There are about 80,000 Jews in Turkey, of whom some 56,000 live in Istanbul, 14,000 in Izmir, and the remainder scattered in other places, such as Broussa, Ankara, etc. The great majority are badly off economically; the wealthier group had been seriously affected by the discriminatory wartime property tax called Varlik (see American Jewish Year Book, Vol. 49). Nevertheless, needy Jews were cared for by domestic Jewish charitable organizations. The Jews of Turkey took pride in the fact that they did not seek outside material help. Their greatest need was for technical help and advice on vocational training.

Discriminatory practices in the economic field and in civic activities existed, nor were the Jews secure politically. There were anti-Semitic statements in the press, essentially anti-Zionist. Under such circumstances, the Jews were not particularly active in politics, although one of the official opposition parties recently authorized was represented by a Jewish deputy in parliament.

In 1947–48 Germany and Austria lived under a regime of occupation. The countries were divided into four zones: American, British, French and Russian. The cities of Berlin and Vienna were divided into four sectors, each governed by one of these powers; Vienna had in addition an international sector.

Attempts to create a central government for the whole of Germany failed because of divergent views entertained by the Western powers on the one hand, and the Soviet Union on
the other. In February, 1948, economic self-government in the combined American and British zones, a so-called Bizonia, was established. But the chaotic economic conditions and political disorganization in Western Germany called for more radical steps. Towards the end of 1947, industrial production in all zones of Germany fell to 34 per cent of what it had been in 1938. The output in the Ruhr basin, which amounted to some 400,000 tons a day before World War II, was 280,000 tons in November, 1947, and 255,000 tons in January, 1948. The steel plants of the Ruhr basin produced 2,600,000 tons in 1947, instead of the yearly norm of 5,800,000 allowed by the Potsdam conference and of 14,000,000 tons before the last war. In order to improve the situation and in view of the difficulty in reaching an agreement with the Soviet Union, the three Western Allies envisaged the setting up of a temporary German government for their zones and a reform of currency. These plans met with the strong disapproval of the Soviet Union, which, by way of retaliation, introduced a series of measures to isolate the American, British and French sectors of Berlin from the zones occupied by those powers.

In Austria, endeavors to reach an agreement between the Soviet Union and the Western Allies and to prepare a definite peace settlement between these four powers and Austria had at the time of writing not led to any positive result.

GERMANY

Population

There are no exact data on the number of native Jews in Germany in 1947-48. Local leaders estimated their number at approximately 16,000 (DW March 5, 1948). According to

1 Periodicals frequently referred to in this article are abbreviated as follows:
DW = Der Weg, Berlin.
DnW = Der neue Weg, Vienna.
JG = Judisches Gemeindeblatt fuer die Britische Zone, Duesseldorf.
NW = Neue Welt, Munich.
ZdZ = Zwischen den Zeiten, Coblenz.
reports of the Joint Distribution Committee which corroborate this estimate, there were some 4,500 German Jews in the United States zone of occupation, 4,000 in the British, 500 in the French and 7,500 in Berlin.

The only available data on the natural increase of the Jewish population are from Berlin. The Mitgliederverzeichnis der Juedischen Gemeinde zu Berlin as of July 31, 1947, listed only 141 children born after May, 1945, for a community of 7,638. In August, 1947, 295 repatriates arrived from Shanghai. But during the year under review probably more groups joined the Jewish Gemeinden (communities). Therefore, the change in the number of German Jews was insignificant as compared with that of the preceding year (AJY, p. 364).

Indications from several localities confirm the assumption that the Gemeinden contained an abnormally high percentage of elderly persons, and that only a fraction of their members was of local origin. On July 31, 1947, of 7,638 Gemeinde members in Berlin, 2,925, or only 38.29 per cent had been born in that city. In the Russian zone, where the Joint Distribution Committee distributed supplies to some 1,200 German Jews, 60 per cent of the latter were over fifty years of age, according to a JDC report for October, 1947.

Economic Conditions and Communal Institutions

The German economy was disrupted to an extent not to be judged by normal criteria. Last summer a German physician told this writer that he took two days a week off from his work; he had to spend at least two days visiting farmers in order to obtain food for his household. Under such conditions, the fact that the majority of able-bodied German Jews either were re-established in their former professions or businesses, or had found new occupation, was not as important as the question whether they did actually receive enough food and clothing.

In the whole of Germany with the exception of Bavaria, the German Jews obtained supplementary rations of approximately 500 calories a day from the Joint Distribution Committee. In Bavaria, where, thanks to the activities of Bayerische
Hilfswerke (AJY, p. 371), the situation was somewhat better than in the rest of Germany, steps were taken in November, 1947, to include the German Jews in the JDC distribution system. In addition to the normal supplementary ration, the JDC granted special rations to various categories of the Jewish population, such as children, aged persons, expectant and nursing mothers, patients in hospitals, etc. The existence of German Jewish institutions—children's homes, old age homes, hospitals—was dependent upon JDC supplies.

Towards the end of 1947, the VVN (Vereinigung der Verfolgten des Naziregimes—"Union of Persecutees of the Nazi Regime") was established in Berlin to protect the economic and political interests of victims of Nazi rule. This organization had been in existence in other parts of Germany since 1945. It held its first national congress in Stuttgart on February 3 and 4, 1948, and elected a National Council. Although German Jews were represented in the Council by prominent leaders, a controversy arose in the German Jewish press as to whether Jews should continue membership in the VVN, since certain groups charged that the Union was a Communist front organization.

Religious life acquired more stability with the appointment of several rabbis: Hermann Helfgott as Chief Rabbi in the British zone; the former Chief Rabbi of Munich, Aaron Ohrenstein, as Chief Rabbi of Bavaria; and Thon as Chief Rabbi of Frankfort on the Main. Michael L. Munk performed the functions of Chief Rabbi in Berlin. Early in 1948, Rabbi Simon G. Kramer of the Synagogue Council of America was appointed intermediary between the U. S. Military Government and the Gemeinden.

There were three main newspapers published by the German Jews: Neue Zeit in Munich for the United States zone, Juedisches Gemeindeblatt in Duesseldorf for the British zone and Der Weg in Berlin. A Jewish publishing house, called the Juedische Verlagsgesellschaft, was set up in Wiesbaden in March, 1948.

Also of interest were economic institutions established during the year under review. Towards the end of 1947, a Union of
German Jews (Interessengemeinschaft Juedischer Gewerbetreibender) was formed in Hamburg to protect Jewish merchants. In March, 1948, it had 150 members. A co-operative bank, Ivria, was founded in Munich at the beginning of 1948 to provide credits for Jewish businessmen. Finally, the Gemeinde in Berlin organized a Loan Fund (DW May 14, 1948).

Restitution and Legal Status

Compensation for losses suffered under the Hitler government included restitution of property, restoration of certain rights, such as pension claims, and indemnification.

Until May, 1948, there was no restitution legislation in the Russian zone, except in Thuringia, where a restitution law was promulgated as early as 1945; legislation was pending in Berlin and in the British zone; and laws were enacted in the United States and in the French zones. Lack of space prevents an analysis of the technical details of these laws. Of special importance was the fact that these were promulgated by the occupation powers, and not by the German authorities. The draft of a restitution law for the United States zone was ready early in 1947. After protracted negotiations, it became clear that no consent could be obtained from the four occupation powers for the enactment of this law in all four zones of Germany. In the American zone the draft was opposed in the Laenderrat ("Council of States"). The representatives of Bavaria, Wuerttemberg, Baden and of the city of Bremen voted against the draft, and the representatives of Hesse abstained. The German officials were opposed to provisions in the draft which they said would cause hardship to persons who had in good faith purchased property previously taken from Jews under duress; they objected to the proposed treatment granted to beneficiaries of the restitution law in the event of currency

The text of German restitution legislation can be found in Rueckerstattung in Deutschland, published by Herman Muller in behalf of the American Federation of Jews from Central Europe, New York, 1948, and in Die Wiedergutmachungs-Gesetzgebung in West- und Sued-Deutschland, published by Hans Strauss, New York, 1948.
reform; they insisted that the successor organization which according to the draft had the right to claim heirless and communal property, should have its seat in Germany and include mainly German victims of the Hitler persecution. After the refusal of the Laenderrat to approve the draft, United States Military Government Law 59 on Restitution of Identifiable Property was issued on November 10, 1947. On the same date the French Military Government enacted a restitution law in the form of Verordnung 120, which was less favorable to the Jewish victims of the Nazi regime than Law 59.

In the British zone, the Allgemeine Verfuegung 10, dated October 20, 1947, was a preliminary step to a restitution law. It envisaged the obligatory registration of claimed property, and defined the procedure for the filing of applications. In Berlin (NW, March 11, 1948), a draft of a restitution law passed by the municipal administration (Magistrat) on February 25, 1948, had not yet been approved by the City Council and by the Allied Kommandatura (four-power government of Berlin).

The restoration of certain rights was provided for in several regions. In Schleswig-Holstein (NW, January 29, 1948) and in Nordrhein-Westfalen (JG, November 15, 1947)—both in the British zone—victims of the Nazi persecution were granted the same financial rights as those who came under the German social security laws. In Berlin the former officials of the local Gemeinde were eligible for pensions (DW May 14, 1948).

No laws had as yet been passed concerning indemnities. In a number of trials, German judges manifested an inclination toward a rigid interpretation of civil laws, and an underestimation of the specific situation between 1933 and 1945, when the Jews were forced under duress to renounce their property and their rights.

Several adjustments of civil status were made. On December 4, 1947 the Laenderrat in the American zone passed a law approved by the United States Military Government regarding the citizenship of Germans who had been deprived of their nationality for political, religious and "racial" reasons.
These persons might, if they so desired, recover their German citizenship. However, they could not acquire it automatically. At the same time, the Nazi law was repealed which had established a list of first names available to Jews, and had ordered the Jewish bearers of “Aryan” first names to adopt the names of Sarah and Israel. In Bremen on January 3, and in Bavaria on February 16, 1948, a procedure was set up by which out-of-wedlock relationship might acquire the same legal marital status if the persons in question could not obtain a marriage license because of their “race” or religion, and if they now wanted to legalize their relationship. Of special importance was the decision of the Allied Kommandatura in Berlin which permitted the nullification of court sentences passed between January 30, 1933, and May 9, 1945, based on political, “racial” or religious discrimination (DW, February 27, 1948).

Communal Structure

A year ago a Co-ordinating Committee of the Jewish Communities of Germany (Arbeitsgemeinschaft Juedischer Gemeinden Deutschlands) was founded. It held three conferences: in Frankfurt on the Main in June, 1947, in Berlin in October of the same year and in Bremen in January, 1948. This development represented a new phenomenon in the history of the Gemeinden. Before 1933, each German state had its own independent community, while co-operation among the Landesverbaende (unions of the Gemeinden within individual states) was weak. After the defeat of the Axis, German Jews resumed their Landesverbaende (See AJY, p. 367; a Union of the Gemeinden in Hesse must be added to the list in AJY; see NW, January 17, 1948). At the same time they initiated zonal organizations. The Gemeinden in the British zone joined together in the early stage of this development, and were later followed by the Gemeinden in other zones. Thus there emerged Unions of Jewish Communities in the American and French zones. The Gemeinde in Berlin remained outside of these Unions.

Some 100 representatives of the Gemeinden in the four zones
of occupation met in Frankfort on the Main on June 7 and 8, 1947, and established the above-mentioned Arbeitsgemeinschaft, to serve as a body to co-ordinate the activities of the Gemeinden in the whole of Germany. The board of directors of the new organization included delegates from the four zones: Philip Auerbach—American zone, Norbert Wollheim—British zone, Nathan Rosenberg—French zone, Julius Meyer—Russian zone and H. E. Fabian—Berlin. In addition, the organization had a council (Beirat) consisting of fifteen members.

The Gemeinde in Berlin, where approximately one half of present German Jewry was concentrated, deserves special mention. On February 1, 1948, a democratic election to the Gemeinde council took place. Three lists were presented: No. 1, Jewish Liberals (Juedische liberale Liste), headed by H. E. Fabian; No. 2, National Jewish United List (National-Juedische Einheitsliste), headed by Julius Meyer, retiring president of the Gemeinde; and No. 3, Independent Liberals (Unabhaengige liberale Liste), headed by Erich Mendelschn, retiring general secretary of the Gemeinde. Of 6,696 voters, 5,177, or 77 per cent, participated in the election. Fifty-four votes were invalid. The results are summarized below.

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1,071</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5,123</td>
<td>20</td>
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</table>

Fabian was elected president of the Gemeinde board of directors.

The specific difficulties of the situation in Berlin may be seen from the fact that sixty-year-old Erich Nelhans, who had acted as president of the Gemeinde after liberation and had played an important role in the Mizrachi movement, was sentenced by a Red Army court to fifteen years' imprisonment on the charge of having helped Jewish soldiers and officers to desert from the Red Army.
Community Problems

The internal life of the Gemeinden illustrated the instability of the present Jewish situation in Germany perhaps better than did the numerical weakness of the communities. It also revealed the change in the mentality of German Jewry as compared with the period before 1933. Undoubtedly the most debated question in the German-Jewish publications and at the meetings of communal organizations was the problem of mixed marriages. To an outsider it is hard to realize that this problem touched upon the very existence of the Gemeinden. According to local observers, approximately 60 to 70 per cent of the Gemeinde members were married to non-Jews (ZdZ, November, 1947). Although it is difficult to check on these figures, it may be assumed that the majority of German Jews were partners in mixed marriages. The religious leaders were trying to prevent the transformation of the Gemeinden into "Hebrew-Christian" communities. The first conference of the Gemeinden, held in June of 1947 in Frankfort on the Main, formulated seven principles (Richtlinien) to define membership in the Jewish community. The next conference of the Gemeinden, held in Berlin in October of that year, approved these principles and supplemented them with some additional rules. The second congress of displaced and German Jews in the British zone (July, 1947) also adhered to the principles adopted in Frankfort.

These principles excluded Jews who married Christians at that time from participation in the elections of Gemeinde organs, and barred partners of mixed marriages from Gemeinde offices. Though these principles were approved by the conferences of the Gemeinden, their restrictive stand in regard to mixed marriages met opposition within individual Gemeinden.

The election statute issued by the Berlin Gemeinde in connection with the election of the Gemeinde council in February, 1948, entitled every Jew who was a member of the Gemeinde to vote, regardless of whether or not he had recently been married to a non-Jew. It barred from office only those who did not bring up their children according to the Jewish faith.
Opposition to the above-mentioned principles was also voiced by the Union of the Gemeinden in the American zone. This controversy did not in any way imply underestimation of the services of those who under the most difficult circumstances supported and often saved the lives of their Jewish spouses. Rabbis and laymen favored granting to these persons every possible assistance through the Gemeinden.

The Gemeinden remained almost unaffected by Jewish political party rivalry which played an important role in the camps for displaced Jews in Germany. This did not mean that the German Jews were indifferent to political issues. The Gemeinden were interested in Zionism and in response to fateful world events identified themselves with the struggle for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. The Berlin Gemeinde and the Unions of Jewish Gemeinden in the American, Russian and British zones were all affiliated with the World Jewish Congress.

The attitude of the Gemeinden toward displaced Jews revealed the mentality of present German Jewry. The Union of the Gemeinden in the British zone, which had always co-operated with the Central Committee of Displaced Jews in Bergen-Belsen, renounced its independent existence and merged with the Central Committee in July, 1947. In February, 1948, the Union of the Gemeinden in the United States zone decided to propose to the Central Committee of Displaced Jews in the American zone the establishment of joint representation of all Jews in the zone. As a matter of fact, membership in the Gemeinden was not limited to German nationals, but also included a number of displaced Jews living outside the camps.

Certain Gemeinden did not approve of this development. Their uneasiness was caused by the feeling that there was a difference between those who intended to leave Germany and those who wanted to remain there.

Lack of space does not permit analysis of the political trends in Germany, evaluation of the results of denazification and a lengthy discussion of the implications of the Allied occupation of Germany. Responsible German Jewish leaders were unanimous in perceiving the revival of Nazi tendencies in postwar
Germany, and in expressing their fear of the prevalence of anti-Semitism in the German population. They did not deny that German authorities made certain contributions to the improvement of Jewish conditions; but they were alarmed by the desecration of Jewish cemeteries which became widespread in modern Germany. They quoted the mild sentences which the German courts had dealt out to former Nazi heroes, and which were reminiscent of the treatment accorded to the enemies of the Weimar Republic after 1918. They further complained that there was no desire among the non-Jewish population to make amends for the injustice perpetrated against Jews between 1933 and 1945.

At the Frankfort conference of the Gemeinden, C. Epstein, the Hessian state commissioner for persecutees, stated that “sooner or later we shall be forced to consider ourselves liquidators of the Jewish Gemeinden. Everyone who is not too old or sick will have no choice but to emigrate” (JG July 9, 1947). This statement seemed to express more accurately the feeling of German-Jewish leaders than the optimistic expectation that the Jews would be able to strike roots in postwar Germany. German Jewry was in a transitory period. The title of a newly founded German-Jewish magazine, Zwischen den Zeiten (“Between-times”), expressed the essential feature of the Jewish situation in Germany.

AUSTRIA

Population and Institutions

Almost the whole of the Austrian Jewish population lived in the capital. The provinces had less than 1,000 Jews; at the beginning of 1948, the Vienna Kultusgemeinde (“religious community”) listed more than 8,500 members, of whom approximately 400 were children and youths under eighteen years of age (NW December, 1947), and some 1,000 were displaced Jews (DnW 7, April, 1948). During the year under review,
some 375 persons were repatriated from Palestine and Shanghai. Assisted by the Joint Distribution Committee, the Kultusgemeinde supported its needy members and maintained various institutions. In December, 1947, 1,198 persons received relief in cash, over 10,000 meals were served to 196 persons, 106 persons lived in old age homes, and the dispensary treated 116 patients (JDC report for 1947).

Vienna Community

On April 11, 1948, an election of the new Community Council took place; the incumbent Council had been in office from April 4, 1946. Five lists were presented: 1. Jewish Unity (left wing), headed by the retiring community president, David Brill; 2. Jewish Federation (Zionists), headed by David Shapira; 3. Jewish Socialists, headed by Emil Maurer; 4. Union of Jewish Merchants, headed by Aaron Ehrlich; and 5. the Joint Religious List, headed by Moses Gottesfeld. Of approximately 7,000 members entitled to vote, 5,287, or more than 75 per cent, cast ballots. The results of the elections were:

<table>
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<th>List</th>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>183</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>149</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5,287</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

David Shapira was elected community president by a Socialist-Zionist coalition in the Council. It is interesting to note that general political issues were introduced in this election campaign, and that the Austrian Socialist Party took an active part in support of the Jewish Socialist list.

Bela Eisenberg, Rabbi in Hungary, was appointed Rabbi of the Vienna community in June, 1948.
Restitution of Property

In addition to the three laws indicated in AJY, p. 379, the Fourth Restitution Law (Das Vierte Rueckstellungsgesetz), dated May 21, 1947, was promulgated in the Fall of 1947. It dealt only with the restoration of firm names which were changed or canceled under the Nazi rule. The much more important Fifth Law on Restitution was still pending. It was supposed to deal with claims originating from leases on apartments, offices and business premises. On August 21, 1947, a law (Wiedereinstellungsgesetz) was enacted which provided for the reinstatement of workers and employees who had been fired from their jobs for political or "racial" reasons. Moreover, a special law (Opferfuersorgegesetz) went into effect on September 2, 1947, which guaranteed victims of the Nazi regime favorable treatment as well as certain rights facilitating their adjustment to the prevailing circumstances. It is too early to evaluate the practical significance of all these regulations.

In general, the Jewish conditions in Austria and the problems debated within the Austrian-Jewish community were similar to those in Germany.

Recent Political Developments

The general elections held in Poland on January 19, 1947, marked the end of the government of national unity in which, following the agreement between the Western Allies and Russia, members of the London Polish government-in-exile sat