AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK
THE ANNUAL RECORD OF JEWISH CIVILIZATION

THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
The 2003 American Jewish Year Book, the 103rd in the series, continues to offer a unique chronicle of developments in areas of concern to Jews around the world.

This year’s volume features a specially commissioned essay that surveys the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the standpoint of population. Sergio DellaPergola’s “Demographic Trends in Israel and Palestine: Prospects and Policy Implications” reviews the demographic history of Jews and Arabs in the area between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River; delineates the current population distribution in Israel and the territory under the Palestinian Authority; projects future demographic scenarios; and discusses their implications for peace in the region.

Key events in the Jewish world during 2002—such as the ongoing bloodshed in the Middle East, the disturbing rise of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism affecting Jewish communities around the world, and the repercussions of the U.S.-led “war on terrorism”—are covered in the annual reviews of the various countries.

(Continued on back flap)
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.
Volume 103 of the AMERICAN JEWISH YEAR BOOK covers the events of the year 2002. It was a year in which the attentions of world Jewry increasingly centered on events in and around the State of Israel, and their global repercussions.

As the YEAR BOOK article on Israel demonstrates in detail, violence between Palestinians and Israelis continued with little hope of a settlement. In an essay specially commissioned for this volume, the eminent demographer Sergio DellaPergola addresses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from the standpoint of population trends and their implications.

A sharp rise in manifestations of anti-Semitism in many countries—vandalism, physical attacks, verbal abuse, hostile editorials, and biased reporting—was inextricably linked to opposition toward Israel. These disturbing events are carefully described in the YEAR BOOK's regular articles on individual countries.

Yet another way that Israel's importance in Jewish life emerged in 2002 is implicit in the YEAR BOOK's data on world Jewish population—the Jewish state was on the verge of becoming home to the largest Jewish community in the world. American Jewry, meanwhile, argued over the facts of its own demographic profile, as delineated, from different perspectives, in a number of articles in this volume.

Carefully compiled directories of national Jewish organizations, periodicals, and federations and welfare funds, as well as obituaries and religious calendars, round out the 2002 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.

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