

World Jewish Population

New Estimates

THE POPULATION ESTIMATES given below reflect some of the results of a prolonged effort to scientifically study the demography of contemporary world Jewry. Data collection and comparative research have benefited from the collaboration of scholars and institutions in many countries.¹ It should be emphasized, however, that the elaboration of a worldwide set of estimates for the Jewish populations of the various countries is beset with difficulties and uncertainties.

About 95 per cent of world Jewry is concentrated in nine countries with 100,000 or more Jews each. The aggregate of these nine major Jewish population centers virtually determines the assessment of the size of total world Jewry. The estimates for 1980 are based on a 1975 study, which contained a critique of available figures—and, where necessary, revised them—with regard to these major Jewish populations as well as the remainder of world Jewry.² The revised figures have been updated to 1980 in accordance with the intervening changes—natural (i.e., births and deaths), affiliative, and migratory. An overall picture of the estimated demographic evolution between the years 1970 and 1980 is given below.

The elaboration of the 1980 estimates has been handicapped by timing difficulties of two kinds. First, in most of the countries which have census statistics on Jews, the enumerations conducted around 1970 have become out of date, while the new censuses taken around 1980 have not yet yielded their results. Secondly, editorial deadlines have left insufficient time for specific collection of updated information with regard to some countries. Subsequent volumes of the AJYB will not only contain updatings, but also corrections if and when better information becomes available, and backward revisions of figures where appropriate. The reader has been

¹Many of these activities have been carried out by, or in coordination with, the division of Jewish demography and statistics at the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Information on activities for the demographic study of the Jews can be found in the following joint publications of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Jerusalem, and the Institute of Jewish Affairs, London, which were edited by U.O. Schmelz, P. Glikson, and S.J. Gould: *Jewish Population Studies, 1961–1968*, 1970; *Studies in Jewish Demography: Survey for 1969–1971*, 1975; and *Studies in Jewish Demography: Survey for 1972–1980* (in preparation).

²See U.O. Schmelz, *World Jewish Population: Regional Estimates and Projections* (Jerusalem, 1981). An earlier article on this subject was U.O. Schmelz, "Evaluation of Jewish Population Estimates," AJYB, Vol. 70, 1969.

given some information on the quality of the estimate of Jews in each country by an accuracy-rating using a simple scale.

*Jewish Population Trends*³

Diaspora Jews are highly dispersed. In most countries their number is now rather small and they constitute no more than a minute fraction of the entire population. Consequently, though Jews tend to cluster in large cities, they are greatly exposed to assimilation.

The Jews in most countries of the Diaspora are demographically characterized by very low fertility, considerable out-marriage involving losses of children to the Jewish population,⁴ some other assimilatory losses, and great aging. The aging, in turn, reduces the birth rate and raises the death rate. There are differences in the levels of these demographic factors among Jews in various regions and countries of the world. For example, in most regions the existing information points to losses for the Jewish community, because less than half the children of mixed couples are raised as Jews. There is, however, conflicting evidence on this matter with regard to Jews in the United States. Yet, in all the major Diaspora populations the joint balance of the natural and affiliative changes is now close to nil or outrightly negative, e.g., the Jewish deceased outnumber newborn Jews.

With regard to the balance of external migrations, there is no regularity among the various Diaspora populations or even in the same population over time. Where the migratory balance is positive—e.g., in North America—it counteracts or even outweighs the numerically negative influence of internal demographic developments. Where the migratory balance is negative, it may cause, or aggravate, the decrease of a Jewish population. The total number of Diaspora Jews is diminishing because of the negative effect of internal dynamics and, so far, because of the effects of net *aliyah* to Israel.⁵

In contrast, Jews in Israel incur virtually no out-marriages and direct assimilatory losses. Moreover, they have a younger age structure than Diaspora Jews, have positive migration balance, and exhibit a fairly high level of fertility. The previously substantial fertility differentials between Jews in-gathered in Israel from Asia-Africa and Europe-America are no longer in evidence. Remarkably, European Jews have raised their fertility in Israel. In the 1970's both major origin groups among Israel's Jews have displayed a fertility surpassing not only most Diaspora Jewries but also the general populations in the developed countries.

In the overall demographic balance of world Jewry the natural increase of Israel is making up for losses in the Diaspora. (Net *aliyah*, of course, constitutes only an internal transfer within the global Jewish framework.)

³A fuller discussion of this subject can be found in U.O. Schmelz, "Jewish Survival: The Demographic Factors," AJYB, Vol. 81, 1981.

⁴When less than half of the children of the out-married are themselves Jewish.

⁵I.e., immigrants to Israel minus emigrants from the Jewish state.

*Difficulties in Estimating Jewish Population Size in the Diaspora*⁶

Some of the difficulties involved in estimating the size of Jewish Diaspora populations are common to all aspects of the study of Diaspora demography. They are mainly due to the great geographical scattering of Jews; their unusually strong demographic dynamics in many respects—migrations, social mobility, family formation patterns (including out-marriage), etc.; and to lacunae of available demographic information, which is deficient in both quantity and quality.

More specific difficulties in estimating the up-to-date size of Jewish populations are due to conceptual and measurement problems.

When mixed couples and households are not infrequent, it is necessary to distinguish between the "actually Jewish population" and the "enlarged Jewish population." The latter comprises also the non-Jewish household members (spouses, children, etc.) of the Jews. However socially significant the non-Jewish household members (and more distant non-Jewish relatives) of Jews may be, they should not be included in a count of Jews.

An even more vexed problem is affiliative changes among Jews. Under present conditions, there are Jews who have not formally embraced another religion and yet are either very estranged ("marginal") or have even become resolutely alienated from Judaism and the Jewish community and, if questioned, disclaim to be Jews any longer. When a census or survey is taken which inquires into religion or ethnicity, they have an opportunity to define their current status subjectively (official censuses accept self-determination). In estimating Jewish population size it is usual to include as Jews all the "marginal" individuals who have not ceased to be Jews.⁷ On the other hand, some conversions to Judaism are contested between the various ideological trends (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform). In the relevant official censuses, self-determination prevails also with regard to any additional persons who claim to be Jews.

Not a few Jews (like other persons) have some residential status in more than one country.⁸ This may be due to business requirements, professional assignments in foreign countries, climatic differences between countries, migrants staying temporarily in prolonged transit, etc. The danger of double-counting or omissions is inherent in such situations. As far as possible, we have tried to account for such persons only once.

Statistical data from official population censuses are unavailable for most Diaspora Jewries. Even where census statistics on Jews are forthcoming, they tend, because the Jews are a small minority, to be scant.⁹ In some countries serious

⁶Reliable figures are currently forthcoming for the Jews of Israel from official statistics.

⁷Even persons who disclaim at some point to be Jews any longer may change their mind later.

⁸The problem is even more acute with regard to residential status in more than one locality of the same country, but this need not affect the population estimates for entire countries.

⁹There have been, however, instances where detailed tabulations on Jews have been undertaken, through private initiative, from official census material. Examples are Canada, South Africa, and Argentina.

problems exist, or are feared to exist, in the reporting of Jews as such; these problems require statistical evaluation whose feasibility and conclusiveness depend on the relevant information available.

Surveys are the only way of obtaining comprehensive information on Jewish populations in the absence of official censuses. Jewish-sponsored surveys have the additional advantage of being able to inquire into matters of specifically Jewish interest (e.g., Jewish education, observances, and attitudes).¹⁰ However, since they address themselves to a small and scattered minority with identity problems, they are not easy to conduct competently, and may encounter difficulties with regard to both coverage and response, especially with regard to "marginal" Jews. Again these require statistical evaluation.

Many of the estimates of Jewish population for which no solid data from censuses or surveys exist are regrettably of unspecified or dubious source and methodology.

Besides the conceptual and measurement difficulties affecting the figures for a Jewish population at any base date, similar problems recur with regard to the updating information which should account for all the various types of changes in the time elapsed since the base date. For the natural and affiliative changes, age-sex-specific models can be of great use. These may be derived from studying the evolution of the respective or similar Jewish populations. With regard to the migratory balance in any updating interval, concrete information must be gathered, because of the above-mentioned irregularity, over time, in the intensity of many migratory streams.

The Overall Picture

World Jewry is estimated at somewhat over 13 million at the end of 1980.

Tables 1 and 2 show that Diaspora Jewry is estimated to have decreased by about 500,000 (i.e., 5 per cent) in the last decade. Israel's Jewish population has grown by 700,000 (i.e., by more than a quarter). Accordingly, world Jewry as a whole has increased by 200,000 (or 1.6 per cent). About 200,000 of the respective change in the Diaspora and in Israel has been due to net *aliyah*.¹¹

If the last decade is divided into two five-year spans,¹² it is seen that the decrease of the Diaspora accelerated while the growth of Israel's Jews and especially of world Jewry slowed down. The negative balance of natural and affiliative changes in the Diaspora rose markedly—according to our estimation, from approximately 80,000

¹⁰Country-wide surveys have been undertaken in the U.S.A., South Africa, France, Italy, Netherlands, etc. Local surveys have been carried out, notably in U.S. cities, in the United Kingdom, Latin America, Australia, etc.

¹¹See footnote 5 above.

¹²All figures in the tables relate to the end of the respective year. Hence the interval between end of 1975 and end of 1980 comprises the years 1976–1980 (see Table 2).

to 200,000—while net *aliyah* went down considerably from 140,000 to less than 80,000.

TABLE 1. WORLD JEWISH POPULATION, 1970–1980 (ROUGH ESTIMATES)

| | In Thousands | | | Per Cent | | % Change |
|----------|--------------|--------|--------|----------|-------|-----------|
| | 1970 | 1975 | 1980 | 1970 | 1980 | 1970–1980 |
| Diaspora | 10,242 | 10,020 | 9,745 | 79.9 | 74.8 | – 4.8 |
| Israel | 2,582 | 2,959 | 3,283 | 20.1 | 25.2 | + 27.1 |
| World | 12,824 | 12,979 | 13,028 | 100.0 | 100.0 | + 1.6 |

TABLE 2. CHANGES IN WORLD JEWISH POPULATION, 1970–1980 (ROUGH ESTIMATES)

| Type of Change | 1971–1980 | 1971–1975 | | 1976–1980 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------|-----------|
| | | In Thousands | | |
| Diaspora, total change | – 497 | – 222 | – 275 | |
| Natural and affiliative | – 280 | – 82 | – 198 | |
| Net <i>aliyah</i> | – 217 | – 140 | – 77 | |
| Israel, total change | + 701 | + 377 | + 324 | |
| Natural | + 484 | + 237 | + 247 | |
| Net <i>aliyah</i> | + 217 | + 140 | + 77 | |
| World, total change ^a | + 204 | + 155 | + 49 | |

^aI.e., natural change in Diaspora and Israel, affiliative change in Diaspora.

Distribution by Major Regions

Of the total 13,027,900 world Jewish population, 6,492,000 (49.8 per cent) lived in the Americas; 2,969,500 (22.8 per cent) in Europe, including the Asian parts of the USSR and Turkey;¹¹ 3,328,000 (25.5 per cent) in Asia; 164,500 (1.3 per cent) in Africa; and 74,000 (0.6 per cent) in Oceania (see Table 3). With regard to major regions within continents, 5,998,000 Jews lived in Northern America (United States and Canada), and about 494,000 in Central and Southern America; 1,120,000 in Western Europe, and 1,849,000 in Eastern Europe and the Balkans; 3,282,700 in Israel, and about 45,000 in other Asian countries (excluding the Asian territories of the USSR and Turkey); 21,000 in Northern Africa, and 110,000 in Southern Africa.

¹¹The USSR and Turkey have been included in Europe, according to the location of the great majority of their Jewish populations.

TABLE 3. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION, BY CONTINENTS AND MAJOR GEOGRAPHICAL REGIONS, 1980

| Region | Number | Per Cent |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|
| America, Total ^a | 6,491,950 | 49.8 |
| North ^b | 5,998,000 | 46.1 |
| Central | 44,050 | 0.3 |
| South | 449,200 | 3.4 |
| Europe, Total ^a | 2,969,500 | 22.8 |
| West | 1,119,500 | 8.6 |
| East & Balkans ^c | 1,848,500 | 14.2 |
| Asia, Total | 3,327,900 | 25.5 |
| Israel | 3,282,700 | 25.2 |
| Rest ^c | 45,200 | 0.3 |
| Africa, Total | 164,550 | 1.3 |
| North | 21,050 | 0.2 |
| South | 109,550 | 0.8 |
| Rest ^d | 33,950 | 0.3 |
| Oceania | 74,000 | 0.6 |
| World | 13,027,900 | 100.0 |

^aIncluding "Other countries."

^bU.S.A. and Canada.

^cThe Asian territories of USSR and Turkey are included in "East Europe and Balkans."

^dIncluding Ethiopia.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

The detailed estimates of Jewish population distribution in each continent (Tables 4–8 below) refer to residents in countries with at least 100 Jews. A residual estimate of "other" Jews living in smaller communities, or staying temporarily in transit accommodations, supplements the continental total. For each of the reported countries, the four columns in the tables provide the United Nations estimate of mid-year 1979 total population,¹⁴ the estimated end-1980 Jewish population, the proportion of Jews per 1,000 total population, and a rating of accuracy of the Jewish population estimates.

¹⁴These were the latest official estimates available at the time of writing. See United Nations, Department of International Economic and Social Affairs, Statistical Office, *Population and Vital Statistics Report; Data Available as of January 1, 1981*. Statistical Papers, Series A, Vol. XXXIII, No. 1, New York, 1981.

ACCURACY RATING OF JEWISH POPULATION ESTIMATES

There is wide variation in the quality of Jewish population estimates for different countries. For many Diaspora countries it would have been best to indicate a range (minimum-maximum) rather than a definite figure for the number of Jews. It would have been confusing, however, for the reader to be confronted with long lists of ranges; this would also have complicated the regional and world totals. Yet, the figures actually indicated for most of the Diaspora countries should be understood as being the central value of the plausible range. The relative magnitude of this range varies inversely to the accuracy of the estimate.

The three main elements which affect the accuracy of each estimate are the nature of the base data, the recency of the base data, and the method of updating. A simple code, combining these elements, was introduced to provide a general evaluation of the reliability of the Jewish population figures reported in the detailed tables below. The code indicates different ranges of possible error in the reported estimates.

In practice it sufficed to distinguish four principal categories: (A) base figure derived from countrywide census or reliable Jewish population survey; updated on the basis of detailed or partial information on Jewish population movements in intervening period; (B) base figure derived from somewhat less accurate countrywide Jewish population investigation; partial information on population movements in intervening period; (C) base figure derived from less recent sources, and/or partial geographical coverage of Jewish population in country; updating according to demographic information illustrative of regional demographic trends; and (D) base figure essentially conjectural; no reliable updating procedure. In categories (A) and (B) the year for which the principal base figure was obtained is also reported. The time elapsed since that date provides an additional yardstick to assess reliability of data.

THE AMERICAS

The Jewish population in the United States was estimated at 5,690,000. This figure is based on the National Jewish Population Study (NJPS) of 1970–1971, but does not include non-Jewish members of Jewish households (who are included in the detailed U.S. Jewish population estimates reported on pp. 165–177 of this volume). An estimated Jewish population growth of 90,000 since NJPS was essentially due to a positive balance of international migrations with other parts of the Jewish world. The main origins of the immigrants to the U.S.A. were the Soviet Union and Israel.

In Canada the levels of Jewish fertility and immigration are relatively higher than in the United States. The number of Jews in Canada—Jews by religion and ethnic Jews reporting no religion—has continued to grow to an estimated 308,000 (pending the results of the new population census of 1981).

Central America includes Mexico, with an estimated Jewish population of 35,000. Costa Rica and Panama each had about 2,000 Jews.

TABLE 4. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN THE AMERICAS, 1980

| Country | Total Population | Jewish Population | Jews per 1,000 Population | Accuracy Rating |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Canada | 23,690,000 | 308,000 | 13.0 | A 1971 |
| U.S.A. | 220,584,000 | 5,690,000 | 25.8 | B 1970-71 |
| Total Northern America | | 5,998,000 | | |
| Bahamas | 224,000 | 500 | 2.2 | B 1970 |
| Costa Rica | 2,193,000 | 2,500 | 1.1 | C |
| Cuba | 9,775,000 | 1,000 | 0.1 | D |
| Dominican Republic | 5,275,000 | 200 | 0.0 | D |
| El Salvador | 4,435,000 | 350 | 0.1 | C |
| Guatemala | 7,046,000 | 1,100 | 0.2 | C |
| Haiti | 4,919,000 | 150 | 0.0 | D |
| Jamaica | 2,162,000 | 250 | 0.1 | D |
| Mexico | 69,381,000 | 35,000 | 0.5 | C |
| Netherlands Antilles | 260,000 | 700 | 2.7 | C |
| Panama | 1,881,000 | 2,000 | 1.1 | C |
| Trinidad | 1,127,000 | 300 | 0.3 | D |
| Total Central America ^a | | 44,050 | | |
| Argentina | 26,729,000 | 242,000 | 9.1 | B 1960 |
| Bolivia | 5,425,000 | 1,000 | 0.2 | C |
| Brazil | 118,645,000 | 110,000 | 0.9 | B 1960 |
| Chile | 10,917,000 | 25,000 | 2.3 | D |
| Colombia | 26,360,000 | 7,000 | 0.3 | B 1977 |
| Ecuador | 8,146,000 | 1,000 | 0.1 | D |
| Paraguay | 2,973,000 | 700 | 0.2 | C |
| Peru | 17,293,000 | 5,000 | 0.3 | C |
| Surinam | 381,000 | 500 | 1.3 | C |
| Uruguay | 2,878,000 | 40,000 | 13.9 | D |
| Venezuela | 13,515,000 | 17,000 | 1.3 | D |
| Total Southern America ^a | | 449,200 | | |
| Other | | 700 | | |
| Total | | 6,491,950 | | |

^aTotal of countries reported in detail.

Among South American countries, Argentina had the largest Jewish population—242,000—with about 80 per cent thereof in Greater Buenos Aires. This figure records a decline of 68,000 as compared to our evaluation of the results of the 1960 census—the last one in which Jews were reported as a distinct population category. The 1960 estimate of 310,000 for Argentinian Jewry was the result of a thorough analysis of the many data available from censuses and from migratory and vital

statistics. The subsequent decrease is explained by emigration to Israel and to several other countries, and by a negative balance of Jewish births and deaths.

Brazil's Jewish population stood at a rather stable 110,000, thanks to a somewhat positive balance of international migrations. This level has also been assessed according to the evaluated results of censuses and surveys. No reliable figure has been available for Uruguay for a very long time. The number of Jews in provincial localities was estimated at less than 600, but the vast majority lived in Montevideo. A tentative estimate of 40,000 is suggested for Uruguay. There may have been about 25,000 in Chile, which was attracting back some individuals who had left the country in connection with political changes in the early 1970's. The Jewish population was reported to be growing in Venezuela. Our estimate of 17,000 may not take into account some additional persons not permanently settled in the country. About 7,000 Jews lived in Colombia, and 5,000 in Peru. Smaller figures obtained for other South American countries.

EUROPE

The Soviet Union had the largest Jewish population among the European countries (see Table 5). Soviet Jewry at the end of 1980 was estimated at approximately 1,700,000. (See, however, the article on the Soviet Union in this volume for a very different view.) This figure is based on 1,811,000 according to the census of January 1979, allowing for the known figure of 70,000 emigrants in the meantime and a deficit in internal dynamics which is evident from the analysis of, and the comparison between, all three post-World War II censuses of the USSR. The census of 1959 had indicated 2,268,000 Jews, and that of 1970, 2,151,000. The three censuses are consistent among themselves with regard to the number of Jews in the USSR and in its major geographical units, if internal changes as well as migrations are taken into account. For the whole Soviet Union the internal balance has been increasingly negative, as obvious from available data on very strong aging. Between 1959 and 1980 more than a quarter of a million Jews left the Soviet Union. It is possible that additional Jews, besides those reported in the censuses, live in the Soviet Union; but there are no concrete indications whatsoever as to their number. Furthermore, the consistency of the censuses implies consistency also on the part of the persons who disclaimed being Jews, which does not augur well for their own and their children's future Jewishness. Under these circumstances it is best to accept the respective levels of the successive census returns, while recording an explicit reservation as to the possibility of some under-reporting.

The second largest European community was in France, with an estimated 535,000 Jews, about one half thereof in Greater Paris. These figures are based on the socio-demographic survey of the Jews in France, 1972-1978. French Jewish population size was rather stable over the 1970's. A still positive, though much weakened, balance of international migrations was offset by incipient internal population decrease. Extremely rapid fertility decline, and a growing rate of intermarriage, among North African Jewish immigrants stood behind this gradual

TABLE 5. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN EUROPE, 1980

| Country | Total Population | Jewish Population | Jews per 1,000 Population | Accuracy Rating |
|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Austria | 7,506,000 | 8,000 | 1.1 | A 1971 |
| Belgium | 9,848,000 | 33,000 | 3.4 | C |
| Bulgaria | 8,951,000 | 3,500 | 0.4 | B 1965 |
| Czechoslovakia | 15,247,000 | 9,000 | 0.6 | D |
| Denmark | 5,117,000 | 7,000 | 1.4 | C |
| Finland | 4,764,000 | 1,200 | 0.3 | A 1976 |
| France | 53,478,000 | 535,000 | 10.0 | B 1972-78 |
| Germany, East | 16,745,000 | 1,000 | 0.1 | D |
| Germany, West | 61,337,000 | 33,500 | 0.6 | A 1970 |
| Gibraltar | 30,000 | 550 | 18.3 | A 1970 |
| Great Britain | 55,883,000 | 390,000 | 7.0 | C |
| Greece | 9,440,000 | 5,000 | 0.5 | A 1978 |
| Hungary | 10,699,000 | 65,000 | 6.1 | D |
| Ireland | 3,365,000 | 2,000 | 0.6 | B 1971 |
| Italy | 56,909,000 | 32,000 | 0.6 | B 1965 |
| Luxembourg | 363,000 | 750 | 2.1 | A 1971 |
| Netherlands | 14,030,000 | 27,000 | 1.9 | B 1966 |
| Norway | 4,073,000 | 900 | 0.2 | A 1970 |
| Poland | 35,225,000 | 5,000 | 0.1 | D |
| Portugal | 9,866,000 | 600 | 0.1 | C |
| Rumania | 22,048,000 | 33,000 | 1.4 | B 1977-79 |
| Spain | 37,183,000 | 12,000 | 0.3 | D |
| Sweden | 8,294,000 | 15,000 | 1.8 | C |
| Switzerland | 6,330,000 | 21,000 | 3.3 | A 1970 |
| Turkey ^a | 44,236,000 | 22,000 | 0.5 | B 1965 |
| USSR ^a | 264,108,000 | 1,700,000 | 6.4 | B 1979 |
| Yugoslavia | 22,159,000 | 5,000 | 0.2 | B 1971-72 |
| Other | | 1,500 | | |
| Total | | 2,969,500 | | |

^aIncluding Asian regions.

adaptation of total French Jewry to the predominant demographic patterns of the neighboring European communities. The estimate of 390,000 for Great Britain assumes a slow decline since the first half of the 1960's, when an estimate of 410,000 was computed by a partly empirical method. Two thirds of Anglo Jewry lived in Greater London. Of the other Western European countries, four had Jewish populations of similar size: West Germany, 33,500; Belgium, 33,000; Italy, 32,000; and the Netherlands, 27,000. West Germany continued to attract Jewish immigration somewhat above the strongly negative balance of local Jewish births and deaths. In the other countries, too, intrinsic population losses may have been partly compensated

by a positive migration balance. Switzerland kept its 21,000-strong Jewish community, followed by Sweden with 15,000, and Spain with 12,000. This latter figure accounted for some immigration, especially from Argentina, although the size and permanency of the Jewish immigration to Spain could hardly be assessed. There were 8,000 Jews in Austria, 7,000 in Denmark, 2,000 in the Irish Republic, and smaller Jewish communities in other Western European countries.

In the Balkans area, the number of Jews in Turkey (mostly concentrated in Istanbul, but also inclusive of the Asian part of the country) had declined to 22,000, i.e., 16,000 less than reported in the 1965 census. Greece and Yugoslavia each had 5,000 Jews.

Among the remaining East European countries, the largest Jewish community was in Hungary. Its size was tentatively estimated at 65,000, taking into account some natural decrease from earlier estimates. The size of Rumanian Jewry was declining more rapidly, due to the additional factor of emigration. There were about 33,000 Jews in Rumania at the end of 1980; 9,000 were left in Czechoslovakia; 5,000 in Poland; 3,500 in Bulgaria; and 1,000 in East Germany. As far as is known, all East European Jewish populations are much over-aged, which makes for their rapid decrease.

The figure of 1,500 "others" in Europe included emigrant Russian Jews staying only temporarily (mostly in Italy), and expected soon to migrate to an overseas destination.

ASIA

Israel accounted for an overwhelming majority of the Jewish population in Asia (for the growth of Israel's Jews, see Tables 1 and 2 above). Iran's estimate of about 32,000 for 1980 was affected by heavy Jewish emigration following the 1978-1979 political events. Less than 5,000 Jews were left in India, and a similar estimate was suggested for Syria.

AFRICA

Jewish population estimates for African countries reflected quite different trends in various regions of this continent. An estimate of 108,000 for South Africa attempts to reflect Jewish emigration over the last decade. The 1970 census indicated 118,000 Jews; the results of the 1980 census are expected shortly. About 1,500 Jews were left in Zimbabwe. The size of North African Jewry tended to stabilize after very substantial emigration in previous years. There were about 18,000 Jews in Morocco, 2,500 in Tunisia, and altogether less than 1,000 in the other North African countries. The second largest community in Africa was Ethiopia's. Its estimated Jewish population of 32,000 is assumed to have grown to this figure, through natural increase, from 28,000 in 1972 (according to a survey).

TABLE 6. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN ASIA, 1980

| Country | Total Population | Jewish Population | Jews per 1,000 Population | Accuracy Rating |
|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Hong Kong | 4,900,000 | 250 | 0.0 | D |
| India | 650,982,000 | 4,500 | 0.0 | B 1971 |
| Iran | 36,938,000 | 32,000 | 0.9 | C |
| Iraq | 12,767,000 | 200 | 0.0 | D |
| Israel | 3,921,700 ^a | 3,282,700 | 837.1 | A 1980 |
| Japan | 115,870,000 | 700 | 0.0 | D |
| Lebanon | 3,086,000 | 200 | 0.1 | D |
| Philippines | 46,580,000 | 200 | 0.0 | D |
| Singapore | 2,363,000 | 450 | 0.2 | D |
| Syria | 8,328,000 | 4,500 | 0.5 | D |
| Yemen | 5,783,000 | 1,200 | 0.1 | D |
| Other | | 1,000 | | |
| Total | | 3,327,900 | | |

^aEnd 1980.

TABLE 7. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN AFRICA, 1980

| Country | Total Population | Jewish Population | Jews per 1,000 Population | Accuracy Rating |
|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Algeria | 19,129,000 | 300 | 0.0 | D |
| Egypt | 40,983,000 | 250 | 0.0 | D |
| Ethiopia | 30,420,000 | 32,000 | 1.1 | B 1972 |
| Kenya | 15,320,000 | 450 | 0.0 | D |
| Morocco | 19,470,000 | 18,000 | 1.0 | B 1970 |
| South Africa | 28,483,000 | 108,000 | 3.7 | A 1970-74 |
| Tunisia | 6,201,000 | 2,500 | 0.8 | D |
| Zaire | 27,869,000 | 200 | 0.0 | D |
| Zambia | 5,649,000 | 300 | 0.1 | D |
| Zimbabwe | 7,140,000 | 1,550 | 0.2 | C |
| Other | | 1,000 | | |
| Total | | 164,550 | | |

OCEANIA

Australian Jewish population increased through some immigration at the end of the 1970's. Otherwise a decline would have occurred. There were 70,000 Jews in Australia, and 4,000 in New Zealand.

TABLE 8. ESTIMATED JEWISH POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN OCEANIA, 1980

| Country | Total Population | Jewish Population | Jews per 1,000 Population | Accuracy Rating |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Australia | 14,418,000 | 70,000 | 4.9 | A 1971-76 |
| New Zealand | 3,096,000 | 4,000 | 1.3 | A 1971 |
| Total | | 74,000 | | |

Jews per 1,000 Total Population

With the exception of the State of Israel, Jews generally form only a small minority of the total population of their countries of residence. Only five countries had at least ten Jews per 1,000 inhabitants. These were, in descending order of their Jewish population size: United States (25.8); France (10.0); Canada (13.0); Uruguay (13.9); and Gibraltar (18.3). There were 837.1 Jews per 1,000 inhabitants in Israel (excluding the administered territories).

TABLE 9. COUNTRIES WITH LARGEST JEWISH POPULATION (100,000 JEWS AND ABOVE), 1980

| Rank | Country | Jewish Population | % of Total Jewish Population: | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| | | | In the Diaspora | In the World |
| 1 | United States | 5,690,000 | 58.4 | 43.7 |
| 2 | Israel | 3,282,700 | - | 25.2 |
| 3 | Soviet Union | 1,700,000 | 17.4 | 13.1 |
| 4 | France | 535,000 | 5.5 | 4.1 |
| 5 | Great Britain | 390,000 | 4.0 | 3.0 |
| 6 | Canada | 308,000 | 3.2 | 2.4 |
| 7 | Argentina | 242,000 | 2.5 | 1.9 |
| 8 | Brazil | 110,000 | 1.1 | 0.8 |
| 9 | South Africa | 108,000 | 1.1 | 0.8 |
| Total 8 Largest Diaspora Communities | | 9,083,000 | 93.2 | 69.7 |
| Total 9 Largest World Communities | | 12,365,700 | - | 94.9 |

Communities with Largest Jewish Populations

A remarkable feature of world Jewish population distribution is its concentration pattern. In 1980 about 95 per cent of world Jewry lived in the nine largest Jewish population centers, with at least 100,000 Jews each (see Table 9). About 82 per cent lived in three countries (United States, 5,690,000; Israel, 3,282,700; Soviet Union, 1,700,000); the next three countries (France, 535,000; Great Britain, 390,000; Canada, 308,000) accounted together for 9.5 per cent of the world total; and the next three (Argentina, 242,000; Brazil, 110,000; South Africa, 108,000) accounted together for 3.5 per cent of the world total. Not considering Israel, the eight largest Diaspora populations comprised together 93 per cent of total Diaspora Jewry.

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