The 1990 AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK, the 90th in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

The integration of Jews of Ashkenazi and Sephardi origin in Israel is the focus of a major feature article: "Ethnic Differences Among Israeli Jews: A New Look," by U.O. Schmelz, Sergio DellaPergola, and Uri Avner.

Regular articles covering Jewish life in the United States are "Inter-group Relations," by Earl Raab and Douglas Kahn; "The United States, Israel, and the Middle East," by Kenneth Jacobson; and "Jewish Communal Affairs," by Lawrence Grossman. Updated estimates for the U.S. Jewish population are provided by Barry A. Kosmin and Jeffrey Scheckner.

Jewish life around the world is reported on in a series of articles about Israel, Canada, Australia, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Italy, West Germany, East Germany, the Soviet Union, and various countries of Eastern Europe. Estimates for the world Jewish population are provided by U.O. Schmelz and Sergio DellaPergola.

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This year’s volume features a major study of Ashkenazi and Sephardi Jews in Israel. In “Ethnic Differences Among Israeli Jews: A New Look,” U.O. Schmelz, Sergio DellaPergola, and Uri Avner document demographic and socio-cultural changes that have occurred over the past four decades among Jews of Asian-African and European-American extraction. The authors—leading Israeli demographers—report growing similarity between the two main origin groups in many respects, but with significant gaps in educational attainment at higher levels. In the crucial area of voting behavior, the authors find social class to be a stronger factor in party preference than ethnic background.

The volume also includes Ralph Mandel’s regular article on Israel, this year providing extensive coverage of the intifada and the 1988 elections.

Regular articles on Jewish life in the United States are “Intergroup Relations,” by Earl Raab and Douglas Kahn; Lawrence Grossman’s “Jewish Communal Affairs”; and “The United States, Israel, and the Middle East,” by Kenneth Jacobson. Updated estimates are provided for Jewish population in the United States and in the world.

This year’s reports on Jewish life around the world include articles on Canada, the USSR, Western and Eastern Europe, and Australia.

We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Terry Smith, Diane Hodges, and many colleagues at the American Jewish Committee, especially Cyma M. Horowitz and Michele Anish of the Blaustein Library, and Lotte Zajac.

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