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DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * UN Security Council Resolution 242, the widely accepted basis for any future settlement of the conflict in the Middle East, states clearly "the necessity for a just settlement of the refugee problem" as an essential precondition for the establishment of a "just and lasting peace." It specifically refers to the "refugee problem" and not to the "Arab refugee problem". This formulation resulted from intensive negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union - the latter pressing for the more restrictive formula...
- * The Working Paper agreed upon between Israel and the United States on October 5, 1977, states: "The solution of the problem of the Arab refugees and the Jewish refugees will be in accordance with terms to be agreed upon..."
- * Following this agreement, President Carter announced in a press conference on October 27, 1977: "Well, the Palestinians have rights... Obviously, there are Jewish refugees also... They have the same rights as others do..."
- * In the Framework Agreement for Peace signed at Camp David on September 17, 1978, it was stated that "a Claim Committee may be established for the mutual settlement of all financial claims."
- * On February 7, 1979, then-Prime Minister Mr. Menachem Begin, declared from the rostrum of the Knesset: "The issue of Jewish property expropriated in Arab states, and not just in one state, has been and will be raised in all our talks. It was also brought up in our negotiations with the Egyptians, when we agreed that a Claim Committee would be established and each one of the parties would submit its claims, and in due course we shall raise the claim that the property unlawfully taken away from them be returned to its owners..."
- * Article 8 of the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty states: "The parties agree to establish a Claim Committee for the mutual settlement of all financial claims".
- * On June 15, 1982, a question was raised by then-Minister and Member of Knesset Mordechai Ben-Porat, as to the status of property claims of Jewish immigrants from Arab countries living in Israel and abroad.

./..

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The question was addressed to Minister of Justice Moshe Nessim, whose Ministry has been compiling documented evidence of those claims...

*

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * In their preparatory Convention held in Paris on the 24th of November, 1975, the Jews from Arab countries established W O J A C - the World Organization of Jews from Arab Countries - an international, independent, non-governmental, non-profit organization, under the dynamic joint chairmanship of Mr. Leon Tamman of England and Mr. Mordechai Ben-Porat of Israel.

Additional institutions of WOJAC are:

- The World Executive;
- The Israeli Executive and the Israeli Board;
- The Israel Council;
- Chapters in the United States and Europe.

*

- * WOJAC has been established with the view of achieving the following objective:

1. To represent the personal and collective claims of Jews from eight Arab states against their respective governments;
2. To rescue the Jews still remaining in Arab lands from their distress and ensure that their human and civil rights in their countries of residence be safeguarded;
3. To draw the world's attention to:
 - a) The true facts, which have hitherto been distorted or overlooked, and the too-long neglected problem of the Jews who left Arab countries as refugees and their legitimate rights;
 - b) The fact that a *de facto* exchange of population occurred in the Middle East in 1948, and that recognition of this fact constitute a major contribution towards a solution of the refugee problem of the region.

*

הארגון העולמי של יהודים יוצאי ארצות ערב
المنظمة العالمية لليهود النازحين من البلدان العربية
WOJAC
WORLD ORGANIZATION OF JEWS FROM ARAB COUNTRIES
ORGANISATION MONDIALE DES JUIFS ORIGINAIRES DES PAYS ARABES

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THE CASE OF THE JEWS
FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

Facts and Statements
1986

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * There has been an uninterrupted presence of Jewish communities in the Middle East since the Assyrian and Babylonian exiles in the Eighth and Sixth Centuries BCE - 1,000 years before the Arab invasion of the Land of Israel, and more than 2,500 years before the birth of the modern Arab states...
- * Except for very short periods, Jews have been persecuted and discriminated against by the Arabs ever since the rise of Islam in the Seventh Century AD. They were never considered equal citizens; they were compelled to live in segregated quarters, and they were forced to embrace Islam or pay the "Jizya" - a humiliating protection tax. Despite these adverse conditions, the Jews residing in Arab lands have been able to contribute significantly to the economic, social and cultural development of their countries of residence...

./..

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * In the wake of the 20th Century, political developments - notably, the establishment of independent Arab states and the rebirth of sovereign Israel - persecution of the Jews was intensified. They were deprived of their elementary human rights, their property was confiscated, their citizenship revoked, pogroms were organized against them with the tacit consent of the authorities. They were expelled *en masse* or, to save their lives, were compelled to flee, leaving behind incalculable personal and communal wealth and forfeiting their rightful share in the natural resources of their native land...
- * Out of some 850,000 Jews who lived in the Arab countries until 1948, only a few thousand have remained. In many cases, notably in Syria and Yemen, they are not permitted to emigrate and have, in fact, been turned into political hostages...
- * Unlike Jews in Arab countries, Palestinian Arabs were neither expelled nor forced to leave. Their majority left Israel of their own free will - as has many times been ascertained, by Arab sources among others - having been instigated by their leaders to take flight in order to clear the way for the Arab armies which invaded the newborn State of Israel in 1948...
- * The 160,000 Palestinian Arabs who did not heed their leaders' call and remained in Israel were granted full citizenship, and they and their descendants - who number at present over 740,000 within the 1967 borders, including East Jerusalem - enjoy today the highest standard of living in the Middle East...
- * Unlike the Jews from Arab countries, most of the Palestinian Arabs were immigrants who came to Palestine in this century from the countries of the region, attracted by the better job opportunities and the higher standard of living created by Jewish development of Palestine. Their material state in Palestine was, therefore, limited (compared to that of many Jews in Arab lands) - all the more so, as most of the Palestinian Arabs were not landowners but sharecroppers, hired labourers or professional people...

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * In the *de facto* Exchange of population which has taken place in the Middle East since 1948, it was the Jewish side that suffered the heavier damage: The number of Jews expelled from Arab countries exceeds the number of Palestinian Arabs who left the State of Israel; the Jews who constituted in 1948 1.5% of the total population of the Arab lands in which they had been living, evacuated approximately 100,000 Sq.Kms. - five times the territory of Israel prior to the Six-Day War. The private and communal property they left behind surpasses many times the possessions left by the Arabs in Israel - as do their social losses and the religious treasures and facilities the Jews were compelled to leave behind...
- * About one and a half million out of the 4,400,000 constituting Israel's Jewish population today have come from Arab countries, while the Arabs who left Israel constitute less than 2% of the total Arab population in the area. Even so, the Jewish refugees were - in spite of tremendous difficulties, especially in the early years of Israel's independence - economically and socially absorbed and given a secure haven in the State of Israel, whereas the Arab refugees were deliberately herded into refugee camps, devoid of minimal conditions for decent life, so that they might become a political and propaganda tool in the hands of the Arab governments in their relentless fight against the very existence of the State of Israel...
- * Jewish refugees received no financial support whatsoever from the international community: Their absorption was financed by the Israel Government and by their Jewish brethren in Israel and abroad...
- * Arab refugees, on the other hand, were left to the sole responsibility of the United Nations, whose agencies - primarily, the United Nations Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) - have spent almost two and a half million Dollars from May 1950 until 1985 on their maintenance. All the 22 independent Arab states contributed less than 5% of this amount, while their revenue from oil during that period reached hundreds of billions of Dollars...

DID YOU KNOW THAT...?

- * During that same period, the Government of Israel contributed to UNRWA for the support of the Arab refugees a sum which is over a 1/3 more than the total contribution of oil-rich Kuwait, over 3/4 more than the contribution of Egypt, more than twice the contribution of Jordan, 3²/₃ times that of Syria and more than 7 times the contribution of Iraq...!
- * Simultaneously with its contribution to UNRWA, the State of Israel has spent considerable sums since the Six-Day War on education services, housing, medical care and social welfare services as direct aid to the Palestinian refugees in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, amounting approximately to \$75 million Dollars in the past three years alone...
- * On the 1st of August, 1982, the Israel Government set up a Ministerial Committee, headed by then-Minister Mordechai Ben-Porat and charged with drawing up principles, ways and methods for the solution of the refugee problem in the Middle East through their resettlement and rehabilitation in their present countries of residence. The activity of the Committee embraced: On the political level, the demand that the Arab states accept and absorb the refugees living on their soil, thus paralleling Israel's absorption of the Jewish refugees from Arab lands; and on the practical level, the support of the programme for the social and economic rehabilitation of the refugees living under Israel's control in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip, thus helping to solve this painful humanitarian problem...
- * Needless to say that all these facts and figures have been well suppressed and silenced by hostile Arab propaganda which has succeeded in establishing the concept of the "legitimate rights of the Palestinians" in the organs of world public opinion; in spite of it, however, the international community is beginning to recognize the fact that the Jewish refugees from Arab countries have no less legitimate rights, and that these rights should be fully acknowledged and restored...

THE JEWS OF ARAB LANDS

Illustrated Edition

Their history in maps



by Martin Gilbert

Acknowledgments

I am most grateful to the Board of Deputies of British Jews, for their decision to produce an illustrated edition of this Atlas, and in particular to Paul Shaw, for his encouragement, and for his help in selecting the illustrations. I should also like to thank all the copyright holders, publishers, and authors for material reproduced in this volume.

I am also extremely grateful to all those who have provided specific factual information for this Atlas, and in particular to Dr. Maurice Roumani, Helene Korn and Deborah Goldman, Bat Yeor and David Littman. I am also grateful to Terence Prittie and Rosemary Webber, both of whom helped to augment the sources at my disposal. I should also like to thank the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, for sending me important statistical material. Although each of the maps in this Atlas has been specially drawn and prepared, and has not been published before in its present form, I have also made full use of the researches which I did for two of my previous Atlases, the *Jewish History Atlas* (first published in 1968) and the *Arab-Israeli Conflict, Its History in Maps* (first published in 1974). For the design and cartography of the maps, I am indebted once more to the expertise and patience of T. A. Bicknell, the British cartographer. As with each of my seven previous Atlases, I should of course welcome any suggestions for new maps, extra material, amendments and corrections.

Martin Gilbert
Merton College
Oxford

3 March 1976

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THE JEWS OF THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE ARAB CONQUEST



For more than three thousand years Jews lived in the principal towns of the Eastern Mediterranean. The longest single overlordship of the area was that of Rome (677 years). Jewish rule in Judaea and Samaria in ancient times lasted a total of 641 years. Other rulers of the area included the Arabs (447 years), the Ottoman Turks (401 years) and the Crusaders (192 years)

Make war upon those who have been given scripture... until they pay the tribute readily, having been brought low
KORAN, SURA N99, 29

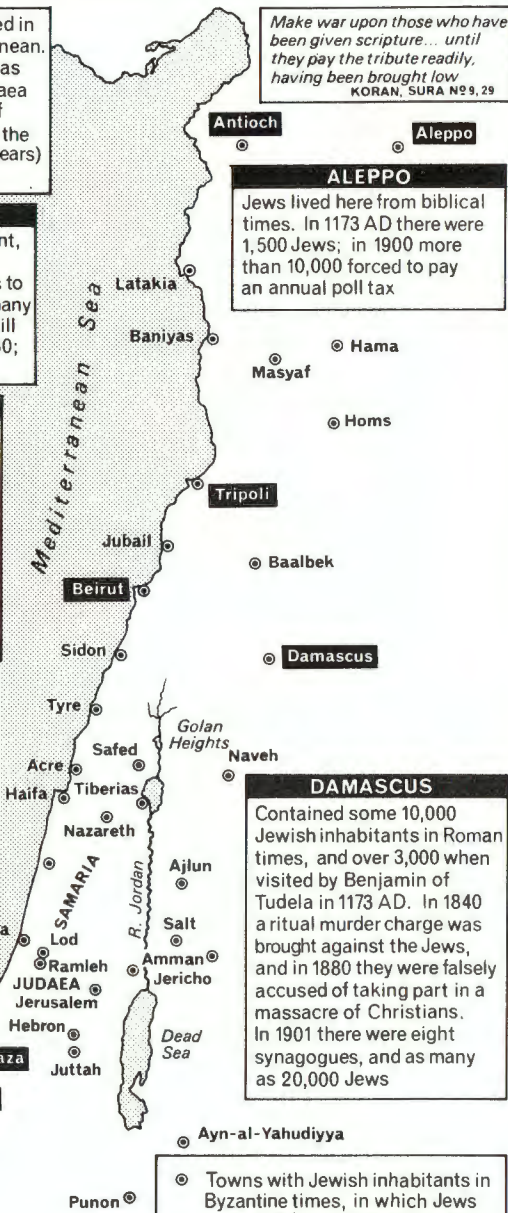
ANTIOCH
In Roman times, a centre of Jewish settlement, whose Jews were granted equal citizenship rights with Greeks. In 600 AD, after attempts to forcible conversion, the Jews rebelled, and many were killed. In 1171 only 10 Jewish families still remained; in 1750 about 40; in 1894 about 80; in 1928 about 10

TRIPOLI
At the time of the Arab conquest, the Arab Governor established a garrison of Jewish troops to guard the town against Byzantine attack. Early in the 11th century Jews were persecuted, their synagogue turned into a mosque, and several houses destroyed. In the 16th century Jewish refugees from Spain settled and prospered. Early in the 17th century there were further persecutions and many Jews fled. In 1939 there were only four Jewish families left

BEIRUT
In 500 AD there was a flourishing Jewish community, but in 1173 Benjamin of Tudela found only 50 Jews. In 1889 there were 1,500 Jews out of a total population of 20,000, in 1913 5,000 out of 150,000

GAZA
Some Jews settled here in Talmudic times. In 1481 AD Meshullam of Volterra found 60 Jewish householders. From 1600-1799 the Jewish community flourished, but in 1799 it fled the city on the eve of Napoleon's arrival. Resettled in the 1880's, some 90 Jews were recorded in 1903

RAFAH
A flourishing Jewish community lived here both before and after the Arab conquest, but in 1080 AD the Jews were driven out after nearly a thousand years of continuous settlement



ALEPPO
Jews lived here from biblical times. In 1173 AD there were 1,500 Jews; in 1900 more than 10,000 forced to pay an annual poll tax

DAMASCUS
Contained some 10,000 Jewish inhabitants in Roman times, and over 3,000 when visited by Benjamin of Tudela in 1173 AD. In 1840 a ritual murder charge was brought against the Jews, and in 1880 they were falsely accused of taking part in a massacre of Christians. In 1901 there were eight synagogues, and as many as 20,000 Jews

○ Towns with Jewish inhabitants in Byzantine times, in which Jews were still living both before and after the Arab conquest in the seventh century AD



Plate 2. A woodcut of 1590, printed in Venice, showing a Syrian Jewess. According to the author all Jewish women wore a tall coiffeur covered by a silk veil with a silk band underneath, cunningly arranged to cover the hair.



Plate 3. A photograph, taken in 1873, of a Jewess from Aleppo. Having cut off her hair after marriage, this Jewess followed the Aleppo custom of wearing a hat, or mitre, of striped silk to which is attached a trimming of false hair in long tresses.



Plate 4. Jews of Beirut, an engraving of 1880, printed in L. Lortet, *La Syrie d'aujourd'hui. Voyages dans La Phenicie, Le Liban et La Judée, 1875-1880*, published in Paris in 1884.



Plate 5.
A nineteenth century Hanuka lamp from Baghdad.

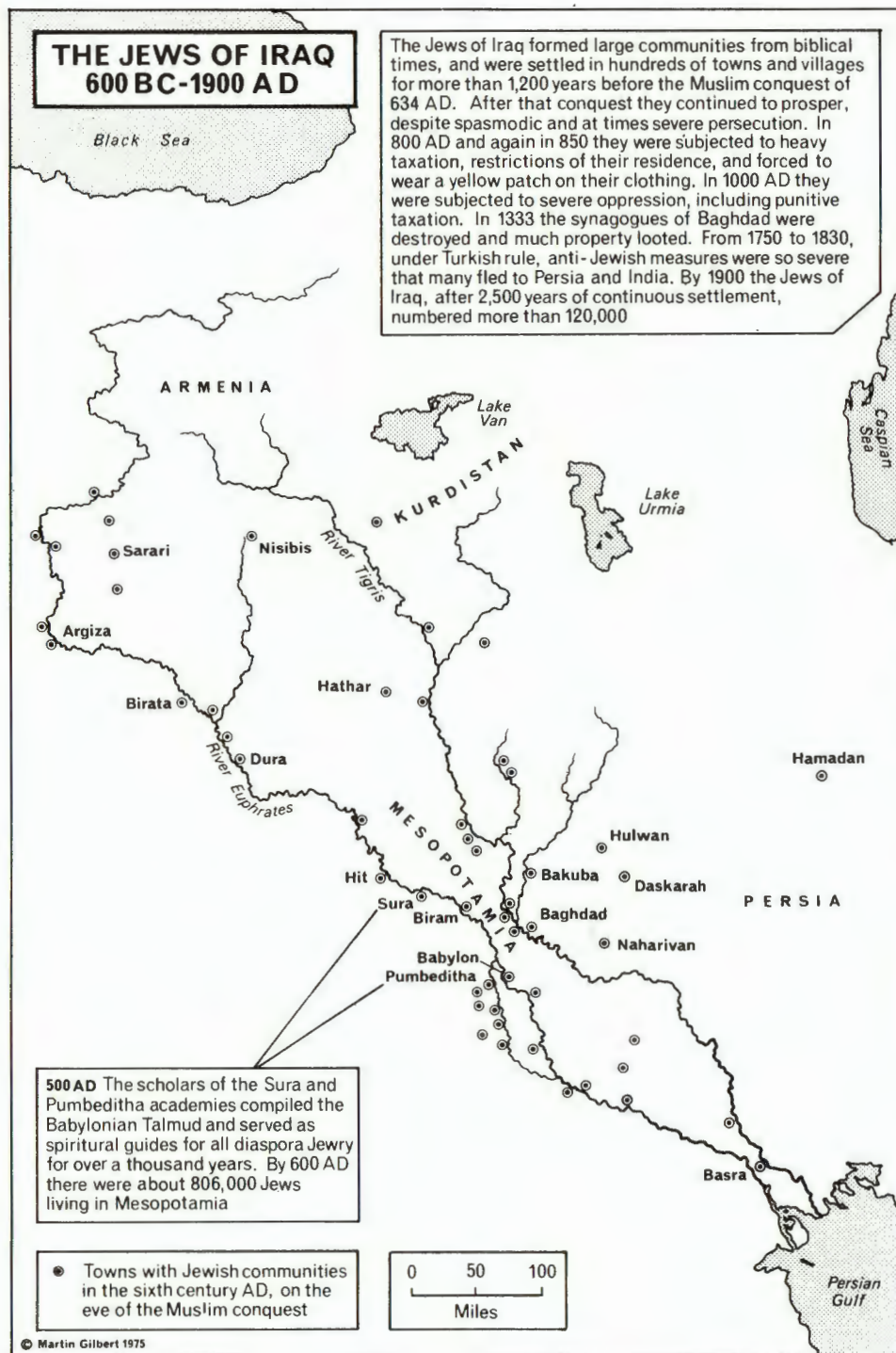


Plate 6.
A Jewish merchant of Baghdad, about 1900.



Plate 7.
Scroll of the Law (the Five books of Moses) in a traditional Sephardi case.

THE JEWS OF IRAQ 600 BC-1900 AD



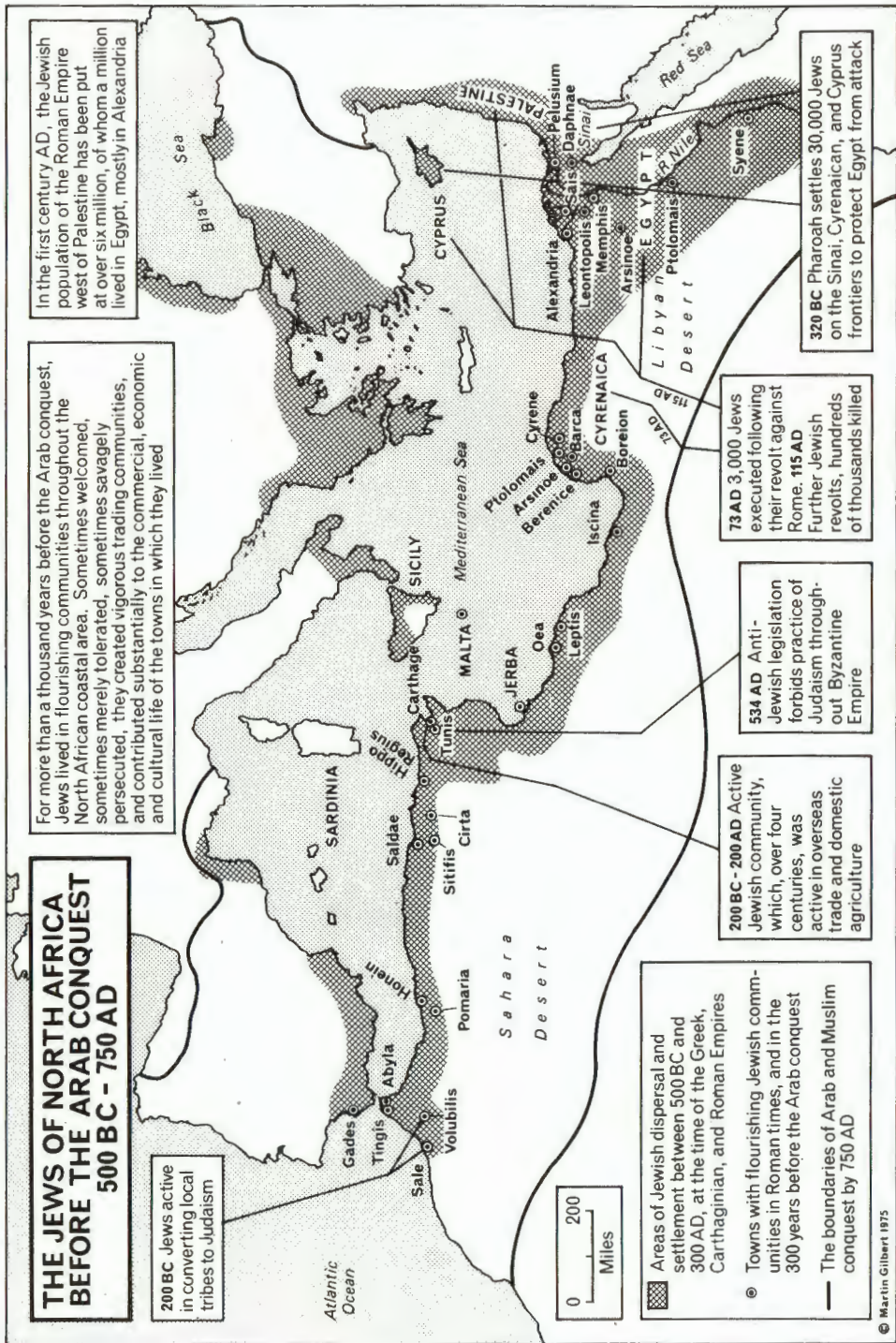


Plate 8. Ancient mosaic floor, of a synagogue in Tunisia (sketched by the Brooklyn Museum, New York, in 1886).

Plate 9. Central inscription of the mosaic floor of a Tunisian synagogue (now in the Bardo museum, Tunis).

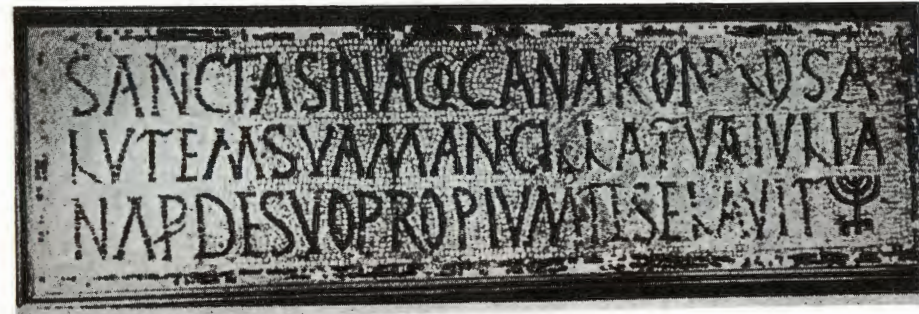




Plate 10.
Jewish five-fingered amulet, Morocco,
nineteenth century.

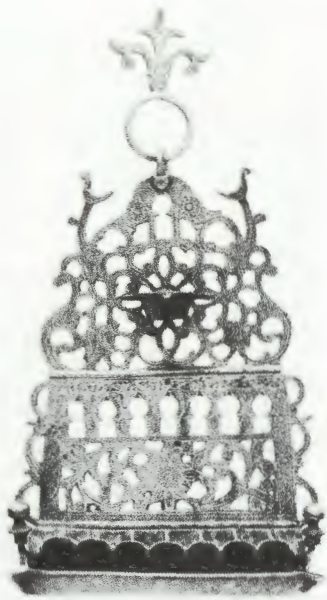
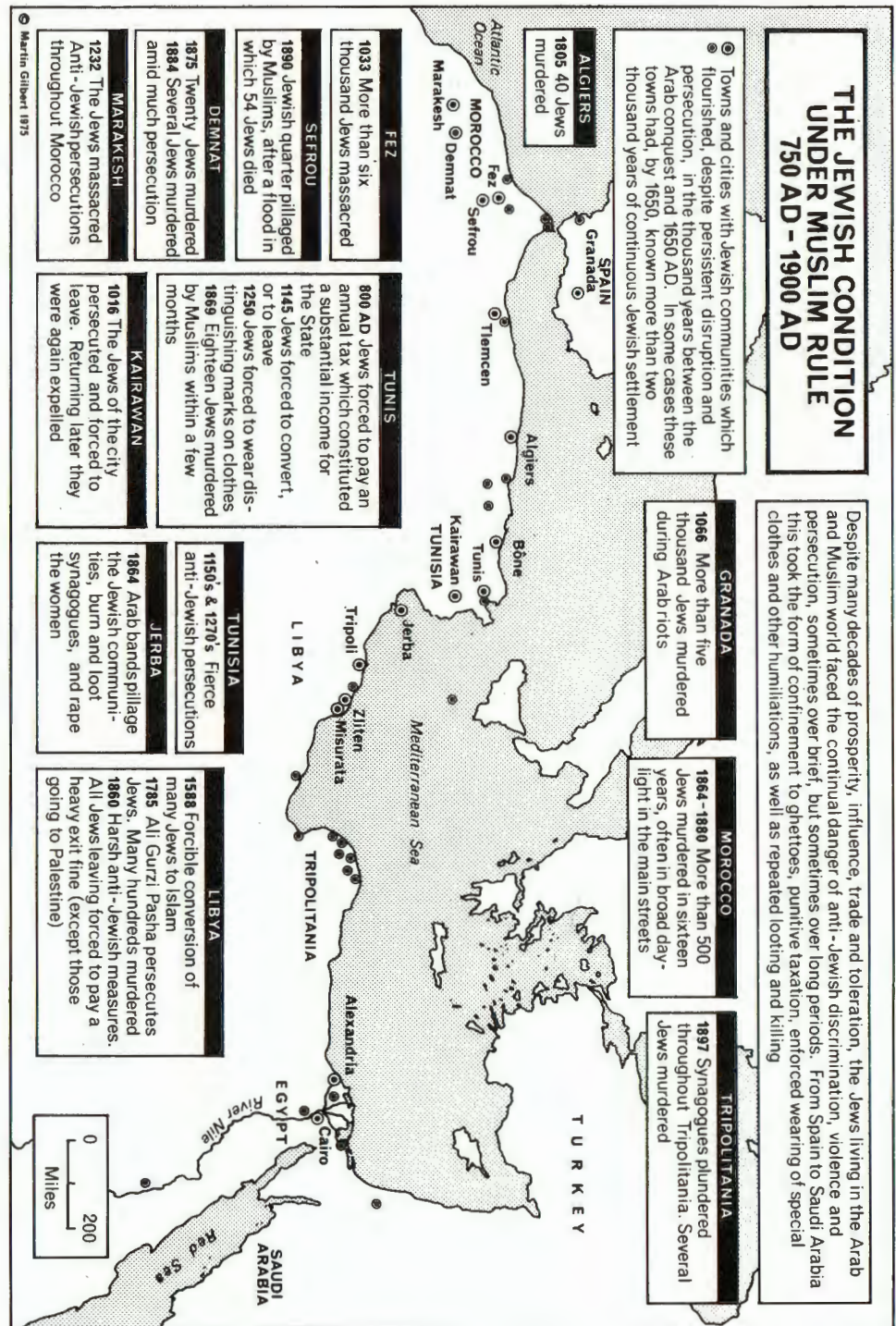


Plate 11
Eighteenth-century Hanuka lamp,
from Morocco.



Plate 12
Curtain embroidered with gold thread. Used first to cover a Scroll of the Law, later
to hang before the Ark. It depicts the Ten Commandments. Morocco, late nine-
teenth or early twentieth century.



THE JEWS OF IRAQ IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

0 50
Miles

1935 Jews removed from Government Service. Many Jews forbidden to travel to Palestine
1936 Ten Jews killed by Arab riots in Baghdad and Basra. Teaching of Hebrew prohibited
1947 No Jewish children accepted in Government schools
August 1948 Zionism declared a crime (with Nazism, Communism, Atheism and Anarchism) Many Jews imprisoned, some hanged
10 March 1950 Official decree confiscates all property of Jews leaving for Israel, and appoints a special custodian to sell it by public auction. All emigrants' bank accounts seized by the State
25 February 1958 Abolition of Jewish Community Status. All community property, including schools and hospitals, transferred to Government

3 March 1968 Law No 10 forbids Jews to receive more than 100 Iraqi dinars per month for sale of immovable property (in 1948 the Jewish community had been made to pay 250,000 dinars towards the Iraqi war effort against Israel, and towards the Palestinian Arab refugees)
1969 Nine Jews hanged for 'Zionist' activities in January; 2 hanged for 'spying for Israel and the CIA' in August; 2 killed in September; 4 killed in November
October 1972 Many Jews arrested. 16 disappear without trace. More than 20 murdered
April 1973 A family of 5 Jews murdered in their home

JEWISH POPULATION

1948	135,000
1971	2,500
1974	400

1933 20 Jews murdered

Dec 1947 A Jew accused of trying to inject cholera germs in water drunk by Arab children

October 1948 President of the local Jewish Community arrested on charge of maintaining contact with his sons in Israel

May 1947 Following destruction of much Jewish property by mob attack, Jews forced to move to Baghdad

○ Towns with Jewish communities in 1947

July 1937 Violent anti-Jewish demonstrations. Jewish property destroyed
June 1941 During riots following collapse of pro-Nazi Government of Rashid Ali, 175 Jews killed and 1,000 injured. Much looting of Jewish property. 900 Jewish houses destroyed. Many Jews tortured
July 1946 Anti-Jewish riots. Hundreds of Jews wounded and much property destroyed
May 1947 A Jew murdered by a mob which accused him of giving poisoned sweets to an Arab child
Dec 1949 Anti-Jewish riots, many injured

September - October 1948 Many wealthy Jews arrested. One, a millionaire, hanged and his fortune seized. His cousin died after four months in prison. All were accused of allegedly supplying arms to the 'Zionists'

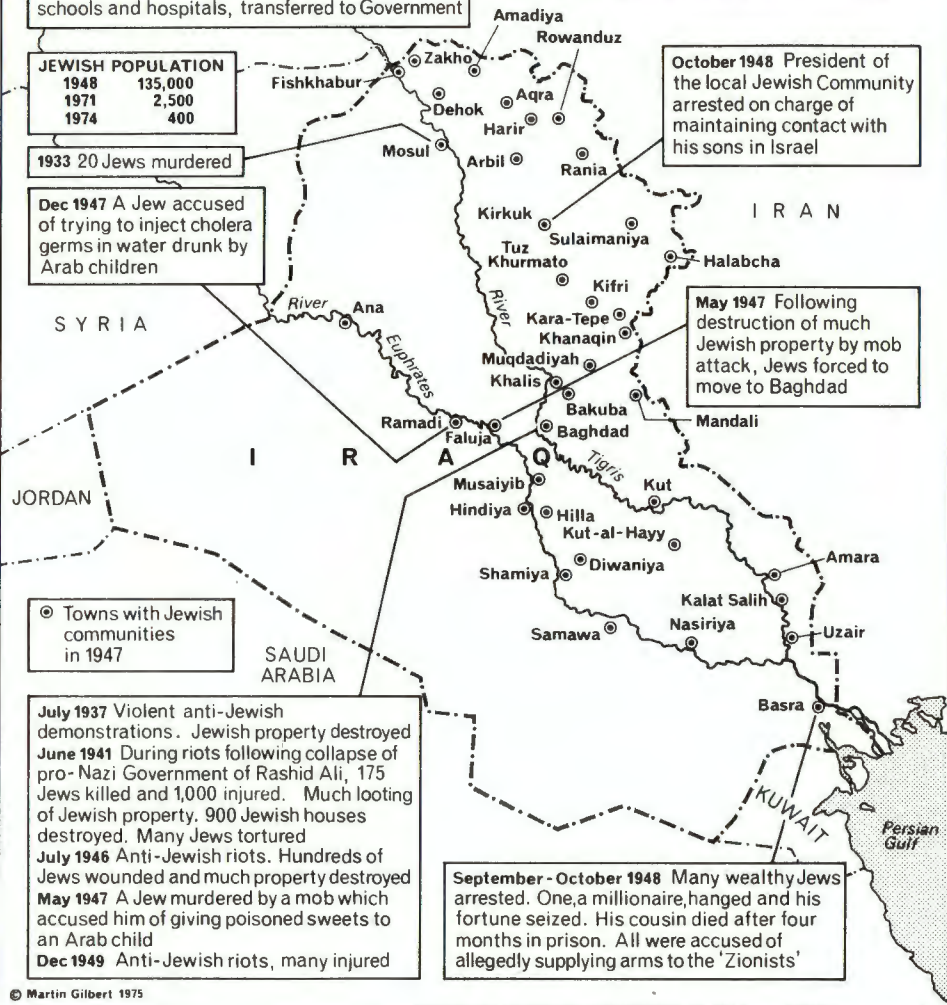


Plate 13. The new synagogue, Baghdad. The space between the sides and the centre of the synagogue is not covered. Built in 1797, on the site of a much older synagogue, by permission of Suleiman Pasha, Vali of Baghdad. Renovated 1854-55. Near the entrance of another synagogue, the Great Synagogue, was a stone set in the wall with the inscription 'a stone from the land of Israel' which was touched with the fingers on entering and leaving, and which had been brought from Palestine in 1868.



Plate 14. Jewish family group, Baghdad, preparing to travel with their drivers and porters. Early twentieth century.

THE JEWS OF TUNISIA 1880 - 1975

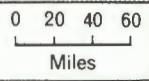
JEWISH POPULATION	
1948	110,000
1974	2,000

1958 Ancient synagogue and cemetery destroyed for urban renewal

1881 French protectorate, condition of Jews improved. But in 1917 Tunisian troops pillaged Jewish quarters of many towns. With Tunisian independence in 1956, the treatment of Jews rapidly worsened

23 November 1942 Germans arrest over 4,000 Jews, confiscate Jewish money, and deport some Jews to European concentration camps
27 September 1957 Rabbinical tribunal abolished. All matters of personal status to be judged by lay courts
11 July 1958 The Jewish community councils of Tunis and Sfax dissolved, and community work restricted to religious and charitable activity
1964 Severe limitations imposed on Jewish economic activity
5 June 1967 Anti-Jewish riots. Great Synagogue burned. Scrolls of the Law destroyed. One Jew killed. President Bourguiba publicly condemned the riot, apologized to the Chief Rabbi, and ensured that the rioters were punished, compensation paid, and the synagogue rebuilt

© Martin Gilbert 1975



1880 Seven Jews killed

July 1932 Jews attacked by an Arab mob protesting at the Jews of Europe going to Palestine

■ Towns whose Jewish quarters were looted by Tunisian troops during rebellion of August 1917
 ○ Principal towns with Jewish communities in the 1920's

We should have liked to be Arab Jews. If we abandoned the idea, it is because over the centuries the Muslim Arabs systematically prevented its realization by their contempt and cruelty.... Not only were the homes of Jews in Germany and Poland torn down, and scattered to the four winds, demolished, but our homes as well. ALBERT MEMMI (a Jew born in Tunis), in "WHO IS AN ARAB JEW", 1975

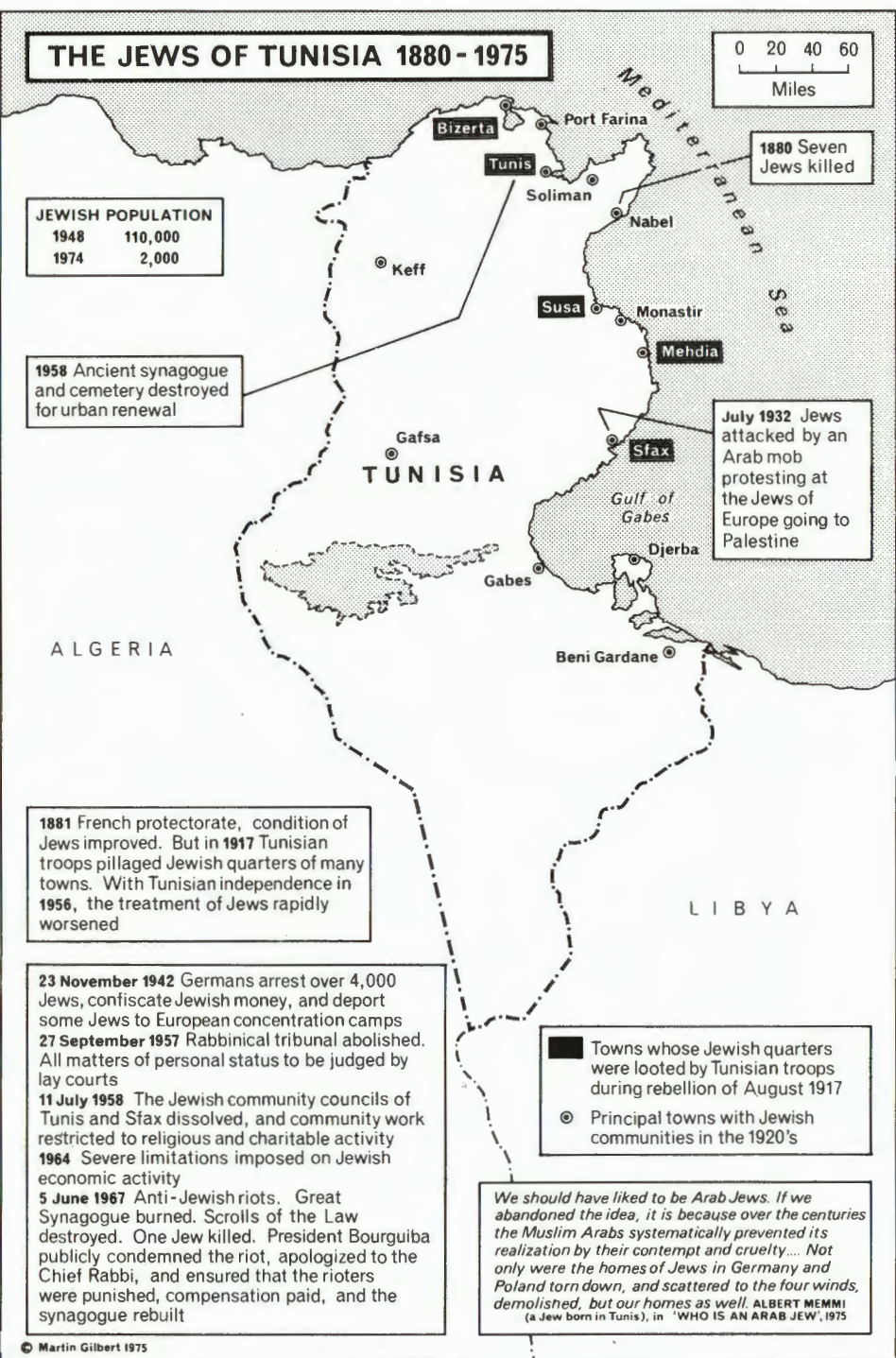


Plate 17. Tunisian Jews, Tunis, 1840. A wood engraving. The man is wearing a turban, and local Tunisian costume.



Plate 18. Photograph of a young Jewish married couple, Tunis, 1900. This photograph was published in London in 1906, in B. Fletcher's *Carthage and Tunis*. Both bride and groom are wearing the local regional dress.



Plate 19.
According to tradition, the Jewish philosopher Maimonides lodged in this house in Fez, during his visit 1160-1165.



Plate 20.
Jewish houses in a small village in the Atlas mountains, outside Demnat. This photograph was taken in 1930. In the foreground, a bread oven.



Plate 21.
The Zionist Commission in Egypt, en route to Jerusalem in 1918, when they met leading Egyptian Jews. In the centre (bald, with beard) is Dr Chaim Weizmann. On his left is Dr David Eder, a leading British Zionist. Also in the photograph are Israel Sieff and James de Rothschild.

'Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare. The snare is broken, and we are escaped.' (Psalm 124)



Plate 22.
Jews from the Yemen hinterland waiting in a transit camp in Aden for transport to Israel, 1952. They are holding a Scroll of the Law (Sefer Torah).

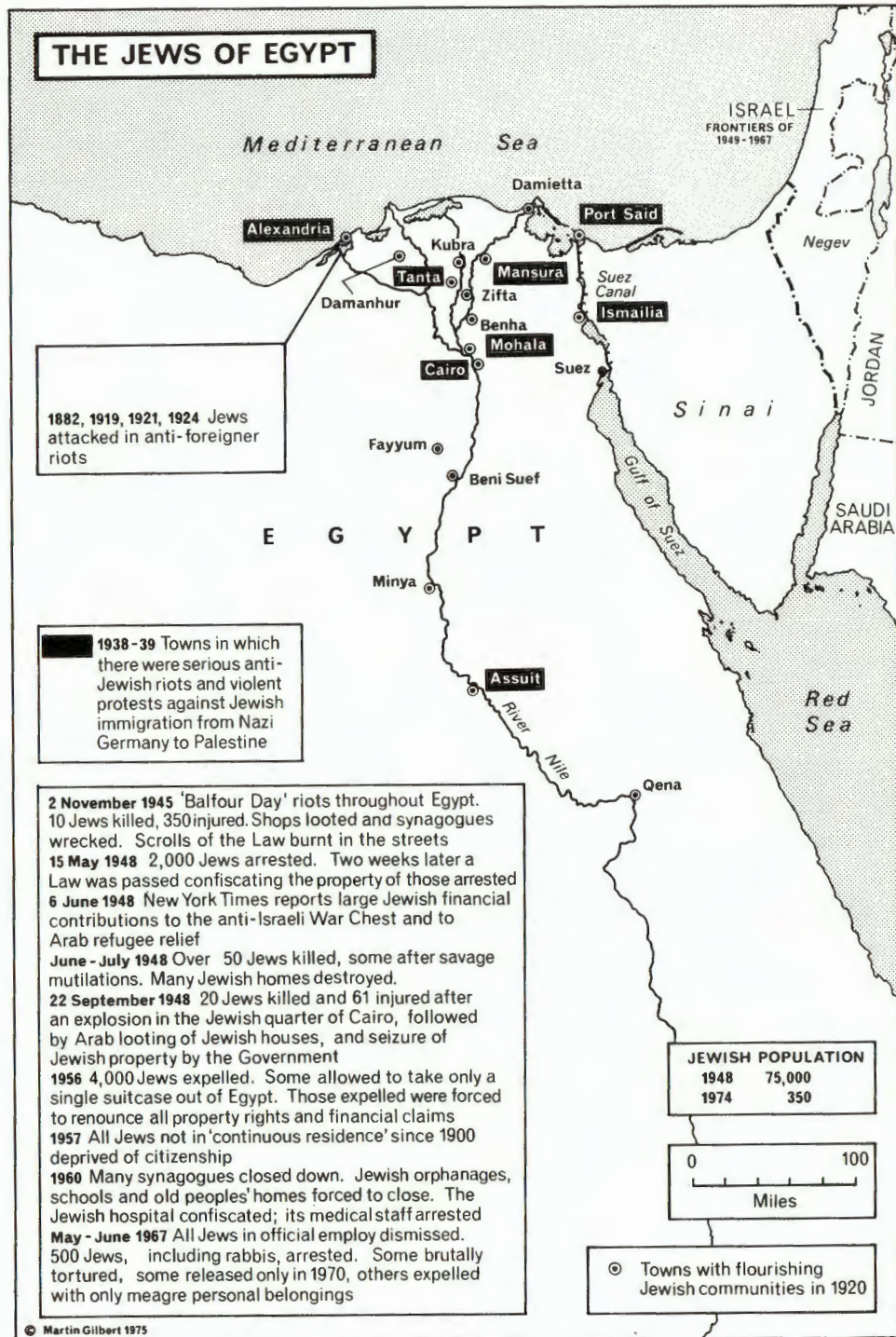


Plate 26
Title page of the second issue of the weekly newspaper, *Misraim*, ('Egypt') published in Cairo on 12 January 1904. The text is Arabic, written in Hebrew characters.



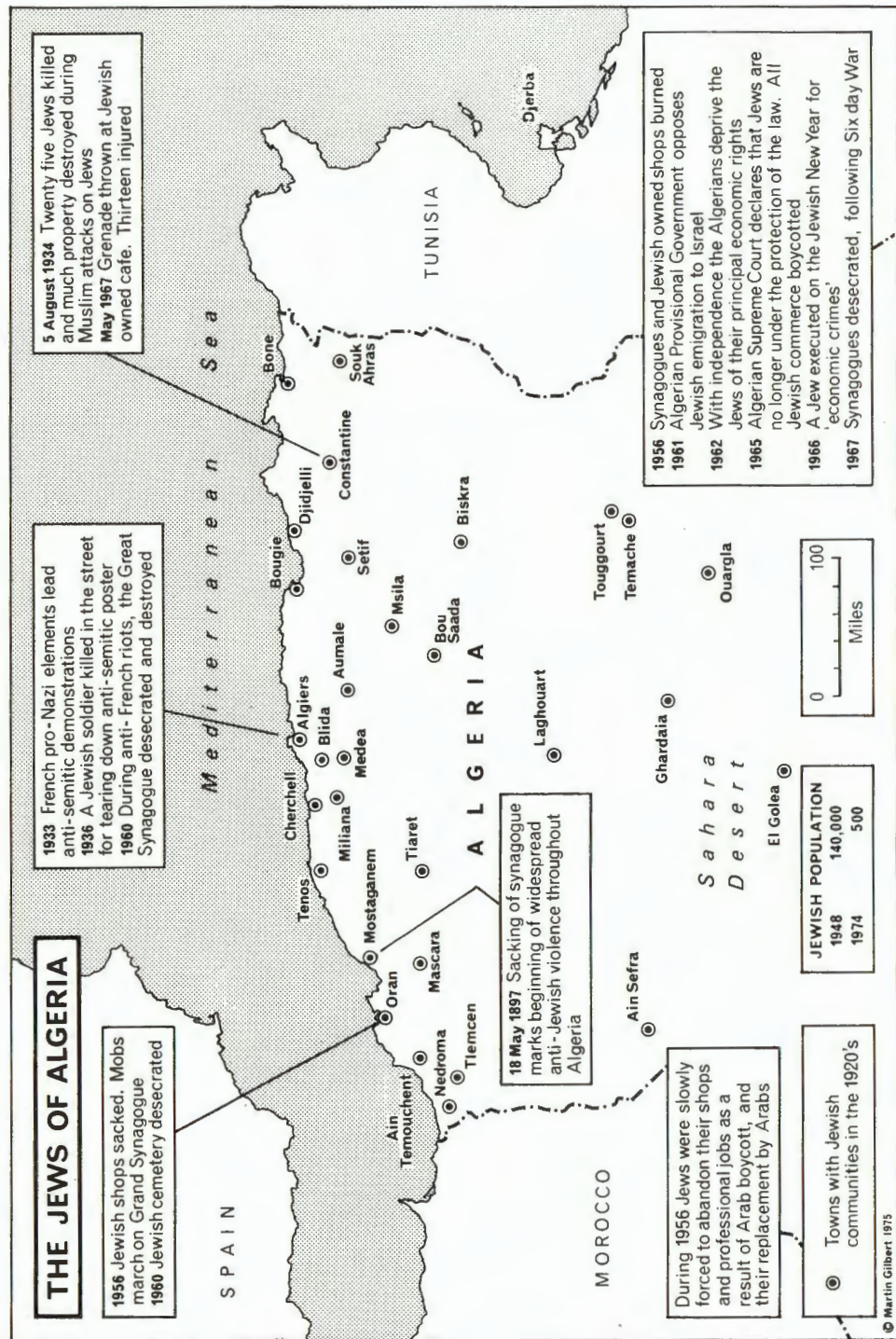
Plate 27.
Exterior of the Misraim synagogue, the oldest of the synagogues in the Jewish Quarter of Cairo.



Plate 28.
An Egyptian Jewess, wife of Jacob Cattawi Bey, a leading banker in the 1860s.



Plate 29.
Joseph Cattawi Pasha, son of Jacob Cattawi Bey.



Map 11

Plate 33
Title page of a Haggadah published on Djerba Island in 1938.



Plate 32
An Israeli, recently arrived from Algeria.



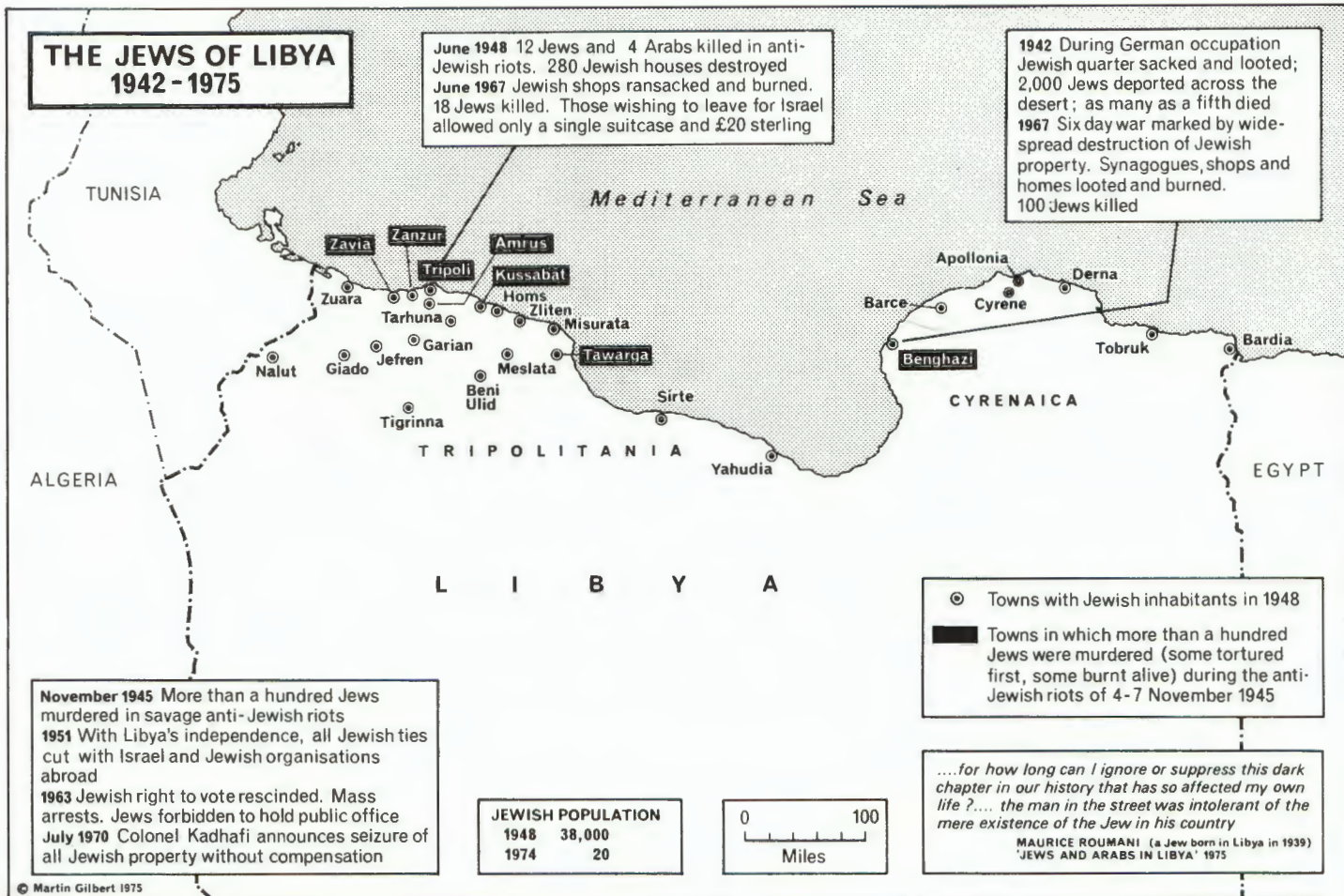


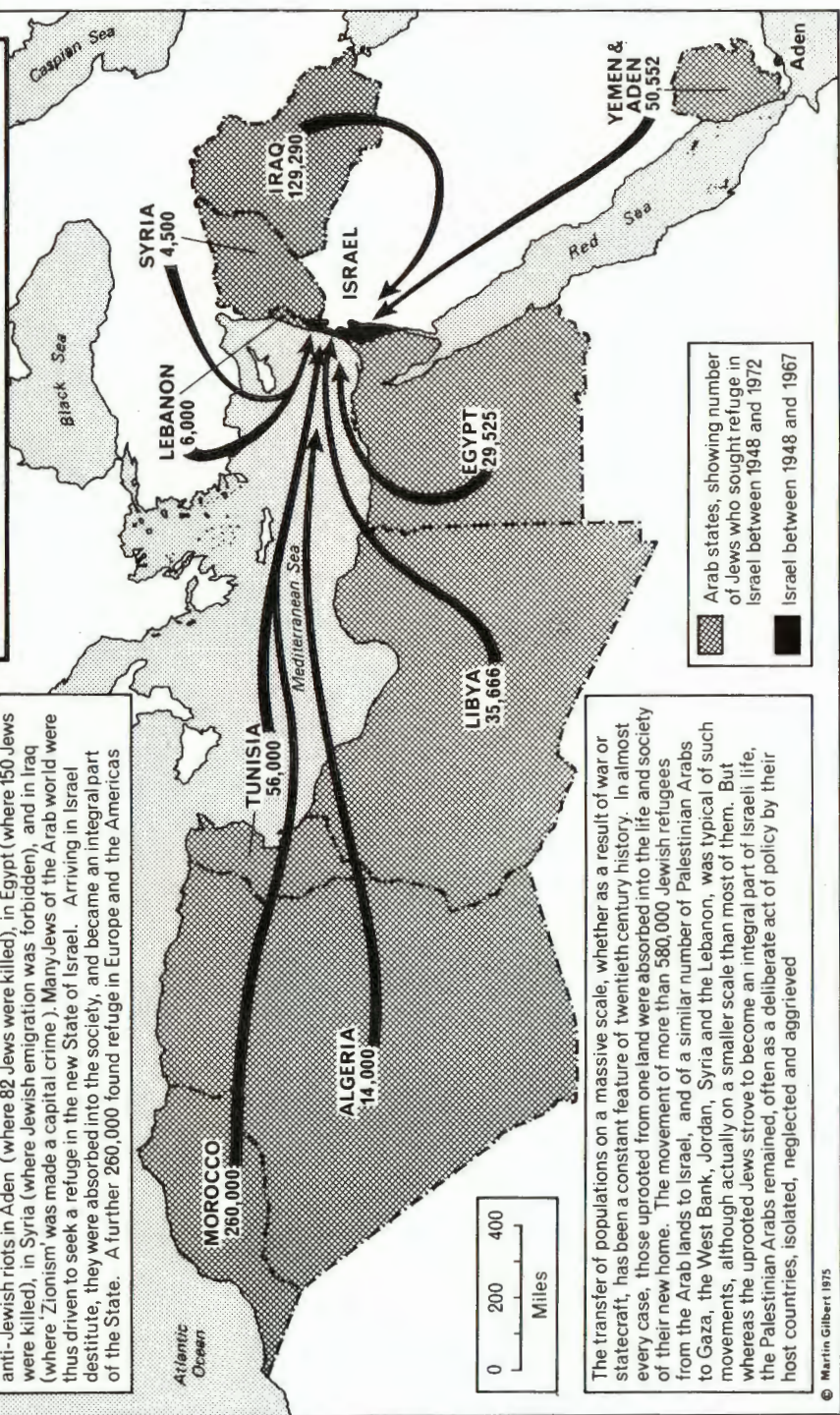
Plate 34
An Israeli Jewess, originally from Tripoli.



Plate 35.
A Jewess from Tripolitania (Libya) weaving a carpet.

JEWISH REFUGEES TO ISRAEL FROM ARAB LANDS MAY 1948 - MAY 1972

In 1945 there were more than 870,000 Jews living in the Arab world. Many of their communities dated back 2,500 years. Throughout 1947 and 1948 these Jews were subjected to continual pressure and persecution. There were anti-Jewish riots in Aden (where 82 Jews were killed), in Egypt (where 150 Jews were killed), in Syria (where Jewish emigration was forbidden), and in Iraq (where 'Zionism' was made a capital crime). Many Jews of the Arab world were thus driven to seek a refuge in the new State of Israel. Arriving in Israel destitute, they were absorbed into the society, and became an integral part of the State. A further 260,000 found refuge in Europe and the Americas



The transfer of populations on a massive scale, whether as a result of war or statecraft, has been a constant feature of twentieth century history. In almost every case, those uprooted from one land were absorbed into the life and society of their new home. The movement of more than 580,000 Jewish refugees from the Arab lands to Israel, and of a similar number of Palestinian Arabs to Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan, Syria and the Lebanon, was typical of such movements, although actually on a smaller scale than most of them. But whereas the uprooted Jews strove to become an integral part of Israeli life, the Palestinian Arabs remained, often as a deliberate act of policy by their host countries, isolated, neglected and aggrieved

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Plate 36. Jews from the Yemen flying to Israel, during operation "Magic Carpet". 1950.



Plate 37. Israel: a bridegroom from the Yemen (wearing a tallit, or prayer-shawl). The officiating Rabbi reads the Ketubbah, or marriage document.



Plate 38. Israel: Jews from Kurdistan (northern Iraq).

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2. Alfred Rubens, *A History of Jewish Costume*. Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London. 2nd edition, 1973. Plate 55.
3. Rubens, Plate 56.
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11. Shachar, Plate 378.
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21. Jacob M. Landau, *Jews in Nineteenth-Century Egypt*, New York University Press (University of London Press). New York and London, 1969. Figure 26.
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38. Patai, Following page xiv.
39. (Back cover): Maroc. Plate 5.

This Atlas is published by Martin Gilbert in conjunction with both The World Organisation of Jews from Arab Countries, WOJAC, and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

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English, French, Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic editions printed by the Furnival Press, London, England.

Illustrated edition (English only) and German edition printed Printed by the Burlington Press (Cambridge) Ltd., Foxton, Cambridge.

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Plate 39.
 Title page of a book, THE TREASURE HOUSES OF LIFE, by the mystical writer, Isaac Lourie.
 This manuscript was written at Sefrou, Morocco, in 1760, by Reuven ben Moshe Nahmani.

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