

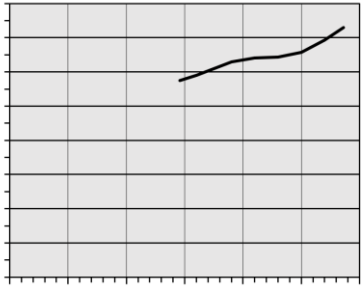
# World Jewish Population

Jewish losses are typically calculated by the traditionalists—and occasionally by their opponents—via exhaustive, but not entirely verifiable, analyses of each individual country’s losses. Though useful in some ways, this technique has the feel of a giant shell game. One tries to count moving bodies as they are shipped from ghetto to camp, camp to camp, and country to country. It is a recipe for confusion. Opportunities are rife for over-counting, double-counting, and miscounting.

The same is true for calculations of pre- and postwar Jewish populations in specific countries. People moved amongst multiple countries for varying periods of time, occasionally changing names in the process. Many Jews were not citizens of their countries of residence, making them extremely difficult to track. And national borders changed, compounding the difficulties. To the uninitiated observer, the mathematical gyrations can be truly bewildering and inconclusive.

Thus a good argument can be made that only by examining the *global* Jewish population, before and after the war, can one arrive at a moderately reliable confirmation of total deaths. Even a basic analysis of population figures is enlightening.

Let me start with the most-reliable and least-contentious numbers: those since the end of the war. Table 1 shows world Jewish population at eight intervals since 1948.<sup>68</sup>

| Table 1: World Jewish Population |            | 16<br>14<br>12<br>10<br>8<br>6<br>4<br>2<br>0 |  |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| YEAR                             | POPULATION |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 1948                             | 11,500,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 1955                             | 11,800,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 1970                             | 12,585,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 1980                             | 12,819,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 1990                             | 12,868,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 2000                             | 13,150,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 2010                             | 13,854,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |
| 2018                             | 14,606,000 |                                               |                                                                                    |

1875 1900 1925 1950 1975 2000 2025

Chart 1: World Jewish Population, in millions, since 1948, actual.

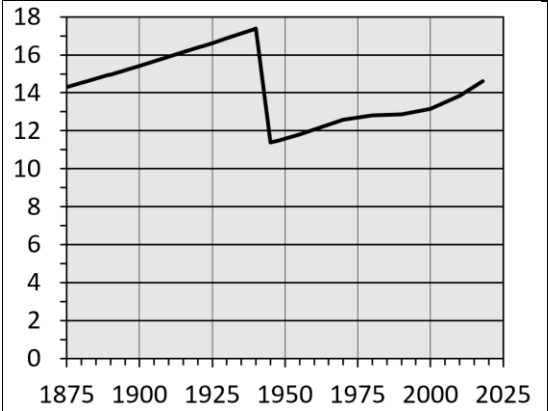
These numbers are plotted in Chart 1. These numbers are widely accepted by all sides. They indicate a slow, steady growth since the war, at a rate of about 0.3 percent per year. This is just one-sixth of the global population growth rate—about 1.8 percent per year—over that same period. During

<sup>68</sup> Data are from the Israeli Central Bureau of Statistics—accessed via [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org) on 23 Nov. 2019.

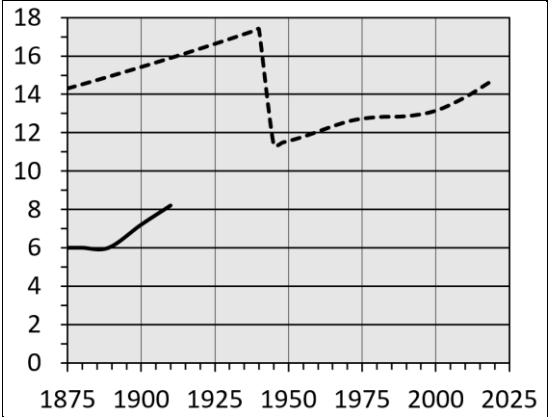
most parts of the 20th century, the Jewish population was among the slowly growing ethnic groups.

Now, going backward in time from the end point of 1948, we should ask ourselves this question: Based on the conventional Holocaust story, what should this plot look like? The answer is quite straightforward: a loss of 6 million from roughly 1940 to 1945—which would look like a spike upward to about 17.5 million just before that—preceded by continuation of the slow but steady growth, comparable to what we have seen since 1948. In other words the expected plot would be as shown in Chart 2.

But this is not in fact what we find. If we look at the period from the late 1800s to 1900, we can compare the expected numbers to actual ones that were reported in those years. Above I cited two such reports from the *New York Times*: in both 1869 and 1889, the global total was estimated at 6 million. For two additional data points we can refer to the 1900 and 1910 editions of the *World Almanac*, which give figures of 7.2 million and 8.2 million, respectively. When overlaid upon the previous plot we can see the discrepancy—see Chart 3.



**Chart 2: World Jewish Population, in millions, from 1875, assuming the loss of 6 million during World War II.**



**Chart 3: As Chart 2 (dashed), plus actual World Jewish Population until 1910.**

**Table 2: World Jewish Population**

| YEAR | POPULATION |
|------|------------|
| 1880 | 7,800,000  |
| 1900 | 10,600,000 |
| 1914 | 13,500,000 |
| 1922 | 14,400,000 |
| 1925 | 14,800,000 |
| 1931 | 15,700,000 |
| 1939 | 16,728,000 |

Those four data points are clearly far below the ‘expected’ numbers; this is the first indication of a problem. But they do indicate a slow and steady growth—of about 0.5 percent per year, on average.

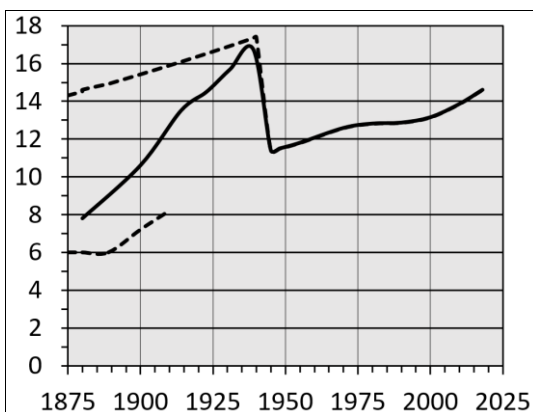
Given these early data points, one can readily see the problem for the traditionalists. In order to fill the gap between the late 1800s (of around 6 to 7 million) and the necessary prewar figure of 17 to 18 million (in

order to show the 6-million loss), they would have to claim a dramatic, unprecedented population growth in the intervening period. And in fact, this is precisely what they have done. The Israeli Bureau of Statistics currently claims the following numbers, shown in Table 2. These figures are plotted in Chart 4.

We immediately notice a few points. First, they start about 2 million higher than reported in the late 1800s. Second, they fall a bit short of the necessary 6-million drop. But thirdly, they indicate an extremely high growth rate—on the order of 1.4 percent per year, almost *double* the global rate at that time (0.8 percent), and *nearly five times* the Jewish growth rate since the war. This is especially problematic, given the *Times* reports, cited above, in which Jews were:

- “all in a state of political bondage” (1889)
- facing “renewed massacres” and “systematic and murderous extermination” (1906)
- “economically exhausted” (1911)
- “subjected to every manner of sorrow and suffering” (1915)
- “reduced to unbelievable poverty” (1919)
- facing “horrific conditions of famine, disease and death” (1920)
- facing a global “war of extinction” (1932)<sup>69</sup>
- “slowly dying of starvation, all hope gone” (1938)

These are not exactly the conditions under which one would expect a booming population. At best we would expect a flat trend, if not a precipitous



**Chart 4: As Chart 3 (dashed), plus necessary (and claimed) pre-WWII World Jewish Population growth to reach claimed pre-Holocaust population.**

<sup>69</sup> NYT, 22 Feb 1932, p. 20, first line of text: “Jewish people all over the world face a war of extinction.”

decline. And in fact, Gordon (1984: 8) observes that, in the period 1870-1933, “the rate of natural increase among Jews was extremely low compared to that of the German population.” Something is clearly not right with the prewar figures.

As further evidence, consider the recent “population boom” in the UK. In 2009 it was reported that Britain’s population grew at a rate of 0.7 percent per year, the highest in nearly 50 years.<sup>70</sup> But this figure was inflated by immigrants, who accounted for about one-third of the growth. For the Jews there could be no ‘immigrants.’ Their growth had to be completely ‘natural,’ that is, surplus births over deaths. To maintain a natural growth rate of 1.4 percent annually over six decades and in the worst of conditions is virtually impossible. The contrast with their postwar growth rate of just 0.3 percent is stark.

Yet more confirmation that the alleged 1.4-percent figure is wrong comes from recent projections of growth in adherents to Judaism. Between 50 and 60 percent of Jews consider themselves religious, and their growth rate certainly exceeds that of secular Jews, owing to larger families. In April 2015, Pew Research estimated that the global population of religious Jews would increase from 13.86 million in 2010 to 16.09 million in 2050.<sup>71</sup> This corresponds to 0.37 percent growth annually. Factoring in a lower secular rate, and we again get a global figure of around 0.3 percent per year. Thus from 1950 to 2050—an entire century—global Jewish population has (or will) grow by less than half a percent per year. And yet we are expected to believe that from 1880 to 1940 their population grew at an explosive 1.4 percent rate. We may be excused if we find this implausible.

## Another Theory

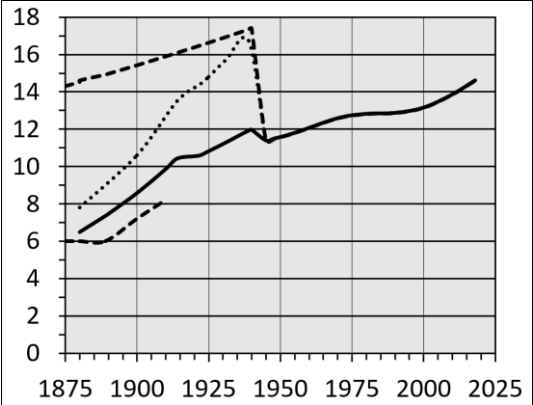
Looking back at Chart 3, the revisionists see a different possibility; see the solid line in Chart 5.<sup>72</sup> The early data points seem to grow quite naturally to a level very near that reported after the war. Allowing for normal growth, and a loss of about half a million during the war, this is the picture revisionists paint. They then ask: Which scenario is more realistic and more likely? (Compare the solid with the dotted line in Chart 5.)

<sup>70</sup> BBC News: “Population growth at 47-year high” (27 Aug 2009).

<sup>71</sup> “The Future of World Religions,” Pew Research Center (2 Apr 2015).

<sup>72</sup> Starting with 6.5 million Jews in 1880, I have applied a yearly growth rate of 1.4% until the outbreak of World War I (1914), at which point the growth rate slows to 0.2% until 1922, when the worst conditions of war and the communist revolution in Russia were over; then 0.7% until 1939, when conditions particularly in Poland and Germany deteriorated. For 1940 I still assumed a growth of 0.3%, but then a precipitous drop down to the generally accepted post-war figure. If starting with 8 million in 1882, as claimed by Israel, the 1940 figure would still only reach 14.3 million with the growth rates assumed here.

The answer seems clear, and the revisionists would have a compelling case strictly on the basis of global population alone, except for some discrepant statistics that were published between 1900 and the start of World War II. These numbers seem to confirm the traditionalist claim of a dramatic population boom. For example, they can cite the reports listed in Table 3.



**Chart 5: As per Chart 4 (dashed and dotted), plus World Jewish Population development according to the revisionist theory.**

| Table 3: World Jewish Population, as reported (1915–1941) |              |                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| YEAR                                                      | POPULATION   | SOURCE                  |
| 1915                                                      | 13 million   | NYT (14 Jan, p. 3)      |
| 1917                                                      | 12 million   | NYT (21 May, p. 5)      |
| 1918                                                      | 9–12 million | NYT (18 Oct, p. 12)     |
| 1919                                                      | 12 million   | NYT (12 Nov, p. 7)      |
| 1920                                                      | 15 million   | <i>World Almanac</i>    |
| 1926                                                      | 14.9 million | NYT (9 Apr 1936, p. 19) |
| 1933                                                      | 14 million   | <i>Daily Express</i>    |
| 1936                                                      | 16 million   | NYT (9 Apr 1936, p. 19) |
| 1941                                                      | 15 million   | NYT (7 Jun, p. 5)       |

So we notice that these ‘as-reported’ numbers are generally lower than claimed, though not nearly as low as the revisionist proposal. And they do follow the same general rapid-growth pattern that the traditionalists claim. Might these not, then, largely confirm the standard account?

I think not, simply because of the large improbabilities involved. Consider just the likelihood that the global Jewish population jumped from 7.2 million in 1900 (*World Almanac*) to 13 million in 1915 (NYT). This would imply an unbelievable 4-percent annual growth. Even the lower end of the range given in 1918 (9–12 million) would mean a highly unlikely 1.2-percent growth per year.

So where did these unrealistically high numbers come from? In virtually every case they were self-reported by Jewish agencies. And we must recall that the push for Zionism accelerated after 1900, as did the global clout of the Jewish lobby. Both these reasons might compel Jewish statisticians to inflate global population numbers, or at least work from the highest possible projections. It is thus not hard to imagine that the reported numbers after

1900 could be significantly overestimated. Zionists and lobbyists were caught in a bind: they wanted both high population numbers *and* dramatic reports of Jewish deprivation, suffering and death. Depending on the circumstances, they played one card or the other, and no one bothered to point out that the two were mutually incompatible.

My conclusion, therefore, is that both the ‘as-reported’ numbers and the Israeli Bureau of Statistics figures are likely 30- to 40-percent overestimates for the years 1900 to 1940. The revisionist estimates (Chart 5) are probably closer to the truth.