

## Timeline

1881: March 13, Assassination of Czar Alexander II by Narodnaya Volya; institution of repressive measures against Jews by his son Alexander III (May Laws of May 15, 1882)

1885: November 16–19, Pittsburgh Platform is predicated on German – Jewish “Classical Reform” notions of religion

1892: Founding of the *Arbeter Ring* (Workmen’s Circle) in New York

1897: First Zionist World Congress held in Basel, Switzerland

1897: Founding of the Jewish Labor Bund in Russia

1897: April 22, Founding of *Der Forverts* in New York by Abraham Cahan, Louis Miller and Morris Winchevsky who get pushed out of Socialist Labor Party (SLP) run by Daniel DeLeon. They later migrate to the Social Democracy of America, the Social Democratic Party of America and the Socialist Party of America (Eugene V Debs and Victor Berger)

1889: July 14, The First Congress of the Second International, is held in Paris

1889: More of DeLeon’s opponents (Morris Hillquit) leave the SLP and move eventually to Debs

1891: Jews expelled from Moscow (~5,000 merchants received residency permits)

1903: April 19-20, Kishinev Pogroms; in 1905, October 19-20 a smaller pogrom part of a much larger movement of 600 pogroms that swept the Russian Empire after the October Manifesto of 1905

1907: Founding of the *Di Yunge* writers in New York; 1912 founding of their magazine *Shriftn*

1908: Founding of the *Dos Naye Leben* in New York by Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky which publishes until 1913 and resumes in 1922 with Shmuel Niger for a year.

1909: November 1909, "Uprising of Twenty Thousand" starts with a vote at Cooper Union. Leads to a massive strike including at the Shirtwaist Factory, run mostly by women shirtwaist makers (Clara Lemlich); ends Feb 15, 1910

1910: Nachman Meisel, Dovid Bergelson and Shmeryahu Gorelick found *Der yidisher almanakh*, Kiev

1910: July 7, "The Great Revolt," the Cloakmakers Strike, ILGWU 50,000 male tailors

1910: September 2, Protocols of Peace signed with ILGWU and NY garment manufacturers. Louis Brandeis, Louis Marshall are negotiators with Meyer London representing union workers. Cloakmaker’s Strike ends.

1911: March 25, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire; 146 people die within 20 minutes in an ostensibly fireproof building.

1911: Future JPFO head Rubin Saltzman immigrates to the United States

1912: July 31, the Jewish Socialist Federation affiliates with Socialist Party of America (Debs) as a language federation

1914: August start of WWI; Jewish Left aligned primarily with neutral Socialist Party (Debs)

1916: Dissolution of the Second International in the wake of WWI

1916: June 19, Jacob Schiff (backed by Louis Marshall) refuses to participate in the JP Morgan loan consortium for Czarist Russia

1917: February Revolution (7 March Julian calendar in the U.S.S.R.) Kerensky in charge. March 15, Czar abdicates

1917: April 6, U.S. entry into WWI declaring war on Germany; war on Austria-Hungary declared Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.

1917: April 15, all anti-Jewish restrictions abolished in Russia

1917: April 16, Finland Station becomes famous as the location that Bolshevik Vladimir Lenin arrives at in Russia from exile in Switzerland (paid for by Prussia)

1917: June 15, U.S. Espionage Act

1917: October Revolution in the U.S.S.R., Bolsheviks in power (civil war through 1920 or 22), aka Great October Socialist Revolution, or *Veliky Oktyabr’*

1917: November 2, Balfour Declaration by Great Britain supporting “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”

1917: November 7, Trotsky told Mensheviks “Go where you belong from now on—into the dustbin of history!” as they departed the second All-Russian Congress of Soviets, in St. Petersburg, leading to the victory of the Bolsheviks

1918: January U.S.S.R. *Proletkult* (Organization of Representatives of Proletarian Organizations) founded

1918: January, Nachman Meisel, Dovid Bergelson and Dobrushin found diasporist Culture League, *Kultur Lige*, Kiev

1918: January 8, 14 points speech by President Wilson on war aims and peace terms to the United States Congress

1918: March 3, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk with the Central Powers led to U.S.S.R exit from World War I, ceding the independence of Armenia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia and Poland as released from Russian claims. The U.S.S.R repudiated the Treaty on November 13, 1918 and launched the Western Army due to Germany’s Revolution just preceding its surrender at the end of World War I.

1918: May 16, U.S. Sedition Act (extended 1917 Espionage Act). Repealed 1921

1918: June 16, Debs speech in Canton, Ohio, urging resistance to the military draft of World War I. Arrested June 30th

1918: Summer, founding of Moscow Circle of Yiddish Writers and Artists (MCYWA); 1922 becomes MAYWA

1918: October 16, Congress enacts The United States Immigration Act of 1918, aka Dillingham-Hardwick Act.

1918: October 29, *Komsomol* founded. The All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, aka RKSM, VLKSM. Is the Youth division of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU). Young adult division after graduating from Little Octobrists to Young Pioneers.

1918: Fall, Lenin agrees to the establishment of “Yevsektziyas,” Jewish sections of the Soviet Communist Party to transmit “communist revolution to the Jewish masses”

1918: October 31, collapse of the Ottoman Empire; on August 10, 1920, Treaty of Sèvres signed by Ottoman authorities with Allied occupiers. Turkey emerges as a nation state in 1922 under Kemal Atatürk’s leadership after Turkish War of Independence (supported by U.S.S.R.); Treaty of Lausanne is signed July 24, 1923, and the Republic proclaimed October 29, 1923.

1918: November 11, World War I Armistice signed; November 18<sup>th</sup>, German surrender to Allies.

1918: December, German founding of the Deutsche Kommunistische Partei, DKP, German Communist Party, Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands, KPD in contradistinction with the SPD. [End of October 1918, first revolt breaks out in Germany.] In the 1920s the KPD was identified with Spartacists. Banned by Hitler in 1933.

1919: January, Spartacist Revolt in Germany; January 15, Liebknecht & Luxembourg killed

1919: February–March 1921, Polish Soviet War (Russo-Polish War) ends with Treaty of Riga, 18 March 1921

1919: March 2–6, U.S.S.R. Comintern founded (7 International Congresses; thirteen "Enlarged Plenums")

1919: Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party comes out of the Socialist Propaganda League of America (SPLA)

1919: September, CP founded (as well as CLP). “Prominent members of the SPL joined the new Communist Party of America, which eventually merged with the Communist Labor Party to form first the Workers Party of America and eventually the Communist Party USA.” ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist\\_Propaganda\\_League\\_of\\_America](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Propaganda_League_of_America))

1919: November, Palmer Raids against leftists who are expelled. Continue in January, 1920

1919: June 28, Treaty of Versailles signed at Paris Peace Conference; in force, Jan 10, 1920 with League of Nations

1920: January 16, The Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which forbade "the manufacture, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors," went into effect on. Its enforcement was provided by the National Prohibition Act, popularly known as the Volstead Act,

1920: Start of Jewish Socialist Federation (JSF) Fights

1920: U.S. CP is underground; on and off “boring from within” strategy

1920: April, Split up of the Bund. Esther Frumkin became the leader of “Kombund” (Communist Bund). At the Kombund’s dissolution conference in March 1921 in Moscow, she moved fully to the Jewish section (Yevsektziia) of the Alfarbandishe komunistishe party (All-Union Communist Party, that is to say Bolsheviks)

1920: July-August, Second Party Congress held in Moscow, Lenin's 21 Conditions for International groups. By 1921 there are CP break-off groups in France, Spain, Italy and Belgium

1920: July 10, Publication of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion by Henry Ford in the Dearborn Independent. The first mention of the Protocols appears in the 1920 issue in the seventh installment of its "International Jew" series. Also, in 1920–21 the Independent carried a series of articles expanding on the themes of financial control by Jews. Original Protocols were published in Russia in 1903.

1921: February 26, Reza Khan (Pahlavi), having just overthrown the Persian government, signs a treaty with U.S.S.R. to ensure withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Soviet Republic of Gilan officially ends in September 1921

1921: March, Kronstadt Rebellion in U.S.S.R.

1921: May 19, Emergency Quota Act Congressional Legislation restricting immigration

1921: Spring, NEP (New Economic Policy) in U.S.S.R.

1921: June-July, Third Party Congress held in Moscow; international civil war, revolutionary uprising encouraged

1921: September, Left wing of the Jewish Socialist Federation splits from the Socialist Party

1921: September, Establishment of Jewish Federation of the CP

1922: February 6, Cheka transforms into GPU, a department of the NKVD of the Russian SFSR. Becomes the OGPU, then part of the NKVD as GUGB in different iterations until 1954 when Beria is purged and the KGB begins

1922: April 2, *Freiheit* begins publication in New York, with editors Mosseye (Moshe) Olgin & Shakhne (S.) Epstein (Epshtein) (becomes *Di Morgn Freiheit* [*Frayheit*]). Both were former Bundists as was its later editor, Novick. Epshtein is sent back from Moscow as an editor for the Yiddish communist-affiliated newspaper.

1922: July 24, The draft of the [British] Mandate for Palestine was confirmed by the Council of the League of Nations

1922: November, Fourth Party Congress held in Moscow. Trotsky prominent at Congress. Start of First Period, export of October Revolution even as U.S.S.R. still has civil war and encourages it elsewhere

1923: September 29, British Mandate for Palestine starts (League of Nations confirmation vote July 23, 1922)

1923: May, Lenin's stroke. The Troika: Stalin, Grigory Zinoviev, & Lev Kamenev makes CPSU and Comintern decisions

1924: January XIIIth Party Conference secured a vast majority of seats for Stalin. The Conference, held immediately prior to Lenin's death, denounced Trotsky (Lev Kamenev's brother-in-law who helps oust him by 1925)

1924: January 21, Lenin Dies. Start of the Second Period & New Economic Policy. Stalin wins fight for Comintern and CP "defense of socialism in one country." The defense of socialism by internationalists was the defense of the U.S.S.R..<sup>i</sup>

1924: Johnson-Reed Congressional Legislation further restricting immigration

1924: August, KOMZET (Committee for the Rural Placement of Jewish Workers) founded in Moscow.

1924: *Yunger Arbeter Shreiber Farein* was founded (Moshe Leib Halperin, Alexander Pomerantz) and *Yunge Kuznye* (*Smithy*) Journal (Alexander Pomerantz, Shlome Davidman, Khaim Pet) with Davidman and Pet involved in the *Shreiber Farein* as well; all 3 trained as teachers by the Workmen's Circle Seminary, 1920s immigrants. By issue 3, used Russian ideological Yiddish spelling. Olgin by 1930 forced to deal with them.

1924-1926; Forward and Yiddish Socialist Farband combine to fight Communist influence particularly in ILGWU

1924: December, ICOR [IKOR] (Association for Jewish Colonization in the Soviet Union, *Gezelshaft far Yiddishe Kolonizatyse in Ratn-Farband*) founded in New York City. By 1942, its publication *Neileben* describes ICOR "Association for Information on the Economic, Cultural, and Social Life of the Jews the World Over."

1925: *Artef* (Arbeiter Teater Farband) company founded (with actors from the *Frayheit Studio* by the end of the year)

1925: *Modicut* puppet company founded by Zuni Maud, Yosl Kotler (Cutler). Lasted until 1933.

1926: May, publication of first issue of the revolutionary journal *Der Hamer* and of its English counterpart, the *New Masses*.

1926: 25 May, Symon Petlyura's assassination in Paris by Sholom Schwartzbard

1926: United Jewish People's Order, Founded in Toronto, Canada.

1928: February, 28th. 9th Plenum of the [Soviet] Executive Committee at the Comintern's Sixth World Congress initiated the "Third Period" fight against social fascists until 1934-35

1928: March, Establishment of Birobidzhan as Jewish Autonomous Region in the U.S.S.R. for "working" Jews. New oblast located on the Trans-Siberian Railway as a separate economic unit. ICOR starts working with the Komzet, the Soviet agency facilitating Jewish settlement, and the OZET.

1928: August 27, Kellogg-Briand Pact (Pact of Paris) agreement to outlaw war

1929: Winter, *Freiheit Schreiber Farein* starts (Olgin convenes it from *Union Square* group and *Yung Kuznye*)

1929: May 17, Executive Committee Communist International (ECCI) ordered the removal of Lovestone

1929: *Yung Vilna* formed with Sutzkever, Grade, Kaczerginski, Kahn

1929: August, Riots in Hebron; many leave the *Morgn Freiheit* and other CP organs / groups in the "Great Break"

1929: September 13, *Proletpen*, created to "help boost the Linke's literary output after the Hebron Riot defections" (16). Fellow traveler: *aribergekumene* Moshe Nadir joins party on Sept 14<sup>th</sup>; eventually Raboy, Lee, & Fienberg go back; the rest (Leivick, Reisen) don't

1929: October 29, Wall Street crash marking the start of the Great Depression

1930: May 30, IWO founded as fraternal order at Cooper Union with a Jewish National Section (JPFO 1944 on) after a decade of Arbiter Ring and JSF fights; Harry Schiller (Pres); Reuben Saltzman (Gen Sec), Joseph S. Brodsky (Treasurer), Kalman Marmor (Cultural Director). William Weiner is (Pres) by Jun 1931. Preliminary charter issued April 3, 1930; permanent charter June 19, "since July 1, it has functioned as a fraternal insurance organization. Beginning with the latter date, the national office is responsible for sick and death benefits of members who paid in for the months of May and June." [Daily Worker, Friday, July 18, 1930, p. 3]. Benefits death rates (step, term insurance); medical insurance 35 cents month per family

1930: July 16, IWO chartered and licensed as a fraternal society and insurance provider by the State of NY

1930: Camp Kinderland, previously part of the Workmen's Circle, becomes allied with the IWO.

1930: US CP emerges (somewhat from underground) as an official party

1930: December, in U.S.S.R., the Party closed down the Jewish Section of the Communist Party (Evseksiia)

1931: May, IWO Founding Convention

1932: Saltzman moves from the IWO to head JPFO when Slovak and Hungarian language sections affiliate

1932: November 8, FDR is elected against opponents Republican, President Herbert Hoover and Communist candidate, William Z. Foster

1933: January 30, Hitler becomes chancellor in Germany

1933: March 4, FDR's Inauguration

1933: March 5, Nazi Party elected in Germany

1933: June, IWO 2nd Convention — Chicago

1934: February 27, The American Committee for the Settlement of Jews in Birobidjan (Ambidjan) found in New York City. Merges with ICOR (IKOR) in 1946

1934: May 7 Birobidzhan founded as an oblast in the U.S.S.R for Jews with Yiddish as an official language

1934: August 2, Hitler becomes president in Germany

1935: July 25 - August 20, Seventh (and last) World Party Congress of the Communist International<sup>ii</sup> (Comintern) in Moscow. Fourth Period. Endorses the Popular Front of 1934.

1936: July 18, Spanish Civil War starts with Franco's (Fascist military) revolt. Ends April 1, 1939

1936: First Soviet Purges, The Great Purge or the Great Terror (Russian: Большой террор). Political repression was also against Jews per se (e.g., Trotsky, Esther (Maria) Frumkin, Mandelstam, Babel but also Moshe Kulbak and literary historian Yisroel Tsinberg); *Yezhovshchina* in 1937 continues until 1938-9<sup>iii</sup>

1936: ALP (American Labor Party) is founded as NYC 3rd Party (supplanting Democratic Party) by the more conservative wing of the Socialist Party, whose base was the Jewish labor unions, collaborated with the CP

1937: Founding of the Jewish Workers University in NYC

1937: September 21, Writers invited by Chaim Sloves and others gather in Paris for the World Conference for Yiddish Culture which then founds IKUF *Idisher Kultur Farband aka Alveltiker Yidishe Kultur Farband*. In the US, YKuF is founded: (*Yidishe kultur farband*). *Proletpen*, is phased out in 1938 due to founding of YKuF.

1937: U.S.S.R. purge of Jewish intellectuals (Max Erik, Izi Kharik). By 1938, only Trotsky remains of "Old Leninists"

1937: Fellow travelers in the US, mainly support the Great Purges and trials, e.g., Lillian Hellman, Langston Hughes

1937: IWO Third Convention

1938: March 12, Germany annexed Austria (Anschluss)

1938: April, IWO, 4th Convention, Pittsburgh. Convention of Yiddish Section of IWO held April 27-29th

1938: July 6-15, Évian-les-Bains, France Conference to discuss the "refugee problem"

1938: November 7, Herschel Feibel Grynszpan, a Polish-Jewish refugee born in Germany, assassinated the German diplomat Ernst vom Rath in Paris, which becomes the official excuse for Kristallnacht

1938: November 9-10, antisemitic pogrom throughout Nazi Germany

1938: *Yidishe Kultur* is founded, edited by Nachman Meisel, with Farlag YKuF (Meisel & Marmor as editors). Takes a Popular Front approach and includes Opatoshu, Leyvik, Korn, Molodovsky, Shumitacher and others

1938: *Khurbn Daytshland*, published by Proletpen (with Moshe Nadir poem "daytshtland in noit")

1939: March 15, Czechoslovakia invaded by Nazi Germany

1939: August 23, Hitler & Stalin sign Molotov-Ribbentrop Non-Aggression Pact, aka the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact guaranteeing Russian neutrality. German-Soviet Boundary Treaty of September 28, 1939. Volksdeutch go into Polish German territories. IWO breakoff League Against Fascism and Dictatorship

1939: September 1, Hitler invades Poland starting World War II; September 3, Britain and France declare war on Germany

1939: September-October, HUAC hearings with Earl Browder and Max Bedacht (IWO Gen. Secretary).

1939: September, Polish Bundists Viktor Erlich and Henryk Alter flee to Soviet zone are arrested, then temporarily freed in September 1941 (see JAFCh history); see 1942-1943 for their deaths.

1940: January 27, Writer Isaac Babel dies in prison after being purged by Stalin

1940: April-May, Katyn [Forest] Massacre of Polish AK officers and others by Soviet forces

1940: May 10– Jun 25, France, Belgium and Luxembourg attacked and defeated by German Nazi army

1940: June 14 Eastern Poland is annexed by the U.S.S.R, as well as the Baltic countries, Bessarabia, and Northern Bukovina. The U.S.S.R. inadvertently goes from 3M Soviet Jews to 5M.

1940: June 29, The Smith Act, aka Alien Registration Act, passed to target non-citizens advocating overthrow of U.S. government, was used against a variety of leftists. Legislation forced registration of non-citizens

1940: July, IWO 5<sup>th</sup> National Convention, NYC

1940: August 20, Trotsky (Lev Bronstein) assassinated in Mexico by Ramón Mercader (1 of 3 plots)

1941: March 11, U.S. starts Lend-Lease program for U.K.; extends to the U.S.S.R following Operation Barbarossa

1941: April 2nd, Iraqi, nationalist, pro-German, forces overthrow the government; May 12, the Iraqi government is recognized by the U.S.S.R due to its support of German Axis forces

1941: May 2–31 Anglo-Iraqi War; British forces remain in Iraq until October 26, 1947

1941: June 22, Hitler invades the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa). Soviet policy changes immediately.

1941: July 10, The Jedwabne pogrom (Polish: Pogrom w Jedwabnem)

1941: August 21, founding of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. On August, 24, two dozen Jewish cultural figures at a public rally led by the Yiddish actor and theater director Solomon Mikhoels (1890–1948), issued an international radio appeal to Jews around the world to unite in the struggle against Nazi Germany. An earlier 1941 meeting of "representatives of the Jewish people" held in Moscow was addressed by Solomon Mikhoels, Ilya Ehrenburg, David Bergelson, and others, who called on "our Jewish brethren throughout the world" to come to the aid of the Soviet Union (YIVO Encyclopedia)

1941: August 25 – September 17, Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran (Operation Countenance). Soviet troops leave Iran May, 1946

1941: October, U.S. Begins Lend-Lease program to aid Allies

1941: December 3-4, Polish Bundists Erlich and Alter rearrested

1941: December 7, Pearl Harbor bombing; U.S. enters WWII

1941: December 8, first killing center begins operation (Chelmo). Other 5 concentration camps then set up.

1942: January 1, representatives of 26 nations at war with the Axis powers met in Washington to sign the Declaration of the United Nations endorsing the Atlantic Charter, pledging to use their full resources against the Axis and agreeing not to make a separate peace. 22 other nations signed the next day.

1942: January 20, Wannsee Conference. Planning of final solution with SS and German government. Mass deportations start to Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Majdanek

1942: February, President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 for Japanese internment in the U.S.

1942: April 7, Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC, JAC or EKA) publishes appeal to “Jews throughout the world;” signed by 47 people. May 24 meeting and radio appeal to all Jews to support buying tanks; JAFC publishes journal Eynikayt (June 7, 1942- Nov 20, 1948) in Moscow

1942: July 1–27, First Battle of El Alamein, Rommel defeated by British forces; 23 October – 11 November 1942, Second Battle when Rommel is again defeated by British forces

1942: BZ Goldberg becomes the editor of the U.S. Einikeit (Aynikayt), organ of the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists (already in October 26, 1941 it does its own radio broadcast back to the JAFC)

1942-1943: Polish Bundists Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, died in Soviet prisons (Erlich committed suicide May 14, 1942, in Kuibishev prison; Alter was executed in Kuibishev on February 17, 1943)

1942: August, Publication in NYC of *The Ghetto Speaks*, about Chelmo and the Warsaw Ghetto\*

1942: August 23, Start of Battle of Stalingrad in progression of Eastern Front by Nazi German forces

1942: November, the Soviet government established the “Extraordinary Commission for Investigation of Crimes Perpetrated by the German-Fascist Occupiers and Their Collaborators”

1942: November, the United States State Department confirmed reports to Rabbi Stephen Wise (World Jewish Congress) that the Nazis intended to annihilate all of European Jewry and had already murdered 2 million (reported November 24; Wise holds press conference covered on November 25, 1942 in the Washington Post)

1942: 10 November, German troops occupy Vichy France.

1942: December, 17 [Allied] Joint Declaration by Members of the United Nations by the U.S. and U.K. condemning Nazi Germany’s persecution of Jews read out loud in the British Parliament in response to December 10 letter to Allies, titled “The Mass Extermination of Jews in German Occupied Poland” by Polish government-in-exile, Count Raczynski

1943: January, 23-24 American Jewish Conference (Assembly) convenes in response to Monsky's call from Bnai Brith asking 32 organizations to meet in Pittsburgh. By June efforts to create a larger body more officially commence. JPFO admitted by end of August; by its end of October meeting, the Conference includes 65 organizations

1943: February, Battle of Stalingrad won by U.S.S.R.; turning point on the Eastern Front (started August 23, 1942)

1943: March 9, "We Will Never Die" Ben Hecht pageant plays in Madison Square Garden to audience of 40,000

1943: March, Katyn massacre by Soviet forces of Polish White Army officers and other Polish soldiers and civilians

1943: April 19-30, Anglo American Bermuda Conference (no rescue work or Jews mentioned)

1943: May 16, Warsaw Ghetto annihilated; revolt began April 19

1943: June 11, Himmler orders liquidation of all Polish Jewish ghettos

1943: June 17, Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC) visits the U.S for 4.5 months. July 8 >50,000 people at New York Polo Grounds greet Itzik Feffer and Shlomo (Shloyme) Mikhoels who are welcomed by the Joint Distribution Committee, World Jewish Congress, Mayor LaGuardia, Rabbi Stephen Wise, Albert Einstein, Sholem Asch, and Eddie Cantor. Tour is 7 months *in toto* since they also go to Mexico, Canada and England. US tour raises \$16M.

1943: June, Comintern (1919-1943) Third International dissolved

1943: June 25, Mussolini dismissed by Italian King Victor Emmanuel III

1943: August, Publication in New York City of "Lest We Forget: The Massacre of the Warsaw Ghetto, A Compilation of Reports" by World Jewish Congress

1943: Aug 29-Sept 2, American Jewish Conference now officially established with delegates to the Conference. The JPFO (the Jewish American Section of the IWO) is admitted after August 30, 1943 due to a 9 month campaign to be included as a national Jewish Group by the Conference. This occasions a name change to JPFO, or .א.פ.א. By January 1944, the JPFO is accepted to the Conference's Interim Committee

1943: *Jewish Life* founded (name changes to *Jewish Currents*, 1958)

1943: September 8, Italy joins Allies

1943: October 6, "Rabbis March" on Washington of orthodox rabbis demanding rescue intervention for European Jews and visas (organized by the Bergson Group)

1943: October 30, Moscow Conference with the U.S.S.R., US, Great Britain and China on Atrocities Declaration (no mention of Jews). Includes reference to what will become the United Nations.

1943: November 28 - December 1, the Tehran Conference, U.S.S.R., US, Great Britain. Agreement reached on opening 2<sup>nd</sup> front and the Curzon line secretly agreed to as the future border between U.S.S.R and Poland.

1944: January 22, US War Refugee Board established by executive order from FDR (Morgenthau, Stimson, Hull)

1944: Communist Party becomes the Communist Political Association (Earl Browder)

1944: Feb-March, Emma Lazarus League founded as a separate organization by the Women's Division of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order 4 months before JPFO party convention

1944: April, The third JAFC meeting of "representatives of the Jewish people" in the Soviet Union

1944: May, Dubinsky & Rose found the Liberal Party, in response to Hillman, and to the CP / IWO presence in ALP

1944: June 6, D-Day invasion of Normandy, Second Front is opened in Western Europe

1944: July 2-7, JPFO Convention. IWO 6<sup>th</sup> National Convention. JPFO gets its official name as the JPFO (July 6, Convention Proceedings / Protocol)

1944: July 1 to July 22, Bretton Woods Conference and Agreement

1944: July 31, 60,000 attend American Jewish Conference NYC "rescue" demonstration that include JPFO and Agudath Israel (Orthodox) participation

1944: 1 August – 2 October, Warsaw Uprising

1944: August, Red Army on Polish border near Warsaw and Lodz

1944: August 21 - October 7, The Dumbarton Oaks Conference (the Washington Conversations on International Peace and Security Organization) was an international conference at which the United Nations was formulated and negotiated among international leaders. Moscow Declaration 1943 had reached agreement on replacing League of Nations

1944: September 2nd, Second session of the American Jewish Conference JPFO approved as affiliating organization (November Report shows the JPFO as non-affiliated in August). In response to the Jewish Labor Committee's protest, the Interim Committee issued a statement "The application (of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order) was approved, by the Administrative Committee and then by the Interim Committee, which, on August 1, 1944 by a vote of 20 to 5, recommended to the second session that the organization be admitted, ...the General Committee, after a thorough debate, voted 56 to 10 to sustain the recommendation of the Interim Committee. ...The question was then brought to the plenum, where the recommendation of the General Committee was approved by an overwhelming majority." But JPFO is not represented on the Interim Committee (Saltzman letter of Jan 24, 1945) until February, 1945 (AJC Minutes).

1944: October 7, Dumbarton Oaks Conference, Washington D.C. on founding of United Nations

1944: October 9, Fourth Moscow Conference, Percentages Agreement (spheres of influence) reached between Churchill and Stalin

1944: October 10, Miracle of the Warsaw Ghetto, H. Leivick, play performed by New Jewish Folk Theater

1944: October 12, Nazi troops withdraw from Athens; Nazi Germany's occupation of Greece mainly ends

1944: November 7, FDR re-elected president for fourth and last term

1944: December 3, 1944–January 1945 and 1946–October 16, 1949; Greek Civil War; two stage conflict

1944: December 16, 1944 –January, 25 1945, Battle of the Bulge

1945: January 17, Russian troops finally enter Warsaw

1945: February 4-11, Yalta Conference (Stalin, FDR, Churchill)

1945: February 25, American Jewish Conference's Interim Committee meeting minutes show the JPFO being officially co-opted into that governing body

1945: April 12, FDR dies; Truman becomes president

1945: April 25, UN meets for the first time in San Francisco (through June)

1945: May 7, Surrender of Nazi Germany

1945: May 8, VE (Victory in Europe) Day, or V Day

1945: May, IWO 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Madison Square Garden

1945: July, Potsdam Conference on post-War boundaries with demand for unconditional Japanese Surrender (July 26) (Stalin, Truman, Churchill/Atlee)

1945: August 6, Hiroshima Atomic Bomb; Nagasaki, August 9

1945: August 8, U.S.S.R. enters war against Japan; invades Manchuria; Japanese army surrenders Aug 24<sup>th</sup>

1945: VJ Day, August 14/15, marks official Japan surrender (Sept 2 papers signed)

1945: August til the end of June 1946, *Bricha* figures showed 48,106 refugees that left Poland. An unknown number reached Palestine via *Bricha*, but estimate ranges from 80,000 to 250,000 by the end of 1948 (USHMM)

1945: January, The House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) became a standing (permanent) committee

1945: September 2, official end of World War II with Japan's signing surrender treaty

1945: September 30, Rally for a Jewish Palestine, organized by The American Zionist Emergency Council, Madison Square Garden (Stephen S. Wise and Abba Hillel Silver)

1945: October 24, Founding of the United Nations (UN) in San Francisco

1946: Winter Repatriation of Polish Jews from the Soviet Union picks up; 200,000 people by July 1 when it ends

1946: Winter, Publication of the *Black Book: The Nazi Crime against the Jewish People* in the U.S. by the Jewish Black Book Committee (the Soviet edition by Grossman and Ehrenburg was eventually destroyed by 1948). The



American version of the Black Book was jointly published by the Black Book Committee comprised of the American Committee of Jewish Artists; Writers and Scientists (CAWS); The World Jewish Congress; The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the USSR (JAFCS); and the Vaad Leumi of Palestine.

1946: March 5, Winston Churchill gives Iron Curtain Speech

1946: March 16-17, Legal seriousness of the warning on the Order's fraternal activities conveyed to the Order's General Counsel [Lee Pressman] at a two-day meeting with the New York State Insurance Department.

1946: March 21, "Loyalty Order" (Executive Order 9835) seen as start of Red Scare (Truman requires a government job oath attesting to not belonging or having belonged to the CP)

1946: March 27, Madison Square Garden meeting officially launching the publication of the Black Book

1946: July 4, Kielce pogrom, Poland

1947: January 19, Parliamentary elections held in Poland; the Communist PPR (Polish Workers Party) under Wladyslaw Gomulka wins with Soviet support

1947: March 12, announcement of Truman Doctrine

1947: May 14, the U.S.S.R.'s UN Representative Andrei Gromyko advocated the one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He stipulated that a two-state solution was an option if "relations between the Jewish and Arab populations of Palestine... proved to be so bad that it would be impossible to reconcile them".

1947: June 12-19, IWO 7th Convention — New York City

1947: July 26, Truman signs the National Security Act of 1947 to establish the CIA

1947: June 12-19, IWO Convention; JPFO Convention. 7th Convention New York City, 1947

1947: June 23, Taft-Hartley Act against striking unions (Labor Management Relations Act)

1947: October 5, postwar creation of international "Cominform" ("Communist Information Bureau")

1947: October 27-30, Hollywood Ten trials (HUAC) (5 are Jewish); by November 24, they are held to be in contempt of Congress.

1947: November 15-16, Emma Lazarus Division (ELD) first national convention

1947: November, 24, Red List. Tom Clark, Attorney General includes IWO as a "subversive organization", AGLOSO December 5, 1947. List created due to Federal Loyalty program (Truman Executive Order 9835) was formally published in March, 1948 and included all IWO affiliates.

1947: November 29, U.N. vote for the partition of Palestine, creating a Jewish and Arab state

1947: December 5, U.S. declares an arms embargo on the Middle East including Palestine

1948: January 12-13, Assassination of Solomon (Shloyme) Mikhoels (Michoels)

1948: IWO loses its tax-exempt status as a fraternal organization

1948: February 25, Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia

1948: March 18, Truman met Weizmann at the White House and tentatively pledged support for partition rather than trusteeship

1948: April 3, Marshall Plan signed (European Recovery Program, ERP or Economic Cooperation Act) by Truman for Europe

1948: April 19, fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

1948: May 14, Declaration of the founding of the State of Israel (Israeli Independence Day celebrated)

1948: June 24 to May 12, 1949, Berlin Blockade

1948: June 25, Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, authorizing 200,000 DPs. Congress amended the bill with the DP Act of 1950. By 1952, over 80,000 Jewish DPs immigrated to the United States with the aid of Jewish agencies.

1948: June 28, SFR Yugoslavia expelled from the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) due to Tito-Stalin split

1948: October 4, Golda Meir visit to Moscow draws 50,000 greeters at main synagogue

1948: November 2, Truman wins election against Dewey

1948: November 20, Liquidation of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC) in the Soviet Union; last issue of journal, *Eynikayt* [*Einikait*] published: JAFC arrests take place June 1948, December 1948, Jan 1949, and June 1949

1948: December 15, the Superintendent of New York State's Department of Insurance authorizes an investigation into the IWO's fraternal (political) activities

1949: January, Start of Stalin's "rootless cosmopolitans" campaign in the Soviet Union

1949: January 25, James Haley files financial report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Department's Mutual and Fraternal Bureau. Haley asked earlier that month to start reviewing the IWO fraternal (political) activities.

1949: August 29, U.S.S.R. explodes atomic bomb

1949: Smith Act trials against CP leadership start (some of whom are Jews). After 10 month trial, 11 convicted on October 14 in New York. The Dennis Trials last to 1958: membership in the CPUSA was judged tantamount to advocating violent overthrow of the US government. Verdict is upheld on August 1, 1950 by Judge Learned Hand in an appeal to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

1949: November, American Jewish Congress moved to expel JPFO (Executive Director 1945-1956, David Petegorsky)

1950: January 15, James Haley files fraternal (political) report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Commissioner; the report is verified (approved) on April 21, 1950. The report concludes that the IWO is a "recruiting and propaganda unit for the Communist Party." It also concludes that the IWO "constitutes a hazard to the public."

1950: March 22, decided against IWO, *International Workers Order, Inc., et al. v. McGrath et al*, 182 F.2d 368 (D.C. Cir. 1950). US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit - 182 F.2d 368 (D.C. Cir. 1950). Argued December 5, 1949. (Lee Pressman, and Mr. Allan R. Rosenberg, Washington, D. C., on the brief, for appellants.)

1950: May 18, Haley fraternal (political) report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Commissioner is given to IWO

1950: May 20, IWO and JPFO hold 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration in Madison Square Garden

1950: June 8, IWO files list of 23 exceptions to the Haley Report with the New York State Insurance Commissioner, -

1950: June 23, IWO General Council decides to convene Eight National Convention in early 1951 [this is explicitly prohibited by Jude Greenberg's June 25, 1951 ruling against the IWO]

1950: June 24, Korean War starts

1950: July 17, IWO member Julius Rosenberg arrested while shaving; August 11, 1950: Ethel Rosenberg arrested

1950: Summer, INS presents deportation case against Andrew Dmytryshyn on the grounds that he was an IWO member (although he admitted to being a CP member that was not the charge).

1950: Summer, US enters war with North Korea

1950: September 22, McCarran Act (Internal Security Act, 64 Stat. 987 (Public Law 81-831), aka Subversive Activities Control Act of 1950 and Emergency Detention of 1950) requires registration of US Communist organizations.

1950: October 16, Donner and Kinnoy brief "Brief in Support of Motion to Strike the Examiner's Report" addressed to hearing officer Manual Lee Robbins, Deputy Superintendent of Insurance with motion for dismissal.

1950: December 14, Deputy Superintendent Robbins of the New York State Insurance Department issued his hearing report and moved to liquidate the Order on the grounds that its significant cash reserves of \$2M — far beyond what commercial insurers were required to maintain — could, in the event of war with the Soviet Union, be turned over to the enemy.

1951: January 20-21<sup>st</sup> Emma Lazarus Division legally becomes the independent Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women's Clubs (ELF). At the Third National Convention of the Emma Lazarus Division of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order-IWO (ELD-JPFO), members voted to split away from the parent organization (JPFO).

1951: January 22nd, start of the New York State Supreme Court bench trial 60 Centre Street to liquidate the IWO

1951: March 6, Rosenberg trial begins; March 29<sup>th</sup> Rosenbergs convicted of espionage; April 5th sentenced to death

1951: March 19, 21, JPFO lodges instructed to remit cemetery payments directly to IWO Cemetery Department, Inc.

1951: March 26-30th, Rubin Saltzman's five full days of court testimony on IWO activities includes taking the Fifth

1951: April, the "IWO Cemetery Department, Inc." moves to a separate office and dissolves its administrative connection with the IWO upon advice of counsel

1951: June 25, New York Supreme Court by Judge Henry Clay Greenberg decision affirms IWO liquidation order.

1951: July 25, New York State Department of Insurance requests all records from JPFO and affiliated organizations

1951: August 24, issues order for the New York State Department of Insurance to "take possession of the property and to liquidate the business and dissolving the corporate existence of the International Workers Order."

1951: October 16, Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss Proceedings Before the New York State Department of Insurance in the Matter of International Workers Order is submitted by Donner and Kinoy

1951: The Slansky Affair, involved the arrest in 1951 of Rudolph Slansky, the highest-ranking Jew in the CP who was number two in Czechoslovakia by 1948. After purges, he was arrested with 13 others, 11 of whom were Jewish. Prague Trial was held, November, 1952. 11 were executed December 3, 1952.

1952: June 27, The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (The McCarran-Walter Act). Reinforced 1924 quotas.

1952: June 30, decided against IWO. Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, First Department, 280 App. Div. 517 (N.Y. App. Div. 1952). "The order appealed from as resettled, entered August 24, 1951, should be affirmed, with costs. The appeals from the order entered June 28, 1951, should be dismissed as academic."

1952: Adult vacation camp Nitgedagit is closed down and abandoned.

1952: August 12: Night of the Murdered Poets: הרוגי מלכות פונעם ראטנפארבאנד. Trials in spring-summer, 1952

1952: November 1, United States tests first hydrogen bomb

1952: November 4, Eisenhower elected president beating Adlai Stevenson

1952-3: Doctors Plot trials begin in the Soviet Union and spread to Eastern Bloc. The defendants, many of whom were Jewish, were accused of poisoning party officials; the accusations accompanied a broader anti-Jewish campaign including a January 13, 1953 Pravda article.

1953: January, Louis Harap, "Truth About the Prague Trial," editorial, *Jewish Currents* (formerly Jewish Life) supports Slansky Trial in Czechoslovakia

1953: February, U.S.S.R. breaks off relations with Israel

1953: March 5, Stalin dies. JAFC relatives are then informed of the 1948 arrests of JAFC members but not of their deaths

1953: May, Attorney General Brownell asks that the IWO register with the Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB) as a "communist front," a McCarran Act registration order action that would affect all past members

1953: Rosenberg v. United States appeal goes to the Supreme Court. Argued: June 18. Decided: June 19<sup>th</sup>

1953: June 21, Funeral of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; executed on June 19<sup>th</sup>

1953: July 27, Korean War ends

1953: June 17, uprising in East Germany (GDR) results in no reparations to Poland

1953: August 12, U.S.S.R. tests first hydrogen bomb.

1953: October 19, Supreme Court upholds verdict against IWO on appeal. IWO and Intervenors filed Petitions for Granting the Writ of [Certiorari] on constitutional grounds (July 18, 1953); New York State filed a Brief for Respondent in Opposition (September 17, 1953)

1953: November 13, IWO and Intervenors filed Petitions for Rehearing with Supreme Court; Denied December 7th

1953: December 15, IWO dissolved [liquidated]; joint control by the Department of Insurance and the IWO stops and the State owns IWO's assets.

1954: Expulsion of the Jewish Music Alliance (YKUF) from the Jewish Music Council (driven by Lucy Dawidowicz)

1954: The JPFO spins off its Shule, Camp Kinderland and Cemetery Departments into independent organizations. Itche Goldberg pulls the *Ordn Shuln* out of JPFO as the Independent Service Bureau for Jewish Education. Jewish Cultural Clubs obtained separate legal identities for Kinderland, the IWO Cemetery Department, Shules, and the journal *Yidishe Kultur*. [The Jewish People's Fraternal Order reconstituted itself in a much weakened form as the Jewish Cultural Clubs and Societies without the IWO JPFO mutual benefit insurance component.]

1954: IWO legally disbanded

1954: August 28, The Communist Control Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Dwight Eisenhower on August 24. The law outlawed the Communist Party USA (it was declared "not entitled to any of the rights, privileges, and immunities attendant upon legal bodies") and made membership or support for the Party and its related organizations a crime.

1954: November, U.S. Court of Appeals cancels Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB) McCarran Act registration order against IWO that would affect all past members

1955: July 8, Russell-Einstein Manifesto which warned against the nuclear arms race, Joseph Rotblat signatory

1955: November 22, Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. closed the case against the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee JAFC, JAC), Yevreysky antifashistsky komitet, EAK

1956: February 25, Khrushchev revelations about Stalin "cult of personality" & 1937-9 purges at the 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress. JAFC relatives told of their death

1956: 4 April, Polish *Folks-Shtime* (Hersh Smolar) publishes article asking about suppression of Soviet Jewish culture Article reprinted in *Di Morgn Freiheit* on April 11, and then translated to appear in the JPFO magazine *Jewish Life*

1956: June, "Review and Reappraisal" editorial, *Jewish Currents* (then *Jewish Life*)

1956: October first wave of official antisemitism in Poland, under Władysław Gomułka's new leadership

1956: November 4, Soviet Union invades Hungary to quell Hungarian revolt which started in October

1957: *Yidishe Kultur* remembers Night of Murdered Poets

1958: *Jewish Life* becomes renamed *Jewish Currents*.

1958: June 11, David Bergelson Workmen's Circle branch founded by Alexander Pomerantz (former JPFO, CP)

1961: Aron Vergelis founds newspaper "Sovetishe Heimland" 1961 as editor in chief

1964: Itche Goldberg takes over *Yidishe Kultur* from Nachman Meisel

1967: June, Israeli Six Day War

1968: March, Gomułka regime in Poland attacks "Zionist Fifth Column;" purge of Jews from government positions

1971: Camp Kinderland in Hopewell Junction sold to Workmen's Circle. In 1976 Kinderland purchased property in Tolland, Massachusetts and re-incorporated in NY state with offices at 1 Union Square in Manhattan.

1976: *Frei Arbeiter Shtime* (Anarchist) ceases publication

1988: September 11, *Morgn Freiheit* (*Frayhayt*) ceases publication

1989: June 15, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev announces end of Cold War

2004: *Yidishe Kultur* edited by Itche Goldberg ceased publication

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<sup>i</sup> "An internationalist is one who is ready to defend the USSR without reservation, without wavering, unconditionally; for the USSR it is the base of the world revolutionary movement, and this revolutionary movement cannot be defended and promoted without defending the USSR." *Stalin's*

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*January 1926 article On the Issues of Leninism,*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist\\_International#Founding\\_Congress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_International#Founding_Congress)

<sup>ii</sup> “At the Comintern’s seventh and last congress in 1935, Soviet national interests dictated a new policy shift: in order to gain the favour of potential allies against Germany, revolutionary ardour was dampened, and the defeat of fascism was declared the primary goal of the Comintern. Now communists were to join with moderate socialist and liberal groups in “popular fronts” against fascism” <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Third-International>

<sup>iii</sup> For some prominent communists such as [Bertram Wolfe](#), [Jay Lovestone](#), [Arthur Koestler](#), and [Heinrich Brandler](#), the [1938] Bukharin trial marked their final break with communism, and even turned the first three into fervent anti-Communists eventually (wikipedia)

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