IN ITS ALMOST SIX DECADES OF PUBLICATION, the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK has provided a unique and detailed chronicle of Jewish life in the United States and throughout the world. This latest volume, appearing at a time when the situation of Jews in Eastern Europe and North Africa is once more highly fluid and changeable from day to day, once again provides a highly readable narrative and analysis.

The Iron Curtain, Western Germany, South America, the Middle East—all are covered by recognized authorities.

The present volume also answers basic questions about the Jews in America: population, geographic distribution, economic pursuits, religious life, social service, and other communal interests.

The demographic part includes a comparison of the YEAR BOOK’s estimates of Jewish population in the United States with results of the study made by the United States Census Bureau in March 1957 and released in February 1958. The Bureau’s findings coincide remarkably with the YEAR BOOK’s estimates.

The article on civil rights covers three major events in United States history: the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Little Rock school case; the closing of public schools in Arkansas and Virginia to avoid compliance with the Federal Court’s desegregation orders, and the enactment by New York City of the first law in the United States prohibiting discrimina-

(Continued on back flap)
AMERICAN
JEWISH
YEAR BOOK
American Jewish Year Book
Advisory Committee

Oscar Handlin, Chairman
Salo W. Baron
Solomon F. Bloom
Harry G. Friedman
Sidney Goldmann
Benjamin W. Huebsch
Edward C. Mack
Jacob R. Marcus
Nathan Reich
THE DEMOGRAPHIC PART of this volume, besides the usual tables, includes a comparison of the YEAR BOOK's estimates of the Jewish population of the United States with the results of the study made by the United States Bureau of the Census in March 1957 and released in February 1958. The Census Bureau asked, "What is your religion?" of 35,000 households containing 80,000 persons 14 years old and over—the first inquiry into religious preference ever conducted by the United States. Its findings coincide remarkably with the YEAR BOOK's 1957 estimates, the difference between the two being approximately 220,000. There is also a close similarity in the breakdowns by age groups and geographic distribution.

The YEAR BOOK's estimates of total Jewish population are constructed out of local estimates and studies, diverse in origin and uneven in quality, based on community self-surveys, United Jewish Appeal estimates, YEAR BOOK estimates of suburban New York Jewish communities, and occasional special studies, such as the 1952 study of 5,000 New York City families by the Health Insurance Plan of Greater New York, which included a question on religious preference. The Census Bureau report, while not validating the individual estimates, nevertheless confirms the general demographic pattern revealed by all of them taken together, as presented year after year in these pages.

The articles reviewing the year 1957-58 follow a plan already familiar to our readers. Certain changes are to be noted, however. In order to limit the size of the YEAR BOOK, for reasons of economy, the coverage given to desegregation in the article on civil rights has been considerably reduced. On the other hand, coverage of church-state issues in the United States now embraces their community-relations as well as legal aspects.

To give a more nearly adequate treatment of thought and discussion on Judaism and Jewish education in the United States, the editors have decided to experiment with an alternate-year system—the respective article one year being given over largely to statistical and other factual data, and the next year to more qualitative considerations. In this volume the article on Jewish education deals with educational thought as reflected in recent conferences and writings.

The section on the foreign scene has been reduced, again for reasons of space. In the article on Latin America, the general background was supplied by the YEAR BOOK staff. The emigration of Jews from Rumania, which began after the terminal date for the present volume, will be covered next year.

The Jewish calendars have been condensed, though without sacrifice of essential information, and the annual report of the American Jewish Committee was omitted. The latter had been published here for fifty years, but will no longer be, in view of its separate publication.
A word about the transliteration of Hebrew in this volume. Infralinear dots distinguish between similar consonants in the calendars, but not in the text. W represents the sixth letter of the Hebrew alphabet, v being reserved for vet. No distinction is made between long and short vowels, and shewa mobile is rendered by e (but we have continued to write Knesset rather than Keneset). Doubled consonants show gemination governed by dagesh forte, with some exceptions: e.g., matzah rather than matztzah for ease of reading, and histadrut rather than histadderut because of usage. Y takes the normal consonantal doubling, except after i: Hayyim, Iyar. Prefixed prepositions and the definite article are separated from the rest of the word by a hyphen, and the following consonant is not doubled. Final he, as mater lectionis, is nevertheless rendered h: yeshivah, not yeshiva (but Yeshiva University). In general, biblical given names of Hebrew- or Yiddish-speaking persons are given as in the English versions: Joseph, Aaron, and Solomon, not Yosef, Aharon, and Shelomoh. We owe it to our authors to add that some of them tried to have their articles exempted from these rules. We ourselves expect some modifications to be made in the future.

We gratefully thank our colleagues for their devoted cooperation: Miss Claire Kelman for her editorial assistance and Mrs. Stella Ettlinger for her technical assistance, including the preparation of the index. Maurice Goldbloom helped in the editing of articles, Moses Jung helped to prepare the Jewish calendars, Mrs. Ruth Gould read proof, and Mrs. Estelle Weinstein helped in the typing of manuscripts and index cards.

The Editors
Contributors

MEIR BEN-HORIN; associate professor of education, Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning; managing editor, Jewish Social Studies; contributing editor, Reconstructionist; author, Max Nordau, Philosopher of Human Solidarity and numerous essays in scholarly and literary journals including the Jewish Quarterly Review, Judaism, and the Educational Forum.

EDGAR BERNSTEIN; assistant editor, South African Jewish Times; South African correspondent, Jewish Telegraphic Agency; author, The Crime of Modern Man: Some aspects of Anti-Semitism; The Legacy of General Smuts.

ERNEST J. BURGER; editor, Sydney Jewish News; freelance writer for several Australian national newspapers and magazines including the Sydney Morning Herald and the Observer.


IVA COHEN; assistant librarian of the American Jewish Committee.

LUCY S. DAWIDOWICZ; researcher on the staff of the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee.

ILYA DIJOUR; director of research and statistics, United HIAS Service; author, Di Moderne Felkerwanderung (also in German); Dix Années d’Emigration Juive (also in Yiddish); Statelessness—The Road to Genocide.

HENRI G. ELFENBEIN; general representative, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Geneva; head, liaison office, United HIAS Service, Geneva; author of works in the field of law and economics.

S. P. GOLDBERG; director of budget research, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

PHILIP JACOBSON; member of the staff of the American Jewish Committee; author of articles on church-state issues in Christian Century and Religious Education; contributor to the 1953 year book of the John Dewey Society, Educational Freedom in an Age of Anxiety.

ABRAHAM S. KARLIKOW; member of staff, Paris office of the American Jewish Committee.

GEORGE KELLMAN; writer, lecturer member of the New York Bar; director, investigative and fact-finding division of the American Jewish Committee.

JOSEPH KISSMAN; research director, Jewish Labor Committee; editor, Facts and Opinions; author, Studies in History of Rumanian Jews, 19th and Beginning of 20th Century; History of the Jewish Labor Movement in Bucovina.

THEODORE LESKES; director, legal division of the American Jewish Committee; member of New York and United States Supreme Court Bars; author of articles on civil rights and civil liberties.

HENRY L. LEVY; national director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee in Algeria.

MISHA LOUVISH; director of publications, Israel government press office; editor, The Israel Digest, Facts About Israel.

LOTTE LOWENTHAL; assistant librarian of the London Observer.

MELCHIOR VAN DE MEEBERG; public-relations expert, journalist, broadcaster; author of articles on economic, agricultural, and social subjects in numerous Dutch and foreign newspapers and weeklies.

DON PERETZ; lecturer in Middle East studies, Vassar College; author of articles on foreign affairs published in Jewish
LOUIS ROSENBERG; research director, bureau of social and economic research, Canadian Jewish Congress; author, Canada's Jews; Canadian Jewish Population Studies; The Jewish Community of Winnipeg; Language and Mother Tongue of Jews in Canada; Canadian editor, Universal Jewish Encyclopedia.

BORIS SAPIR; director, research department of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; author, The Jewish Community in Cuba; Liberman et le Socialisme Prusse; Dostojewsky und Tolstoi ueber Probleme des Rechts.

LEON SHAPIRO; assistant director, department of cultural and educational reconstruction of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; author of studies of contemporary problems in Jewish Social Studies, YIVO Bleter, Zionist Review, American Zionist.

MARC H. TANENBAUM; executive director, Synagogue Council of America; editor, Judaism: Orthodox, Conservative, Reform.

SEFTON D. TEMKIN; lawyer; editor, The Jewish Monthly; lecturer in law and government, Flintshire Technical College; warden, West London Synagogue; secretary, Anglo-Jewish Association; vice president, Inter-University Jewish Federation of Great Britain and Ireland.