

## Timeline International Workers' Order (IWO) and Jewish People's Fraternal Order (JPFO)

### Fellow Travelers: From Popular Front to Cold War. Selections from the ILR School Catherwood Library Archives of the Yiddish Immigrant Left

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

1885: November 16–19, Pittsburgh Platform. U.S. Reform movement adopted classic German Jewish Reform religious tenets

1892: *Arbeter Ring* (Workmen's Circle) founded in New York; becomes a national organization, September 4, 1900

1897: August 29–31, First Zionist World Congress held in Basel, Switzerland

1897: October 7, The Jewish Labor Bund in Lithuania, Russia and Poland, founded in Vilnius

1897: April 22, *Der Forverts* newspaper founded in New York by Abraham Cahan, Louis Miller and Morris Winchevsky. Expelled from Daniel DeLeon's Socialist Labor Party (SLP), they eventually migrate to the Socialist Party of America associated with Eugene V. Debs and Victor Berger

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

1889: More of DeLeon's opponents (Morris Hillquit) leave the SLP and move eventually to Debs' Socialist Party of America

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

1903: April 19-20, Kishinev Pogroms. Over 600 pogroms sweep the Russian Empire between 1903-1906

1905: The Jewish Socialist Agitation Bureau founded in New York

1905: September 5, Treaty of Portsmouth signed acknowledging Russian defeat in the Russo-Japanese War

1905: October 30, Manifesto signed by Czar Nicholas II in response to the Russian Revolution of 1905

1908: *Dos Naye Leben* publication founded in New York by Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky and published until 1913. Briefly resumed publishing in 1922 with editor Shmuel Niger

1909: November, "Uprising of Twenty Thousand" started with a vote at Cooper Union called by a young immigrant, Clara Lemlich. The rally led to a massive strike run by women shirtwaist makers from ILGWU's Local 25 that ended February 15, 1910. Unlike most shops, the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory refused to settle

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

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

1910: September 2, Protocols of Peace signed and Cloakmakers Strike ended. Garment manufacturers represented by negotiators Louis Brandeis and Louis Marshall, and the union workers by Meyer London.

1911: March 25, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire; 146 people, almost all young immigrant women, died within 20 minutes in an ostensibly fireproof building

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

1912: *Di Yunge* writers in New York started publishing their magazine *Shriftn*

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

1914: August, Start of World War I (WWI). The effective dissolution of the Second International in Europe ensued with support of national war efforts. Jewish Left in the U.S. mainly aligned with Debs' neutral Socialist Party of America

1915: Jacob Schiff notably refused to participate in financing for Czarist Russia's war efforts against the Central Powers

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

1917: April 6, U.S. entry into WWI with war declared on Germany. War on Austria-Hungary declared December 7

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

1917: April 16, Bolshevik Vladimir Lenin arrived in Russia from exile in Switzerland (trip to Finland Station paid for by Germany)

1917: June 15, passage of U.S. Espionage Act

1917: October Revolution (Great October Socialist Revolution, or *Veliky Oktyabr*) with Bolsheviks in power in Russia. Civil war ensued

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

1917: November 7, Trotsky (Lev Bronstein) told Mensheviks "Go where you belong from now on—into the dustbin of history!" when departing the second All-Russian Congress of Soviets in St. Petersburg, leading to Bolshevik victory

1918: January Soviet Russia *Proletkult* (Organization of Representatives of Proletarian Organizations) founded

1918: January, Diasporist Culture League, *Kultur Lige*, Kiev founded by Nachman Meisel, Dovid Bergelson and Yekhezkel Dobrushin

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

1918: March 3, Treaty of Brest-Litovsk signed by the Bolshevik government with the Central Powers. Exit of Soviet Russia from WWI. Treaty ceded the independence of Armenia, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Georgia and Poland as all released from Soviet Russian claims. Allied troop intervention in the Russian civil war

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

1918: June 16, Eugene V. Debs speech in Canton, Ohio, urged resistance to WWI military draft. Debs arrested June 30

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

1918: October 16, the United States Immigration Act of 1918 enacted by Congress, aka Dillingham-Hardwick Act

1918: October 29, *Komsomol* founded as the All-Union Leninist Young Communist League, aka RKSM, VLKSM, or the Youth Division of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) for ages 14-28. Little Octobrists and Young Pioneers (9-14) affiliated with *Komsomol*

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

1918: October 31, collapse of the Ottoman Empire; August 10, 1920, Treaty of Sèvres signed by Ottoman authorities with Allied occupiers

1918: November 9, Start of Germany’s Revolution (November Revolution) just prior to German surrender in WWI

1918: November 11, World War I Armistice signed (Armistice Day). WWI officially ended

1918: November 13, repudiation of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by Soviet Russia; on November 17 its Western Army started following the German Army evacuation route towards the Baltics, Belarus, Ukraine and Poland

1918: November 18th, German surrender to Allied Powers

1918: December, German founding of the *Kommunistische Partei Deutschlands*, KPD (German Communist Party), in contradistinction to the SPD (Social Democratic Party)

1919: January 4, Spartacist Revolt in Germany; January 15, Liebknecht and Luxembourg killed, and Revolt squashed

1919: February–March 1921, Polish–Soviet War; officially ended with Treaty of Riga, 18 March 1921

1919: March 2–6, Soviet Comintern (Communist International) founded; until dissolved in 1943, held seven International Congresses; thirteen "Enlarged Plenums." The Executive Committee of the Communist International (ECCI, or ИККИ) formed to deal with World Congresses

1919: Left Wing Section of the Socialist Party emerged from the Socialist Propaganda League of America (SPLA)

1919: September, the beginnings of CPUSA. Members of the SPLA joined the new underground Communist Party of America which merged with the Communist Labor Party (CLP) to form the more successful above ground Workers Party of America (WPA) and eventually the Communist Party USA (CPUSA)

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

1919: November, Palmer Raids as part of the First Red Purge targeted leftists who are expelled from the U.S.A. Raids continued January 1920

1920: Start of Jewish Socialist Federation (JSF) fights

1920: April, Split up of the Bund with Esther Frumkin the leader of the new “*Kombund*” (Communist Bund). By March 1921 at the *Kombund*’s dissolution conference in Moscow, Frumkin moved fully to the Jewish section (*Yevsektisia*) of the *Alfarbandishe komunistishe partey* (All-Union Communist Party, that is to say Bolsheviks)

1920: July–August, Second Party Congress held in Moscow introduced Lenin’s 21 Conditions for International Groups. By 1921 CP break-off groups formed in France, Spain, Italy and Belgium

1920: July 10, “The Protocols of the Elders of Zion” published by Henry Ford in the Dearborn Independent in the seventh installment of its "International Jew" series. Original Protocols published in Russia in 1903

1921: February 26, the Persian government overthrown by Reza Khan (Pahlavi) who signed a treaty with the Soviet Union to ensure withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Soviet Republic of Gilan officially ends in September 1921

1921: March, Kronstadt Rebellion in Soviet Union

1921: May 19, Emergency Quota Act Congressional Legislation passed restricting immigration to the U.S.A. especially from Southern and Eastern Europe

1921: Spring, NEP (New Economic Policy) in Soviet Union

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

1921: September, Split-off of the Left wing of the Jewish Socialist Federation (JSF) from the Socialist Party (Left wing joins the Jewish Communist Federation of the Workers Party of America)

1921: December, Workers Party of America (WPA) established. 1929 becomes the Communist Party USA (CPUSA)

1922: February 6, Cheka transformed into GPU in Soviet Russia. Becomes the OGPU, then the GUGB as part of the NKVD. 1954 Beria purged and the KGB established

1922: April 2, *Freiheit (Di Morgn Freiheit [Frayheit])* Yiddish communist-affiliated newspaper published in New York by former Bundists Mosseye (Moshe) Olgin and Shakhne (S.) Epstein (Epshtein) [sent from Moscow]

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

1922: November, Fourth Party Congress held in Moscow with Trotsky a prominent figure. Start of First Period which stressed export of October Revolution

1922: December 28, Approval of the Treaty on the Creation of the U.S.S.R. and the Declaration of the Creation of the U.S.S.R., forming the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.)

1923: May, Lenin's stroke. The Troika of Josef Stalin, Grigory Zinoviev, and Lev Kamenev, in charge of CPSU and Comintern decisions

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

1923: October 29, Turkey proclaimed as a Republic that emerged as a nation state under Kemal Atatürk's leadership after Turkish War of Independence (supported by Soviet Union); Treaty of Lausanne signed July 24, 1923

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

1924: January 21, Lenin died. Start of the Second Period and New Economic Policy. Stalin controlled Comintern and CP promoted Soviet Union as the "defense of socialism in one country"

1924: May 26, Johnson-Reed Congressional legislation (aka Immigration Act of 1924) passed further restricting immigration from East Europe and Southern Italy

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

1924: *Yunge Arbeter Shrayber Fareyn* founded (Moshe Leib Halperin, Alexander Pomerantz) and *Yunge Kuznye* (Smithy) Journal (Alexander Pomerantz, Shlome Davidman, Khaim Pet) with Davidman and Pet also involved in the *Shrayber Fareyn*; all were 1920s immigrants trained as teachers by the Workmen's Circle Seminary. Issue 3 used Russian ideological Yiddish spelling. Olgin forced to deal with them by 1929

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

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 the revolutionary journal *Der Hamer* and its English counterpart, the *New Masses*

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

1926: The Labor League of Canada, precursor to the United Jewish People's Order, founded in Toronto

1926: Jewish Workers University established in New York City

1928: February 28, Ninth 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

1929: February, Leon Trotsky fully banished from U.S.S.R. after year-long internal exile

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

1929: Winter, *Freiheit Shrayber Fareyn* founded (Olgin convenes writers from Union Square group and *Yung Kuznye*)

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

1929: August, Riots in Hebron; defections from the *Morgn Freiheit* and other CP organs / groups in the “Great Break”

1929: October 11, *Yung Vilna* formed with Sutzkever, Grade, Kaczerginski, Kahn, Reysen in Vilnius

1929: September 13, *Proletpen*, created to “help boost the Linke's literary output after the Hebron Riot defections.” Fellow traveler: *aribergekumene*, Moshe Nadir joins the Party on September 14; eventually Raboy, Lee, and Fienberg return to the Party; the rest do not

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

1930: May 30, IWO (International Workers Order) founded at Cooper Union as fraternal order split-off from the socialist movement after a decade of *Arbiter Ring* and JSF fights. 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]. Inexpensive benefits included medical insurance for 35 cents month per family. Officers: Harry Schiller (President); Rubin Saltzman (General Secretary), Joseph S. Brodsky (Treasurer), Kalman Marmor (Cultural Director). William Weiner is President by June 1931

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

1930: Camp Kinderland, previously part of the Workmen's Circle, becomes allied with the IWO. *Umpartayish* (nonaffiliated) Yiddish schools also generally become part of the IWO's Jewish Section's Yiddish school system

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

1931: May, IWO Founding Convention — New York

1932: Saltzman shifted from General Secretary of the IWO to head its Yiddish-speaking Jewish Section when Slovak and Hungarian language sections affiliate. The IWO's Jewish National Section is the predecessor organization to the Jewish People's Fraternal Order (JPFO)

1932: November 8, Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) elected against Republican President Herbert Hoover; William Z. Foster is Communist Party Presidential candidate

1933: January 30, Hitler appointed German chancellor

1933: March 4, FDR's Inauguration

1933: March 5, Nazi Party elected in Germany and the KPD banned

1933: July, IWO 2nd Convention — Chicago

1933: November 16, U.S. establishes foreign relations with the Soviet Union

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 official language

1934: August 2, Hitler became president in Germany

1935: May 5–11, IWO Third Convention — New York City

1935: July 25–August 20, Seventh (and last) World Party Congress of the Communist International (Comintern) in Moscow. Fourth Period. Endorsed the Popular Front of 1934

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

1936: Summer, ALP (American Labor Party) founded as a NY "Third Party" by the Social Democratic Federation of America (as a split-off of the conservative wing of the Socialist Party) whose base was the Jewish labor unions. Intended to compete with the Democratic Party, nonetheless, ALP attracted CP-aligned unions and organizations such as the IWO

1936: October, First Soviet Purges, The Great Purge or the Great Terror (Russian: Большо́й террор) started: arguably over 750,000 killed; far larger numbers exiled. Moscow Trials and other trials enforced the political repression of anyone connected to Trotsky or Bakunin. *Yezhovshchina* (Purge) continues through 1938. By then, only Trotsky (in exile) remained of "Old Leninists"

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 to found IKUF (Idisher Kultur Farband aka Alveltiker Yidishe Kultur Farband, World Jewish Cultural Union). In the U.S., the founding of YKUF (aka YKuF, Yidishe kultur farband), meant *Proletpen* phased out in 1938

1937: U.S.S.R. purge of more Jewish intellectuals (Max Erik, Izi Kharik). Great Purge targets included Esther (Maria) Frumkin, Osip Mandelstam, Isaac Babel, Moshe Kulbak, Yisroel Tsinberg among many others. Fellow travelers in the U.S., mainly support the Great Purges and trials, e.g., Lillian Hellman, Langston Hughes

1938: March 12, Germany annexed Austria (Anschluss)

1938: April 23–30, IWO, 4th Convention — Pittsburgh. Convention of Yiddish Section of IWO held April 27–29

1938: July 6–15, Évian-les-Bains Conference held in France to discuss the “refugee problem”

1938: *Khurbn Daytshland*, published by Proletpen (with Moshe Nadir poem “daytshland in noit”)

1938: November 7, Herschel Feivel Grynszpan, a Polish-Jewish refugee born in Germany, assassinated the German diplomat Ernst vom Rath in Paris. Used as the official excuse for Kristallnacht

1938: November 9–10, Kristallnacht antisemitic pogrom throughout Nazi Germany

1938: *Yidishe Kultur* journal is founded, edited by Nachman Meisel, with *Farlag YKuF* (Meisel and Marmor are editors). Popular Front approach included Opatoshu, Leyvik, Korn, Molodovsky, Shumiatcher and others

1939: March 15, Czechoslovakia invaded by Nazi Germany

1939: April 1, Spanish Civil War ended with the Republic defeated

1939: August 23, Hitler and Stalin signed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, aka the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact guaranteeing Russian neutrality and assigning spheres of influence allowing Germany to conquer most of Poland

1939: September 1, Hitler invaded Poland. Start of World War II (WWII)

1939: September 3, Britain and France declared war on Germany

1939: September 17, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east. By October 6, 1939 there is a two-way division and annexation of the Second Polish Republic by Germany and the Soviet Union

1939: September 28, the German–Soviet Boundary Treaty signed as a secret supplement to the Nonaggression Pact. Volksdeutch go into Polish German territories, Lublin and Warsaw reassigned to the Nazi sphere of influence, and Lithuania to the Soviet

1939: Fall, dissident IWO members create the League Against Fascism and Dictatorship to protest IWO support for the Nonaggression Pact

1939: September–October, House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) hearings held to question CP leader Earl Browder and IWO General Secretary, Max Bedacht

1939: September, Polish Bundists Viktor Erlich and Henryk Alter arrested after fleeing to Soviet zone, then temporarily freed in September 1941 (see JAFK history); see 1942-1943 for Erlich and Alter deaths

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

1940: April–May, Katyn [Forest] Massacre of Polish AK officers (Home Army) and other Polish soldiers and civilians by Soviet forces

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

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

1940: June 29, The Smith Act, aka, Alien Registration Act, is passed forcing registration of non-citizens. Used against a variety of leftists charged with advocating the violent overthrow of the U.S. government

1940: July, IWO Fifth National Convention — New York City

1940: August 20, Trotsky (Lev Bronstein) assassinated in Mexico by Ramón Mercader on Stalin’s orders

1941: March 11, U.S. started Lend-Lease program for the U.K.

1941: June 22, The Soviet Union invaded by Hitler in Operation Barbarossa. Soviet foreign policy towards Nazi Germany changes immediately

1941: July 10, Jedwabne pogrom in Poland; more than 300 Jews killed

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

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

1941: September, Start of U.S. Lend-Lease program to aid Allies; October 30, program extended to the U.S.S.R.

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

1941: December 7, Pearl Harbor bombing by Japan; U.S. enters WWII against the Axis Powers

1941: December 8, First Nazi killing center started operation (Chełmno). Other concentration camps then rapidly established

1942: January 1, Representatives of 26 nations at war with the Axis powers signed the Declaration of the United Nations in Washington D.C., endorsing the Atlantic Charter, pledging to use their full resources against Axis forces 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 to extermination camps including Auschwitz-Birkenau, Chełmno, Bełżec, Sobibór, Treblinka, and Majdanek

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

1942: April 7, Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC, JAC or EKA) published appeal to "Jews throughout the world;" signed by 47 people. May 24 meeting included international radio appeal to all Jews to support buying tanks. June 7, 1942–November 20, 1948 JAFC published its journal *Einikeyt (Aynikayt)* 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 again defeated by British forces

1942: May, Polish-Jewish underground smuggled out a report estimating that Germans had killed 700,000 Polish Jews

1942: BZ Goldberg becomes the editor of the U.S. *Einikeyt (Aynikayt)*, organ of the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists (CAWS). October 26, 1941 CAWS organized a U.S. Jewish radio broadcast to the JAFC

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

1942: August, Publication in New York City of *The Ghetto Speaks*, about the Warsaw Ghetto and Chełmno

1942: August 23, Start of Battle of Stalingrad as Nazi German forces move on the Eastern Front



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

1942: November 10, German troops occupied Vichy France

1942: November 24, Rabbi Stephen Wise (World Jewish Congress) press conference announced that the U.S. State Department had confirmed earlier European reports that Nazi Germany intended to annihilate European Jewry, having already murdered 2 million. Wise’s press conference was covered next day in the Washington Post

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

1943: January 23–24, American Jewish Conference (Assembly) convened in response to call from B’nai B’rith (Henry Monsky) that asked 32 Jewish organizations to meet in Pittsburgh. By June efforts to create a larger body commenced

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

1943: March 9, Ben Hecht presented pageant play “We Will Never Die” in Madison Square Garden to 40,000 people

1943: April 19–30, Anglo-American Bermuda Conference held without mention of rescue work or Jews

1943: April 19, Beginning of Warsaw Ghetto Uprising which lasted until the Ghetto fully annihilated on May 16. On May 12, Szmul (Artur) Zygielbojm, the Bund’s representative to the Polish government-in-exile in London, committed suicide in response

1943: May 22, Comintern dissolved by Stalin

1943: June 11, Liquidation of all Polish Jewish ghettos ordered by Himmler

1943: June 17, Itzik Feffer and Shlomo (Shloyme) Mikhoels of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC) visited the U.S for 4.5 months. July 8, more than 50,000 people greeted them at the New York Polo Grounds. Official greeters included Mayor LaGuardia, Rabbi Stephen Wise, Albert Einstein, Sholem Asch, and Eddie Cantor and representatives from the Joint Distribution Committee, and World Jewish Congress. U.S. tour, which the JPFO helped arrange, raises \$16M. Tour is 7 months since Feffer and Mikhoels also go to Mexico, Canada and England

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

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: August 29–September 2, American Jewish Conference held Second Session. Officially established with delegates, the Conference would eventually include 65 organizations. The JPFO (the Jewish American Section of the IWO) admitted later after first waging a 9-month campaign to be included as a national Jewish group

1943: September 8, Italy joins Allies

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

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

1943: November 28–December 1, the Tehran Conference convened with agreement reached with the U.S.S.R., U.S., and Great Britain on opening a second front. The Curzon line secretly agreed to as the future border between U.S.S.R and Poland

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

1944: January 7, The National Committee of the Communist Party USA voted to become the Communist Political Association at Earl Browder's initiative

1944: February–March, Emma Lazarus League founded as its own separate entity by the Women's Division of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order four months before the JPFO party convention

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

1944: May, the Liberal Party founded in NY by the ILGWU's Dubinsky and Rose, as a response to Sidney Hillman as well as to the CP / IWO presence in ALP (American Labor Party)

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

1944: July 2–7, JPFO Convention held at IWO Sixth National Convention — New York City. Official name change: the Jewish-American Section became the Jewish People's Fraternal Order (JPFO, or א.פ.פ.א on July 6)

1944: July 1–July 22, Bretton Woods Conference and Agreement (international political economic order)

1944: July 31, 60,000 attended American Jewish Conference NYC "rescue" demonstration for European Jews that drew JPFO and Agudath Israel (Orthodox) participation

1944: August 1–October 2, Warsaw Uprising; more than 85% of Warsaw destroyed by January 1945

1944: August, Red Army arrives on Polish border near Warsaw and Łódź and remains there

1944: August 21–October 7, The Dumbarton Oaks Conference (the Washington Conversations on International Peace and Security Organization) convened. Agreement reached among international leaders to determine the future United Nations: 1943 Moscow Declaration had reached prior agreement on replacing League of 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 withdrew 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–January 1945, and 1946–October 16, 1949; Greek Civil War; two stage conflict

1944: December 16–January 25, 1945, Battle of the Bulge fought as last German major Western Front campaign

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

1945: January 17, Soviet troops entered Warsaw

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

1945: February 25, American Jewish Conference's Interim Committee officially co-opted (included) the JPFO into governing body

1945: April 12, FDR died; Vice-President Truman now President

1945: April 25, United Nations (UN) convened for the first time. Met through June in San Francisco

1945: May 7, Surrender of Nazi Germany

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

1945: May, IWO 15th Anniversary celebration at Madison Square Garden

1945: June, Earl Browder resigned as the Chairman of the CPUSA; replaced by William Z. Foster in July

1945: July, Potsdam Conference on post-War boundaries attended by Stalin, Truman, Churchill/Atlee. Demanded unconditional Japanese Surrender (July 26)

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

1945: August 8, U.S.S.R. entered war against Japan invading Manchuria; Japanese army surrendered August 24

1945: V-J Day August 14 or 15 marking official Japan surrender to Allies

1945: August–June 1946, Project Bricha figures showed 48,106 Jewish refugees most of whom survived the War in the U.S.S.R having left Poland; an unknown number reached Palestine. Repatriation of Polish Jews from the Soviet Union picked up again in Winter 1946; 200,000 people repatriated by July 1, 1946. Estimates ranged from 80,000 to 250,000 by the end of 1948 (USHMM)

1945: August 16, pro-Soviet Polish Provisional Government installed with Soviet support

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

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

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

1946: Winter, U.S. publication of the *Black Book: The Nazi Crime against the Jewish People* by the Jewish Black Book Committee (the Soviet edition by Grossman and Ehrenburg was ordered to be destroyed). The U.S. version of the Black Book was jointly sponsored by a group comprised of the American Committee of Jewish Artists; Writers and Scientists (CAWS); The World Jewish Congress; The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the U.S.S.R. (JAFCC); and the Vaad Leumi of Palestine

1946: February 5, Earl Browder expelled from the CPUSA

1946: March 5, Churchill gave his "Iron Curtain" speech

1946: March 16–17, Legal seriousness of the warning concerning 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, Start of Red Scare with "Loyalty Order" (Executive Order 9835). Truman required an oath for federal government jobs attesting to not belonging to or having belonged to the CP

1946: March 27, Official publication launch of the *Black Book* held at Madison Square Garden

1946: Jewish Life journal founded by JPFO (name changes to Jewish Currents, 1958)

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, Truman Doctrine announced

1947: May 14, the U.S.S.R.'s UN Representative Andrei Gromyko advocated a one-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, stipulating 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 Seventh Convention — New York City and JPFO Convention

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

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

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

1947: October 27–30, Hollywood Ten trials (HUAC) (5 of the 10 are Jewish); by November 24, all ten held to be in contempt of Congress

1947: November 15–16, first national convention of the Emma Lazarus Division (ELD)

1947: November 24, Red List created. Attorney General Tom Clark included the IWO as a “subversive organization” as per AGLOSO, December 5, 1947. The 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, UN vote for the partition of Palestine, authorizing the creation of a Jewish and an Arab state

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

1948: January 12–13, Assassination of Solomon (Shloyme) Mikhoels (Michoels), leader of JAFC

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

1948: February 25, Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia

1948: March 18, Truman agreed to meet Weizmann at the White House and tentatively pledged support for partition of Palestine rather than trusteeship

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

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–May 12, 1949, Berlin Blockade

1948: June 25, Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, authorizing 200,000 visas for DPs. Congress amended the bill with the DP (Displaced Person) Act of 1950. By 1952, over 80,000 Jewish DPs had 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’s 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 (JAFK) in the Soviet Union; last issue of journal, *Einikeyt (Aynikayt)* published: JAFK arrests take place June 1948, December 1948, January 1948, June 1949

1948: December 15, the Superintendent of New York State’s Department of Insurance authorized 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 filed a clean financial report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Department’s Mutual and Fraternal Bureau showing that the insurance activities of the fiscally conservative fraternal organization were run appropriately. Haley had also asked earlier to start reviewing the IWO fraternal (political) activities

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

1949: March 7, Start of Smith Act trials against CPUSA leadership. After lengthy trial, 11 are convicted on October 14 in New York. These “Dennis Trials” last to 1958: membership in the CPUSA was judged tantamount to advocating violent overthrow of the US government. Verdict in Dennis Trials is upheld on August 1, 1950 by Judge Learned Hand in an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

1949: November, American Jewish Congress under Executive Director David Petegorsky moved to expel JPFO

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

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

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

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

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

1950: June 23, IWO General Council decides to convene Eight National Convention in early 1951 [this is explicitly prohibited by Judge 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 presented 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, U.S. enters war with North Korea

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

1950: October 16, Donner and Kinoy filed their “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, Emma Lazarus Division legally became 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 had voted to split off from the parent organization (JPFO)

1951: January 22, Start of the New York State Supreme Court bench trial 60 Centre Street to liquidate the IWO. Its proposed liquidation is unique in the history of insurance law and regulations in regard to a solvent insurance organization, raising numerous legal issues

1951: March 6, Start of the trial of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, and Martin Sobell who are charged with conspiracy to commit espionage. March 29, Rosenbergs found guilty; they are sentenced to death on April 5

1951: March 26–30, Rubin Saltzman's five full days of insurance court testimony on IWO activities included taking the Fifth

1951: April 13, IWO insurance court bench trial under Judge Henry Clay Greenberg concluded

1951: April, “IWO Cemetery Department, Inc.” dissolved its administrative connection with the IWO upon advice of counsel and moved to a separate office

1951: April 20, JPFO lodges instructed to remit cemetery payments directly to IWO Cemetery Department, Inc.

1951: April 30, U.S. Supreme Court ruling resulted in IWO being taken off the Attorney General’s subversive [Red] list

1951: June 20, IWO Reply Memorandum for the Respondents filed

1951: June 25, New York Supreme Court decision affirmed IWO liquidation order by Judge Henry Clay Greenberg (on June 7, 1951 briefs on the prior ruling were filed for Justice Greenberg to review)

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

1951: August 24, order issued 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, IWO lawyers Donner and Kinoy submit Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss Proceedings Before the New York State Department of Insurance in the Matter of International Workers Order

1951: November, the Slánský Affair unfolded with the arrest of Rudolph Slánský, the highest-ranking Jew in the Czechoslovakian CP. After purges, he was arrested with 13 others Party and/or government officials, 11 of whom

were Jewish (e.g., Artur London). The Prague Trial held November 1952 resulted in the execution of 11 defendants including Slánský, on December 3, 1952

1952: June 27, Passage of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952 (The McCarran-Walter Act) to reinforce the 1924 immigration quotas

1952: June 30, Case 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: JPFO adult vacation Camp Nitgedaigit closed down and abandoned

1952: August 12: Soviet trials held spring 1952 result in the Night of the Murdered Poets: הרוגי מלכות פונעם  
ראטנפארבאנד

1952: November 1, United States tested first hydrogen bomb

1952: November 4, Dwight D. Eisenhower elected president beating Adlai Stevenson

1952-3: Doctors Plot accusations brought against defendants in the U.S.S.R., many of whom were Jewish, who are accused of poisoning Party officials. Accusations accompanied a broader anti-Jewish campaign heralded in a Pravda article (January 13, 1953)

1953: January, publication of Louis Harap editorial, “Truth About the Prague Trial,” in Jewish Currents (then Jewish Life) in support of the Slánský Trial in Czechoslovakia

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

1953: March 5, Stalin dead. Families are then informed of the 1948 arrests of JAFC members but not of their deaths. Doctors Plot trial “cancelled”

1953: May, Attorney General Brownell notified the IWO that it must 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: June 17, uprising in East Germany (GDR) resulted in complete stoppage of reparations to Poland

1953: Rosenberg trial last appeal denied. Rosenberg v. United States appeal goes to the Supreme Court. Argued: June 18. Decided: June 19 and executed on June 19

1953: June 21, Funeral of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg

1953: July 27, Korean War ended

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

1953: October 19, Supreme Court upheld 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 7

1953: December 15, IWO dissolved [liquidated] stopping prior joint control by the Department of Insurance and the IWO. New York State in charge of all IWO assets including insurance cash reserves

1954: Expulsion of the leftist Jewish Music Alliance from the Jewish Music Council

1954: The JPFO legally spun off its Shule, Camp Kinderland and Cemetery Departments into independent organizations. Itche Goldberg pulled the Ordn Shuln out of the 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 weakened form as the Jewish Cultural Clubs and Societies without the IWO JPFO mutual benefit insurance component.]

1954: IWO legally disbanded

1954: August 24, The Communist Control Act enacted by Congress outlawed the Communist Party USA. It is declared “not entitled to any of the rights, privileges, and immunities attendant upon legal bodies” and makes membership or support for the Party and its related organizations a crime

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

1955: July 8, Russell-Einstein Manifesto issued warning against the nuclear arms race, with Joseph Rotblat signatory

1955: November 22, Supreme Court of the U.S.S.R. closed the case against the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC)

1956: February 25, 20th Party Congress revelations by Nikita Khrushchev about Stalin “cult of personality” included extent of 1937-39 and other purges. JAFC relatives informed of the death of JAFC leadership

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

1956: June, “Review and Reappraisal” editorial appears in 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 invaded Hungary to quell Hungarian revolt which started in October

1957: August 12, *Yidishe Kultur* publicly commemorated the Night of Murdered Poets

1958: Jewish Life magazine renamed Jewish Currents

1958: June 11, Dovid Bergelson Workmen’s Circle branch founded by former JPFO and CP member, writer Alexander Pomerantz

1961: Newspaper "Sovetishe Heimland" in Birobidzhan founded with Aron Vergelis as editor in chief

1964: Itche Goldberg became *Yidishe Kultur* editor (Nachman Meisel moves to Israel)

1967: June 5–10, Israeli Six Day War

1968: March, Gomułka’s 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 newspaper ceased publication

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

1989: June 15, Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev announced end of Cold War officially ushering in glasnost and perestroika



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

Jewish Currents and Camp Kinderland reinvigorate their base and find friends and admirers in new generations