	Total 587,000
Yemen	45,000	
Total	328,700	Grand Total 915,700

Some of the Jewish communities in North Africa show a steady increase in their Jewish population, as may be seen from figures based on the 1931 census. In 193127 there were 110,127 Jews in Algeria, 66,248 in Tunisia and 117,603 in French Morocco (excluding Tangiers). In the period of sixteen years, 1931-1947, the Jewish population of Algeria increased to about 130,000 and that of

<sup>As of January, 1948.
Before the partition of India.
Including Tangiers, according to the registration of December, 1946.</sup>

²⁷ Les Juifs de l'Afrique du Nord, by Grand-Rabbin Maurice Eisenbeth, Algiers, 1936.

Morocco (including Tangiers) to 286,000. With all reservations as regards the imperfection of the census and allowing for the fact that some European Jews may have been registered in 1931 as Europeans and not Jews, it may be assumed that the upward trend characteristic of the Arab countries is still continuing. Whatever the social and cultural aspect of this situation, the demographic importance of the old eastern Sephardic Jewish communities for the survival of Jewish civilization cannot be overemphasized.

Displaced Jews

World War II added a new word to the vocabulary of civilized mankind—displaced persons. These are, generally speaking, refugees who were compelled to leave their native countries, or countries of their habitual residence, because of the last war or of events subsequent to the outbreak of this war. A definition of displaced persons (DP) in a technical sense may be found in the constitution of the International Refugee Organization: Annex I, Part I, Section A. (See Yearbook of The United Nations, 1946–47, New York, 1947, p. 816.)

When the Third Reich collapsed under the impact of the Allied offensive, there were approximately eight million DPs within the German territory chlarged by Hitler's conquests. In the whole of Europe their number was several millions larger (probably more than 12,000,000). The repatriation, which was carried out with astonishing speed, brought some six million DPs back from Germany to their native lands within a few months after victory. Then, however, this movement slowed down radically. According to the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization (PCIRO), about 7,250,000 DPs were repatriated from the end of hostilities to February, 1948, (PCIRO Press Release 2, Washington, April 21, 1948).

In July, 1947, when the PCIRO started its activities, it took over from UNRRA and the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGC) the following groups of refugees:²⁸

²⁸ See Report on the Progress of Repatriation, Resettlement and Immigration of Refugees and Displaced Persons, United Nations Economic and Social Council. E/816, June, 1948.

TABLE 10

DISPLACED PERSONS AS PER JULY 1, 1947

(1) Refugees in assembly centers:29	
Austria	28,000
Germany	552,000
Italy	18,000
Middle East	28,000
(2) Persons in camps operated by military occupational	
authorities in Germany and Italy	60,550
(3) Former wards of IGC in Belgium, France, Holland,	
Portugal and Spain	8,980
(4) European refugees in Shanghai	9,300
Тотац	704,830

²⁹ Camp or any other congregate or individual housing arrangement for which UNRRA is responsible. PCIRO undertakes supervision, financing operations, etc.

In addition, there were numerous groups in various countries, mainly in Germany, Austria and Italy, who were eligible for PCIRO legal protection or for assistance in resettlement or repatriation. As of March 31, 1948, their number was estimated at 366,000. Since on July 1, 1948, approximately 588,000 persons were receiving care and maintenance from PCIRO, the total number of DPs in the summer of 1948 was probably 900,000–1,000,000.

The breakdown of DPs by location and country of origin, sex and age can be given only for those DPs who received care and maintenance from PCIRO. The number of the latter was 633,690 as of February 29, 1948. They were located as follows:

TABLE 1130

DPs Maintained by PCIRO as of February 29, 1948,
BY LOCATION

Germany		531,060
U. S. Zone	314,670	
British Zone	188,640	
French Zone	27,750	
Austria		41,130
U. S. Zone	30,280	
British Zone	7,750	
French Zone	3,100	
Italy		29,300
Middle East		17,270
Other Countries		14,930
Total		633,690

³⁰ See IRO Press Release #2, April 21, 1948.

TABLE 12

DPs Maintained by PCIRO as of February 29, 1948 by Ethnic Group, Country of Origin, etc.

Classification	No.
Poland	162,310
Baltic Countries	143,410
Ukrainians	93,640
Jews	157,560
Others	76,770
Тотац	633,690

The actual number of Jewish DPs was larger than indicated in Table 12, because not all displaced Jews were maintained by PCIRO and because there were Jewish DPs in countries not listed in Table 11.

The data on DPs in general are neither complete nor accurate. The difficulty in obtaining accurate statistical data, particularly on Jewish DPs, results from the very nature of this specific population group. Soon after liberation, there began a movement of the Jewish population in Europe, especially in the Eastern part of the old continent, which has continuously changed the structure and the size of the original body of displaced Jews. Almost immediately

after the defeat of the Axis, there started an infiltration of Jews from Eastern Europe into the Western Zones of the former Third Reich and into Italy. This infiltration continued without interruption, and ceased only recently when the borders were almost sealed. It reached its peak in the fall of 1946 and in the summer of 1947. In addition, there has always been a movement of Jews, (a), within Germany, Austria and Italy, (b), between these areas and (c), from these areas to Palestine. So long as it is not known exactly how many Jews arrived in Palestine between 1945 and 1948, it will be impossible to estimate accurately the number of Jews who passed through Germany, Austria and Italy during the last three years. On the other hand, data on displaced Jews published by UNRRA and JDC since the end of 1945 are based upon a summary registration (nothing else was possible in those hectic days in the DP camps). and could neither avoid duplication nor reflect the shifts in the population which occurred literally every day.

When the Allied Armies penetrated the Third Reich, they found small numbers of Jews among the prisoners in the German camps. Towards the end of 1945, according to the estimate of the Research Department of JDC, there were 90,566 displaced Jews in the Western Zones of Germany and Austria, in Italy and Shanghai.

TABLE 13

Displaced Jews at the End of 1945 in Germany, Austria,

Italy and Shanghai

Country		embly nters	Comn	nunities		Total	
Germany U.S. Zone British Zone French Zone. Austria U.S. Zone British Zone French Zone. Italy Shanghai	26,643 7,400 380 5,116 3,725 40	34,423 8,881	17,776 5,150 1,120 616 600	34,046 1,216	44,419 12,550 1,500 5,732 3,725 640	68,469 10,097 12,000 15,000	(including some 15,000 German Jews)
TOTAL	••••			, ,		105,566	(including some 15,000 German Jews)

According to the same source, the actual number of displaced Jews towards the end of 1945 was much higher, because there were Jewish refugees in several countries not listed in TABLE 13.

TABLE 14

DISPLACED JEWS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES (OUTSIDE OF AUSTRIA, GERMANY, ITALY AND SHANGHAI) END OF 1945

Czechoslovakia	12,000
Hungary	10,000-15,000
Rumania	8,000-13,000
Soviet Union	180,000
Spain	800
Sweden	12,000
Switzerland	16,000
Total	238,800–248,800

One hundred and seventy thousand persons were repatriated from the Soviet Union during the year 1946. The remainder of the displaced Jews indicated in Table 14 either have been absorbed in the countries of their temporary abode, have returned to the countries of their origin or have reached other countries, particularly Germany and Austria. Among the latter group there are probably persons listed in Table 14 under Hungary and Rumania. Therefore, this study can limit itself to displaced Jews who stayed in Germany, Austria, Italy and Shanghai.

We possess accurate information of the situation in Shanghai. The JDC resumed its activities there directly after V-J day, and was able to prepare regular reports on the refugee population in that city. The resettlement and repatriation from Shanghai began in March, 1946. As of August 31, 1948, 8,148 persons emigrated with the assistance of the JDC and 1,562 were repatriated.

TABLE 15

Emigration and Repatriation from Shanghai,
March 1946-August 31, 1948.

Emigrated to	Germans	Austrians	Poles	Czecho- slovaks	Others	Total
U. S. A	4,361 302 3 19 361 18 90 27 49	554 466 8 14 154 12 107 8 30	611 139 2 3 74 89 28 2	70 21 — 16 2 4 —	305 48 	5,901 976 13 40 679 133 253 46 107
TOTAL	5,230	1,353	952	113	500	8,148
Repatriated to						
Austria	529 — — — —	972 — — — — —	- - 8 - -	39		972 531 39 8 5 2
TOTAL	529	972	8	39	14	1,562
GRAND TOTAL	5,759	2,325	960	152	514	9,710

As of September 1, 1948, 5,164 refugees were registered in Shanghai, of whom 2,924 were male and 2,240 female.

The age and nationality distribution of the Shanghai refugees may be seen from the breakdown of 5,342 refugees registered there on July 1, 1948:

Age	No.		Per Cent
Up to 15 years of age	399	or	7.47
Between 16—20	114	**	2.13
" 21—25	218	**	4.08
" 26—35	528	**	9.88
" 36—45	1,237	**	23.16
" 46—55	1,410	**	26.40
" 56—65	1,055	**	19.75
66 and over	381	,,	7.13
Total	5,342	or	100.00
Nationality			
Of German origin	1,472	or	27.56
Of Austrian origin	1,391	**	26.04
Of Polish origin	1,749	,,	32.74
Of Rumanian origin	156	,,	2.92
Of Czechoslovakian origin	180	,,	3.37
Of Hungarian origin	162	**	3.03
Of Russian origin	104	**	1.95
Of Lithuanian origin	48	,,	0.89
Of Yugoslavian origin	16	**	0.30
From Danzig	33	**	0.62
Not classified	31	,,	0.58
Total	5,342	or	100.00

The infiltration from Eastern Europe into the Western Zones of Germany and Austria was noticed as early as 1945. In October of that year the influx into Austra was at the rate of 500 persons weekly; in the fall Polish Jews began to arrive in Berlin in groups of about 50 and by the end of November the rate rose to 250 a day. It is estimated that by December, 1945, about 10,000 Polish Jews had passed through Berlin alone. Another route taken by the "infiltrees" was through Czechoslovakia (*JDC Primer II*, Germany, p. 12). It is interesting to note the growth of the displaced Jewish population in Berlin. UNRRA registered 1,700 Jewish DPs in that city in January, 1946, and 7,000 in August of the same year. According to the JDC, their number slightly decreased later, and amounted in January, 1947, to 6,227 and in January, 1948, to 6,011. In July,

1948, some 5,500 Jewish DPs were flown by the U. S. Army from Berlin and distributed among the camps of the U. S. Zone of Germany. The increase in the number of Jewish displaced persons in Berlin mentioned above reflected the movement of Polish Jews from their country. This movement took the form of mass flight after the Kielce pogrom in July, 1946.

The exodus of the Polish Jews greatly affected all the DP areas. especially the U.S. Zone of Germany. During the period between April and November, 1946, 98,808 Jews came into the Zone. The arrival of Polish Jews changed the character of the DP population. The number of children and of family units substantially increased. The original group of displaced Jews in Germany was a community almost without children and family units (at the end of March, 1946, in the U.S., British and French Zones there were 2,800 Jewish children, or 4 per cent of the displaced Jewish population in Germany).31 As of November 30, 1946, the number of children up to seventeen years of age amounted to 26,050, or 17.3 per cent of the displaced Jews in the U.S. and French Zones, Berlin and Bremen (17,931 of them, or 11 per cent, were under thirteen years of age). Despite the influx from Poland, the structure of displaced Jews remained highly abnormal. In Poland the ratio of children under fourteen was 29.6 per cent. This structure reveals a deviation even in comparison with the age breakdown of DPs in general. Among 520,462 DPs in Germany who received care and maintenance from PCIRO as of October 31, 1947, 106,528 or 20.47 per cent were children up to 14 years of age (Interpreter Release, Vol. XXV, No. 10, February 24, 1948).

The influx of Jews from Poland gradually decreased towards the end of 1946. It continued on a small scale during 1947, but was superseded by another wave, mainly of immigrants coming from Rumania. From the spring of 1947 numerous groups of Rumanian Jews started to arrive in Austria, particularly in Vienna. The number of new refugees in Austria registered by the U. S. Army amounted in April, 1947, to 585, in May to 892, in June to 1,712, in July to 4,106, in August to 4,186, in September to 2,039, in October to 3,189, in November to 1,965 and in December to 1,249—altogether 19,923 (U. S. Forces in Austria, Displaced Persons

³¹ JDC Weekly Review, Vol. III, Nos. 1-2, January 10, 1947. Among 18,296 Jews in the UNRRA camps in the U.S Zone of Germany there were 801 children up to fourteen years of age or 4.4 per cent; see UNNRA. Germany, December 28, 1945.

Division, Statistical Report on Displaced Persons and Refugees in Austria as of December 31, 1947).

Until now we have dwelled on groups who joined the body of displaced Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy in the course of 1946 and 1947. But at the same time there was a decrease in the number of Jewish DPs. Many of them succeeded in obtaining visas for various countries. Many managed to leave for Palestine. The steady growth of the displaced Jewish population on Cyprus (see p. 702) proves the never-ceasing efforts of displaced Jews to reach Palestine. The balance between the Jewish emigrants and immigrants in Germany, Austria and Italy remained favorable for the immigrants until about the middle of 1947, when the number of displaced persons began slowly to decrease.

TABLE 16

Displaced Jews, Beginning and End of 1947³²

Period	Germany	Austria	Italy	Total
Beginning 1947	170,600	35,000	26,300	231,900
End 1947	154,600	26,000	25,400	206,000

³² See JDC Statistical Abstracts No. 1, June, 1947 and No. 2, April, 1948, New York.

The most recent data on displaced Jews are as of May, 1948 for Germany (as of January 1, 1948 for the British Zone) and Austria, and as of July, 1948 for Italy. It should be borne in mind that early in 1948 new identification cards were issued to the DPs in the U. S. Zone of Germany. Their issuance was based on a new check of the camp population in the zone. Therefore, the decrease of the displaced Jews in that zone from 128,031 in January, 1948, to 115,530 in May of the same year was due partly to the improvement of screening methods.

TABLE 17

Displaced Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy as of May-July, 1948

		mbly iters	Commu	mities34	То	tal
Grand Total		141,049		40,253		181,302
Germany (May, 1948). U.S. Zone British Zone ³³ French Zone Berlin	85,582 9,506 207 5,753	101,048	29,948 4,805 500	35,253	115,530 14,311 707 5,753	136,301
Austria (May, 1948) U.S. Zone British Zone French Zone Vienna	17,546 1,354 974 1,963	21,837			17,546 1,354 974 1,963	21,837
Italy (July, 1948)		18,164		5,000		23,164

33 As of January 1, 1948.

The nationality of displaced Jews may be seen from a breakdown prepared by PCIRO on 167,520 Jews receiving care and maintenance from this organization as of September 30, 1947 (see *PCIRO News Bulletin* No. 6, December 8, 1947).

TABLE 18

Countries of Origin of Displaced Jews

Country	No.		Per Cent
Poland	122,313	or	73.0
Rumania	18,593	"	11.1
Hungary	8,445	"	5.0
Czechoslovakia	6,602	"	4.0
Germany	6,167	**	3.7
Lithuania	1,786	"	1.1
Others	3,614	"	2.1
Тотац	167,520	or	100.0

The age structure is given in the table below for displaced Jews in Germany (U. S. Zone and Berlin) as of May, 1948, and in Italy (assembly centers) as of July, 1948.

²⁴ There were certain groups of Jewish DPs in Austria who lived outside of assembly centers. But their number was small.

TABLE 19
Age Structure of Displaced Jews

Age	Germany ³⁵ (U.S. Zone and Berlin)	Italy (Assembly Centers)
0—13	23,859 or 20.27%	2,974 or 16.37%
1417	4,631 or3.93%	991 or 5.46%
Total 0—17	28,490 or 24.20%	3,965 or 21.83%
18—45	73,772 or 62.68%	12,847 or 70.73%
46 and over	15,437 or 13.12%	_1,352 or 7.44 <u>%</u>
Тотац	117,699 or 100.00%	18,164 or 100.00%

[&]amp; There were 129,250 persons registered. But the ages of 11,551 of them were not known.

A survey conducted by PCIRO in 1947 provides material on the vocation of displaced Jews.³⁶ The table below shows their distribution in the U. S. Zone according to major occupational groups, and compares their occupational structure with the occupational structure of the DPs in general.

TABLE 20

Occupations of Displaced Jews in the U. S. Zone of Germany,
May, 1947

	,	•		
Main Occupational Groups	Displace	d Persons		Vhom ced Jews
Тотац	158,635	100.0%	54,391	100.0%
Professional and Managerial				
Occupations	22,022	13.9%	6,024	11.1%
Clerical and Sales				
Occupations	17,286	10.9%	4,974	9.2%
Service Occupations	15,069	9.5%	3,829	7.0%
Agricultural Occupations	26,683	16.9%	2,024	3.7%
Skilled Occupations	42,096	26.4%	21,585	39.7%
Semi-Skilled Occupations	9,470	6.0%	4,095	7.5%
Unskilled Occupations	17,319	11.0%	7,410	13.6%
Occupations not classified				
by skill	8,690	5.4%	4,450	8.2%

³⁶ See Occupational Skills of Refugees in PCIRO Assembly Centers, by William Shaughnessy, Geneva, January 24, 1948 and JDC Review, Vol. IV, No. 3, May, 1948.

The striking feature in the occupational distribution of displaced Jews is the large proportion of manual workers. More than half of the surveyed Jews were registered as skilled, semi-skilled and agricultural workers. Another feature of the PCIRO survey is the insignificant number of merchants and businessmen. There were 1.262 Jews registered as businessmen and managers and 1,275 as salesmen and sales clerks. Assuming that these 2,537 persons belonged to the category of merchants-which may not be entirely correct-the percentage of the latter among the 54,391 Jews surveyed would be 4.66 (in Poland in 1931 more than 38 per cent of the Jews, exclusive of those in agriculture, were in this group). The explanation for this phenomenon may be found in the fact that the bulk of the displaced Jews spent the war years in Russia, where they were forced to do manual work and where they acquired various skills. In addition, many of the people surveyed probably registered their occupation in accordance with their present functions in the camps, such as policemen, firemen, etc.

General Remarks

The decade 1939-1948 belongs to the periods of the most intensive migration movements of the population in general and of Jews especially. A war from the demographic point of view is a displacement of soldiers, who compose the armies, of civilians, who flee from the approaching enemy or who cannot remain in the bombarded cities and look for a refuge somewhere outside of their destroyed homes and towns, of prisoners of war, who are shifted into the interior of the fighting countries, of workers forced by the enemy or drafted by the national governments to devote their energies to the war machine, and of many other groups affected by the hostilities. In World War II these displacements assumed sweeping dimensions because the war was waged on three continents—Europe, Africa and Asia—and because of the totalitarian character it took in the Axis countries, which made little distinction between the armed forces and the peaceful population.

The war dealt a hard blow to the Jews, whose extermination was one of the war aims of Hitler. The latter was unfortunately able to implement his maniacal racial ideas. In Table 6 the physical losses of the most important Jewish communities in Europe resulting from the "war" on Jews carried on by the German Fuehrer are indicated. But these losses were not only of a quantitative nature.

Their qualitative significance should not be overlooked by a student of the fatal decade, 1939–1948.

In a group of countries and regions such as Holland, Greece, Sub-Carpathian Russia, Germany, Austria—especially in Poland and Lithuania—the Jewish communities received a mortal blow, and their continued existence as homogeneous religious and cultural unities is questionable. The disappearance of Jewish centers of spiritual influence in Poland and Lithuania left a vacuum which, for the time being, cannot be filled. Thus the sources which fructified the specific Jewish life in other countries, e. g., in the U. S. A., no longer exist. It is still doubtful whether a substitute will be found to replace the influence exercised by the autonomous Jewish life within the Eastern-European kehilot and Central-European Kultusgemeinden.

At the end of the decade 1939–1948, the whole picture of world Jewry had greatly changed from what it had been in the period before World War II. Europe ceased to be the important center. Two new centers emerged: U. S. A., with about 5,000,000 Jews, and Israel, with some 750,000 Jews. The Eastern-Sephardic Jewish community with about 900,000–1,000,000, and the 600,000 Jews in Latin-American countries became an ever-increasing factor in Jewish life.

In 1948 the following countries had the largest Jewish population:

U. S. A	5,000,000
U. S. S. R	2,000,000
Israel	750,000
Rumania	380,000
Argentina	360,000
England	345,000
Morocco	286,000
France	235,000

All other countries had less than 200,000 Jews each. It may be interesting to note that the U. S. A. has about 44 per cent of the total Jewish population. As a result of population losses, the Jews on the American continent, who represented 32.95 per cent of the total Jewish population in 1939, now constitute 50.80. It is unfortunately impossible to ascertain the percentage of Jews among the general population in all the countries of their residence but it may suffice to indicate the percentages in the most important communities. In the U. S. A. the Jews represent about 3.5 per cent of the total population; in Rumania, about 2.5 per cent; in Argentina,

over 2.0 per cent; in U. S. S. R., over 1.0 per cent; in England and France, less than 1.0 per cent.

The migration movement, intensified by the war and the events subsequent to it, led to the displacement of thousands of Jews from the East to the West. In many countries the newcomers outnumber native Jews or play a proportionately important role. In countries with Jewish DPs the foreign Jews predominate.

TABLE 21

Resident and Foreign Jews in Various European Countries
in 1948

Country	Resident Jews	Foreign Jews
Austria	9,000	21,000
Belgium	20,000	25,000
France	150,000	85,000
Germany	16,500	136,300
Italy	30,000	23,000
Sweden	3,500	6,000

Within various countries, a shifting of the Jewish population took place. In Poland, Lodz and Lower Silesia became Jewish centers replacing Warsaw. In Hungary two-thirds of the Jews are in Budapest. More than 40 per cent of the Jews in Rumania live in Bucharest. Paris has more than half of the Jewish population of France. In Greece Athens replaced Salonika as a center of Jewish population. In Germany almost half of the native Jews live in Berlin. In Austria practically all Jews are located in Vienna. In general, the concentration of Jews in large cities is much more pronounced now than it was before 1939.

The reader will find below a selected list of important Jewish communities throughout the world:

TABLE 22
Estimated Jewish Population in Selected Cities³⁷

Cities	No. of Persons
Alexandria	28,000
Algiers	•
Amsterdam	
Athens	-
Belgrade	
Berlin	
Bialystok	
Bucharest	
Budapest	
Buenos Aires	
Cairo	
Casablanca	
Cologne	
Constantine	
Cracow	5,900
Damascus	2,500
Dzierzoniow	. 6,120
Florence	1,500
Frankfort-on-the-Main	1,620
Haifa	80,000
Hamburg	1,390
Harbin	1,400
Helsinki	1,350
Jassy	
Jerusalem	
Johannesburg	
La Paz	,
Legnica	
Leipzig	
Lodz	•
London	
Milan	
Montreal	
Oran	
Oslo	500

¹⁷ Mostly 1947-1948

TABLE 22 (continued)

Cities	No. of Persons
Paris	. 125,000
Prague	
Rio de Janeiro	. 40,000
Rome	. 12,000
Salonika	. 1,620
São Paulo	. 30,000
Shanghai	. 9,000
Sofia	. 25,000
Teheran	. 25,000
Tel Aviv	. 250,000
Trieste	. 1,500
Tripoli	. 16,000
Tunis	. 30,000
Turin	. 2,300
Vienna	. 11,200
Walbrzych	. 4,890
Warsaw	. 4,400
Wroclaw	. 9,200
Zagreb	. 1,700

As a result of the Nazi extermination policy a considerable change occurred in the age structure of the Jewish population in several countries of continental Europe. Data on age and sex distribution of Jews in various countries in Europe are most revealing.

TABLE 23

Jews in Poland by Age Groups and Sex—1947³⁸

Age Group	Male	Female	Total	Per Cent
0—14	8,469 2,021 30,129 4,069 927	8,767 2,166 27,445 3,232 1,045	17,236 4,187 57,574 7,301 1,972	19.5 4.8 65.2 8.3 2.2
Total	45,615	42,655	88,270	100.0

³⁸ Based upon Passover, 1947 matzot registration.

TABLE 24
JEWS IN BOHEMIA—MORAVIA—SILESIA BY AGE GROUPS AND SEX—1947 ³⁹

Age Group	No.	Per Cent	Sex	No.	Per Cent
0—16	1,224 9,994	6.5 52.7	Male Female	9,735 9,235	51.3 48.7
37—56 57 and over	5,853 1,899	30.8 10.0	TOTAL	18,970	100.0

³⁹ Excluding those who do not belong to the community. See Vestnik Zidovske Obce Nabozenske v Praze, March 19, 1948.

TABLE 25

GERMAN JEWS IN BERLIN BY AGE GROUPS AND SEX—MARCH, 1947

Age Group	No.	Per Cent
0—13	505	6.5
14—17	196	2.5
18—44	2,629	33.7
45 and over	4,477	57. 3
Total	7,807	100.0

Of these 7,807 persons, 505 children up to thirteen years of age were not classified by sex. Among the remaining 7,702 persons over fourteen years of age, 3,557, or 48.69 per cent, were males and 3,727, or 51.04 per cent, were females.

TABLE 26

Jews in Vienna by Age Groups and Sex-May 3, 1948

Age Group	No.	Per Cent
0—12	594	6.34
13—18	281	3.00
19—45	3,913	41.77
4660	2,798	29.88
61 and over	1,780	19.01
Total	9,366	100.00

Of these 9,366 persons, 5,075, or 54.19 per cent, were males and 4,291, or 45.81 per cent, were females.

Age Group	Males	Females	Total	Per Cent
0— 6 7—14		260 344	564 674	6.68 7.99
15—18	181	191 2,276	372 4,919	4.41 58.28
4660	. 608	540 399	1,148	13.60
61 and over		4,010	8,440	100.00

TABLE 27

Jews in Greece by Age Groups and Sex—November, 1947

JDC Paris Letter No. 8410, December 29, 1947 is the source of the above.

TABLE 28

JEWS IN HOLLAND BY AGE GROUP AND SEX—DECEMBER 31, 1945				
Age Group	Male	Female	Total	
	2,295 or 10.6% 7,711 or 35.6%	2,322 or 10.7% 9,346 or 43.1%	4,617 or 17,057 or	, 0
Total	10,006 or 46.2%	11,668 or 53.8%	21,674 or 1	100.0%

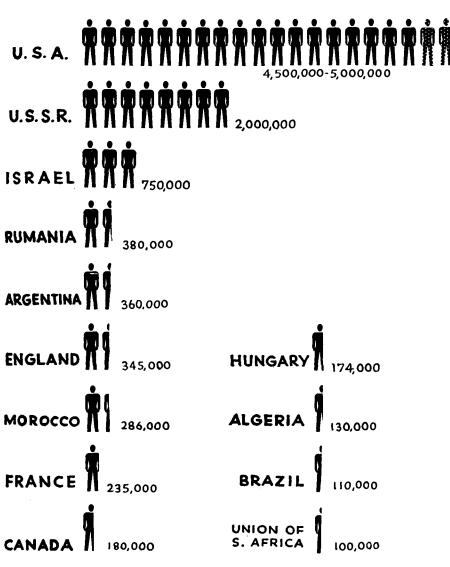
⁴⁰ Jews registered with the Central Registration Office for Jews, Amsterdam.

The age structure of displaced Jews is shown in Table 19, p. 715.

As another result of the Nazi policy which spared the partners of mixed marriages till rather late, the percentage of Jews married to non-Jews is now very high in a number of countries. In Germany this percentage is as high as 60 to 70 per cent. There are no exact data on other countries. It may be assumed, however, that mixed marriages have become an important factor in Austria, France, Holland, Hungary and Italy. In the latter country, out of the prewar native Jewish population estimated at 50,000, some 7,000 were reported to have been converted or to have left the communities. The fear of being registered with a Jewish community induced Jews in some countries to stay away. Approximately 10,000 Jews in Poland are living under assumed names as non-Jews.

The survey presented above is based on preliminary results of a larger study.

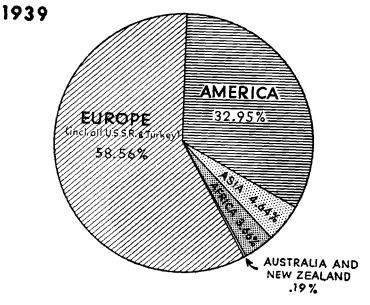
COUNTRIES OF 100,000 JEWS OR OVER

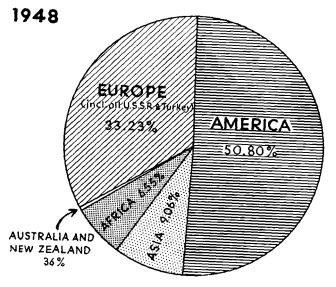


EACH FIGURE REPRESENTS 250,000 PERSONS

GRAPHIC ASSOCIATES

SHIFTING CENTERS OF JEWISH POPULATION





GRAPHIC ASSOCIATES