Timeline
1881: March 13, Assassination of Czar Alexander II by Narodnaya Volya; institution of repressive measures against Jews by his son Alexander III (May Laws of May 15, 1882)
1885: November 16–19, Pittsburgh Platform is predicated on German–Jewish “Classical Reform” notions of religion
1892: Founding of the Arbeter Ring (Workmen’s Circle) in New York
1897: First Zionist World Congress held in Basel, Switzerland
1897: Founding of the Jewish Labor Bund in Russia
1897: April 22, Founding of Der Forverts in New York by Abraham Cahan, Louis Miller and Morris Winchevsky who get pushed out of Socialist Labor Party (SLP) run by Daniel DeLeon. They later migrate to the Social Democracy of America, the Social Democratic Party of America and the Socialist Party of America (Eugene V Debs and Victor Berger)
1889: July 14, The First Congress of the Second International, is held in Paris
1889: More of DeLeon’s opponents (Morris Hillquit) leave the SLP and move eventually to Debs
1891: Jews expelled from Moscow (~5,000 merchants received residency permits)
1903: April 19-20, Kishinev Pogroms; in 1905, October 19-20 a smaller pogrom part of a much larger movement of 600 pogroms that swept the Russian Empire after the October Manifesto of 1905
1907: Founding of the Di Yunge writers in New York; 1912 founding of their magazine Shriftn
1908: Founding of the Dos Naye Leben in New York by Dr. Chaim Zhitlowsky which publishes until 1913 and resumes in 1922 with Shmuel Niger for a year.
1909: November 1909, "Uprising of Twenty Thousand" starts with a vote at Cooper Union. Leads to a massive strike including at the Shirtwaist Factory, run mostly by women shirtwaist makers (Clara Lemlich); ends Feb 15, 1910
1910: Nachman Meisel, Dovid Bergelson and Shmeryahu Gorelick found Der yidisher almanakh, Kiev
1910: July 7, "The Great Revolt," the Cloakmakers Strike, ILGWU 50,000 male tailors
1911: March 25, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire; 146 people die within 20 minutes in an ostensibly fireproof building.
1911: Future JPFO head Rubin Saltzman immigrates to the United States
1912: July 31, the Jewish Socialist Federation affiliates with Socialist Party of America (Debs) as a language federation
1914: August start of WWI; Jewish Left aligned primarily with neutral Socialist Party (Debs)
1916: Dissolution of the Second International in the wake of WWI
1916: June 19, Jacob Schiff (backed by Louis Marshall) refuses to participate in the JP Morgan loan consortium for Czarist Russia
1917: April 6, U.S. entry into WWI declaring war on Germany; war on Austria-Hungary declared Dec 7th.
1917: April 15, all anti-Jewish restrictions abolished in Russia
1917: April 16, Finland Station becomes famous as the location that Bolshevik Vladimir Lenin arrives at in Russia from exile in Switzerland (paid for by Prussia)
1917: June 15, U.S. Espionage Act
1917: October Revolution in the U.S.S.R., Bolsheviks in power (civil war through 1920 or 22), aka Great October Socialist Revolution, or Veliky Oktyabr’
1917: November 2, Balfour Declaration by Great Britain supporting “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.”
1917: November 7, Trotsky told Mensheviks “Go where you belong from now on—into the dustbin of history!” as they departed the second All-Russian Congress of Soviets, in St. Petersburg, leading to the victory of the Bolsheviks

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

1918: January, Nachman Meisel, David Bergelson and Dobrushin founded diaspore Culture League, Kultur Lige, Kiev

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

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


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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

1920: Start of Jewish Socialist Federation (JSF) Fights

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

1920: April, Split up of the Bund. Esther Frumkin became the leader of “Kombund” (Communist Bund). At the Kombund’s dissolution conference in March 1921 in Moscow, she moved fully to the Jewish section (Yevsektsia) of the Alfarbandishe komunistishe pariete (All-Union Communist Party, that is to say Bolsheviks)
1920: July-August, Second Party Congress held in Moscow, Lenin’s 21 Conditions for International groups. By 1921 there are CP break-off groups in France, Spain, Italy and Belgium
1920: July 10, Publication of The Protocols of the Elders of Zion by Henry Ford in the Dearborn Independent. The first mention of the Protocols appears in the 1920 issue in the seventh installment of its "International Jew" series. Also, in 1920–21 the Independent carried a series of articles expanding on the themes of financial control by Jews. Original Protocols were published in Russia in 1903.
1921: February 26, Reza Khan (Pahlavi), having just overthrown the Persian government, signs a treaty with U.S.S.R. to ensure withdrawal of Soviet troops. The Soviet Republic of Gilan officially ends in September 1921
1921: March, Kronstadt Rebellion in U.S.S.R.
1921: May 19, Emergency Quota Act Congressional Legislation restricting immigration
1921: Spring, NEP (New Economic Policy) in U.S.S.R.
1921: June-July, Third Party Congress held in Moscow; international civil war, revolutionary uprising encouraged
1921: September, Left wing of the Jewish Socialist Federation splits from the Socialist Party
1921: September, Establishment of Jewish Federation of the CP
1922: February 6, Cheka transforms into GPU, a department of the NKVD of the Russian SFSR. Becomes the OGPU, then part of the NKVD as GUGB in different iterations until 1954 when Beria is purged and the KGB begins
1922: April 2, Freiheit begins publication in New York, with editors Mosseye (Moshe) Olgin & Shakhne (S.) Epstein (Epshtein) (becomes Di Morgn Freiheit [Frayheit]). Both were former Bundists as was its later editor, Novick. Epshtein is sent back from Moscow as an editor for the Yiddish communist-affiliated newspaper.
1922: July 24, The draft of the [British] Mandate for Palestine was confirmed by the Council of the League of Nations
1922: November, Fourth Party Congress held in Moscow. Trotsky prominent at Congress. Start of First Period, export of October Revolution even as U.S.S.R. still has civil war and encourages it elsewhere
1923: September 29, British Mandate for Palestine starts (League of Nations confirmation vote July 23, 1922)
1923: May, Lenin’s stroke. The Trokia: Stalin, Grigory Zinoviev, & Lev Kamenev makes CPSU and Comintern decisions
1924: January XIIIth Party Conference secured a vast majority of seats for Stalin. The Conference, held immediately prior to Lenin's death, denounced Trotsky (Lev Kamenev’s brother-in-law who helps oust him by 1925)
1924: January 21, Lenin Dies. Start of the Second Period & New Economic Policy. Stalin wins fight for Comintern and CP “defense of socialism in one country.” The defense of socialism by internationalists was the defense of the U.S.S.R..
1924: Johnson-Reed Congressional Legislation further restricting immigration
1924: August, KOMZET (Committee for the Rural Placement of Jewish Workers) founded in Moscow.
1924: Yunger Arbeter Shreiher Farein was founded (Moshe Leib Halperin, Alexander Pomerantz) and Yunge Kuznye (Smity) Journal (Alexander Pomerantz, Shlome Davidman, Khaim Pet) with Davidman and Pet involved in the Shreiher Farein as well; all 3 trained as teachers by the Workmen’s Circle Seminary, 1920s immigrants. By issue 3, used Russian ideological Yiddish spelling. Olgin by 1930 forced to deal with them.
1924-1926; Forward and Yiddish Socialist Farband combine to fight Communist influence particularly in ILGWU
1925: Artef (Arbeiter Teater Farband) company founded (with actors from the Frayheit Studio by the end of the year)
1925: Modicut puppet company founded by Zuni Maud, Yosl Kotler (Cutler). Lasted until 1933.
1926: May, publication of first issue of the revolutionary journal *Der Hamer* and of its English counterpart, the *New Masses*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1929: September 13, Proletpen, created to “help boost the Linke’s literary output after the Hebron Riot defections”

16. Fellow traveler: *aribergekumene* Moshe Nadir joins party on Sept 14th; eventually Raboy, Lee, & Fienberg go back; the rest (Leivick, Reisen) don’t

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

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

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

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

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

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

1931: May, IWO Founding Convention

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

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

1933: January 30, Hitler becomes chancellor in Germany

1933: March 4, FDR’s Inauguration

1933: March 5, Nazi Party elected in Germany

1933: June, IWO 2nd Convention — Chicago

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

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

1934: August 2, Hitler becomes president in Germany

1936: July 18, Spanish Civil War starts with Franco’s (Fascist military) revolt. Ends April 1, 1939
1936: First Soviet Purges, The Great Purge or the Great Terror (Russian: Большой террор). Political repression was also against Jews per se (e.g., Trotsky, Esther (Maria) Frumkin, Mandelstam, Babel but also Moshe Kulbak and literary historian Yisroel Tsinberg); Yezhovshchina in 1937 continues until 1938-9
1936: ALP (American Labor Party) is founded as NYC 3rd Party (supplanting Democratic Party) by the more conservative wing of the Socialist Party, whose base was the Jewish labor unions, collaborated with the CP
1937: Founding of the Jewish Workers University in NYC
1937: September 21, Writers invited by Chaim Slovès and others gather in Paris for the World Conference for Yiddish Culture which then founds IKUF Idisher Kultur Farband aka Alveltiker Yidishe Kultur Farband. In the US, YKuF is founded: (Yidishe kultur farband). Proletpen, is phased out in 1938 due to founding of YKuF.
1937: U.S.S.R. purge of Jewish intellectuals (Max Erik, Izi Kharik). By 1938, only Trotsky remains of “Old Leninists”
1937: Fellow travelers in the US, mainly support the Great Purges and trials, e.g., Lillian Hellman, Langston Hughes
1937: IWO Third Convention
1938: March 12, Germany annexed Austria (Anschluss)
1938: April, IWO, 4th Convention, Pittsburgh. Convention of Yiddish Section of IWO held April 27-29th
1938: July 6-15, Évian-les-Bains, France Conference to discuss the “refugee problem”
1938: November 7, Herschel Feibel Grynszpan, a Polish-Jewish refugee born in Germany, assassinated the German diplomat Ernst vom Rath in Paris, which becomes the official excuse for Kristallnacht
1938: November 9-10, antisemitic pogrom throughout Nazi Germany
1938: Yidishe Kultur is founded, edited by Nachman Meisel, with Farlag YKuF (Meisel & Marmor as editors). Takes a Popular Front approach and includes Opatoshu, Leyvik, Korn, Molodovsky, Shumitacher and others
1938: Khurbn Daytshland, published by Proletpen (with Moshe Nadir poem “daytshtland in noit”)
1939: March 15, Czechoslovakia invaded by Nazi Germany
1939: September 1, Hitler invades Poland starting World War II; September 3, Britain and France declare war on Germany
1939: September-October, HUAC hearings with Earl Browder and Max Bedacht (IWO Gen. Secretary).
1939: September, Polish Bundists Viktor Erlich and Henryk Alter flee to Soviet zone are arrested, then temporarily freed in September 1941 (see JAFC history); see 1942-1943 for their deaths.
1940: January 27, Writer Isaac Babel dies in prison after being purged by Stalin
1940: April-May, Katyn [Forest] Massacre of Polish AK officers and others by Soviet forces
1940: May 10– Jun 25, France, Belgium and Luxembourg attacked and defeated by German Nazi army
1940: June 14 Eastern Poland is annexed by the U.S.S.R, as well as the Baltic countries, Bessarabia, and Northern Bukovina. The U.S.S.R. inadvertently goes from 3M Soviet Jews to 5M.
1940: June 29, The Smith Act, aka Alien Registration Act, passed to target non-citizens advocating overthrow of U.S. government, was used against a variety of leftists. Legislation forced registration of non-citizens
1940: July, IWO 5th National Convention, NYC
1940: August 20, Trotsky (Lev Bronstein) assassinated in Mexico by Ramón Mercader (1 of 3 plots)
1941: March 11, U.S. starts Lend-Lease program for U.K.; extends to the U.S.S.R following Operation Barbarossa
1941: April 2nd, Iraqi, nationalist, pro-German, forces overthrow the government; May 12, the Iraqi government is recognized by the U.S.S.R due to its support of German Axis forces
1941: May 2–31 Anglo-Iraqi War; British forces remain in Iraq until October 26, 1947
1941: June 22, Hitler invades the Soviet Union (Operation Barbarossa). Soviet policy changes immediately.
1941: July 10, The Jedwabne pogrom (Polish: Pogrom w Jedwabnem)
1941: August 21, founding of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee. On August, 24, two dozen Jewish cultural figures at a public rally led by the Yiddish actor and theater director Solomon Mikhoels (1890–1948), issued an international radio appeal to Jews around the world to unite in the struggle against Nazi Germany. An earlier 1941 meeting of "representatives of the Jewish people" held in Moscow was addressed by Solomon Mikhoels, Ilya Ehrenburg, David Bergelson, and others, who called on "our Jewish brethren throughout the world" to come to the aid of the Soviet Union (YIVO Encyclopedia)
1941: August 25 – September 17, Anglo-Soviet invasion of Iran (Operation Countenance). Soviet troops leave Iran May, 1946
1941: October, U.S. Begins Lend-Lease program to aid Allies
1941: December 3-4, Polish Bundists Erlich and Alter rearrested
1941: December 7, Pearl Harbor bombing; U.S. enters WWII
1941: December 8, first killing center begins operation (Chelmo). Other 5 concentration camps then set up.
1942: January 1, representatives of 26 nations at war with the Axis powers met in Washington to sign the Declaration of the United Nations endorsing the Atlantic Charter, pledging to use their full resources against the Axis and agreeing not to make a separate peace. 22 other nations signed the next day.
1942: January 20, Wannsee Conference. Planning of final solution with SS and German government. Mass deportations start to Chelmo, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Auschwitz-Birkenau, and Majdanek
1942: February, President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 for Japanese internment in the U.S.
1942: April 7, Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC, JAC or EKA) publishes appeal to “Jews throughout the world;” signed by 47 people. May 24 meeting and radio appeal to all Jews to support buying tanks; JAFC publishes journal Eynikayt (June 7, 1942- Nov 20, 1948) in Moscow
1942: July 1–27, First Battle of El Alamein, Rommel defeated by British forces; 23 October – 11 November 1942, Second Battle when Rommel is again defeated by British forces
1942: BZ Goldberg becomes the editor of the U.S. Einikeit (Aynikayt), organ of the American Committee of Jewish Writers, Artists and Scientists (already in October 26, 1941 it does its own radio broadcast back to the JAFC)
1942-1943: Polish Bundists Victor Alter and Henryk Erlich, died in Soviet prisons (Erlich committed suicide May 14, 1942, in Kuibishev prison; Alter was executed in Kuibishev on February 17, 1943)
1942: August, Publication in NYC of The Ghetto Speaks, about Chelmo and the Warsaw Ghetto*
1942: August 23, Start of Battle of Stalingrad in progression of Eastern Front by Nazi German forces
1942: November, the Soviet government established the “Extraordinary Commission for Investigation of Crimes Perpetrated by the German-Fascist Occupiers and Their Collaborators”
1942: November, the United States State Department confirmed reports to Rabbi Stephen Wise (World Jewish Congress) that the Nazis intended to annihilate all of European Jewry and had already murdered 2 million (reported November 24; Wise holds press conference covered on November 25, 1942 in the Washington Post)
1942: 10 November, German troops occupy Vichy France.
1943: January, 23-24 American Jewish Conference (Assembly) convenes in response to Monsky’s call from Bnai Brith asking 32 organizations to meet in Pittsburgh. By June efforts to create a larger body more officially commence. JPFO admitted by end of August; by its end of October meeting, the Conference includes 65 organizations.


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By January 1944, the JPFO is accepted to the Conference’s Interim Committee.

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

1943: September 8, Italy joins Allies.

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1944: 1 August – 2 October, Warsaw Uprising.

1944: August, Red Army on Polish border near Warsaw and Lodz.
1944: August 21 - October 7, The Dumbarton Oaks Conference (the Washington Conversations on International Peace and Security Organization) was an international conference at which the United Nations was formulated and negotiated among international leaders. Moscow Declaration 1943 had reached agreement on replacing League of Nations
1944: September 2nd, Second session of the American Jewish Conference JPFO approved as affiliating organization (November Report shows the JPFO as non-affiliated in August). In response to the Jewish Labor Committee’s protest, the Interim Committee issued a statement “The application (of the Jewish Peoples Fraternal Order) was approved, by the Administrative Committee and then by the Interim Committee, which, on August 1, 1944 by a vote of 20 to 5, recommended to the second session that the organization be admitted, …the General Committee, after a thorough debate, voted 56 to 10 to sustain the recommendation of the Interim Committee. …The question was then brought to the plenum, where the recommendation of the General Committee was approved by an overwhelming majority.” But JPFO is not represented on the Interim Committee (Saltzman letter of Jan 24, 1945) until February, 1945 (AJC Minutes).
1944: October 9, Fourth Moscow Conference, Percentages Agreement (spheres of influence) reached between Churchill and Stalin
1944: October 10, Miracle of the Warsaw Ghetto, H. Leivick, play performed by New Jewish Folk Theater
1944: October 12, Nazi troops withdraw from Athens; Nazi Germany’s occupation of Greece mainly ends
1944: November 7, FDR re-elected president for fourth and last term
1945: January 17, Russian troops finally enter Warsaw
1945: February 4-11, Yalta Conference (Stalin, FDR, Churchill)
1945: February 25, American Jewish Conference’s Interim Committee meeting minutes show the JPFO being officially co-opted into that governing body
1945: April 12, FDR dies; Truman becomes president
1945: April 25, UN meets for the first time in San Francisco (through June)
1945: May 7, Surrender of Nazi Germany
1945: May 8, VE (Victory in Europe) Day, or V Day
1945: May, IWO 15th Anniversary celebration at Madison Square Garden
1945: July, Potsdam Conference on post-War boundaries with demand for unconditional Japanese Surrender (July 26) (Stalin, Truman, Churchill/Atlee)
1945: August 6, Hiroshima Atomic Bomb; Nagasaki, August 9
1945: August 8, U.S.S.R. enters war against Japan; invades Manchuria; Japanese army surrenders Aug 24th
1945: VJ Day, August 1415, marks official Japan surrender (Sept 2 papers signed)
1945: August til the end of June 1946, Bricha figures showed 48,106 refugees that left Poland. An unknown number reached Palestine via Bricha, but estimate ranges from 80,000 to 250,000 by the end of 1948 (USHMM)
1945: January, The House Committee on Un-American Activities (HUAC) became a standing (permanent) committee
1945: September 2, official end of World War II with Japan’s signing surrender treaty
1945: September 30, Rally for a Jewish Palestine, organized by The American Zionist Emergency Council, Madison Square Garden (Stephen S. Wise and Abba Hillel Silver)
1945: October 24, Founding of the United Nations (UN) in San Francisco
1946: Winter Repatriation of Polish Jews from the Soviet Union picks up; 200,000 people by July 1 when it ends
1946: Winter, Publication of the Black Book: The Nazi Crime against the Jewish People in the U.S. by the Jewish Black Book Committee (the Soviet edition by Grossman and Ehrenburg was eventually destroyed by 1948). The
American version of the Black Book was jointly published by the Black Book Committee comprised of the American Committee of Jewish Artists; Writers and Scientists (CAWS); The World Jewish Congress; The Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee of the USSR (JAFIC); and the Vaad Leumi of Palestine.

1946: March 5, Winston Churchill gives Iron Curtain Speech
1946: March 16–17, Legal seriousness of the warning on the Order's fraternal activities conveyed to the Order's General Counsel [Lee Pressman] at a two-day meeting with the New York State Insurance Department.
1946: March 21, “Loyalty Order” (Executive Order 9835) seen as start of Red Scare (Truman requires a government job oath attesting to not belonging or having belonged to the CP)
1946: March 27, Madison Square Garden meeting officially launching the publication of the Black Book
1946: July 4, Kielce pogrom, Poland
1947: January 19, Parliamentary elections held in Poland; the Communist PPR (Polish Workers Party) under Władysław Gomułka wins with Soviet support
1947: March 12, announcement of Truman Doctrine
1947: May 14, the U.S.S.R.’s UN Representative Andrei Gromyko advocated the one-state solution to the Israeli–Palestinian conflict. He stipulated that a two-state solution was an option if “relations between the Jewish and Arab populations of Palestine... proved to be so bad that it would be impossible to reconcile them”.
1947: June 12–19, IWO 7th Convention — New York City
1947: July 26, Truman signs the National Security Act of 1947 to establish the CIA
1947: June 12–19, IWO Convention; JPFO Convention. 7th Convention New York City, 1947
1947: June 23, Taft-Hartley Act against striking unions (Labor Management Relations Act)
1947: October 5, postwar creation of international “Cominform” (“Communist Information Bureau”)
1947: October 27-30, Hollywood Ten trials (HUAC) (5 are Jewish); by November 24, they are held to be in contempt of Congress.
1947: November 15-16, Emma Lazarus Division (ELD) first national convention
1947: November 24, Red List. Tom Clark, Attorney General includes IWO as a “subversive organization”, AGLOSO December 5, 1947. List created due to Federal Loyalty program (Truman Executive Order 9835) was formally published in March, 1948 and included all IWO affiliates.
1947: November 29, U.N. vote for the partition of Palestine, creating a Jewish and Arab state
1947: December 5, U.S. declares an arms embargo on the Middle East including Palestine
1948: January 12-13, Assassination of Solomon (Shloyme) Mikhoels (Michoels)
1948: IWO loses its tax-exempt status as a fraternal organization
1948: February 25, Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia
1948: March 18, Truman met Weizmann at the White House and tentatively pledged support for partition rather than trusteeship
1948: April 3, Marshall Plan signed (European Recovery Program, ERP or Economic Cooperation Act) by Truman for Europe
1948: April 19, fifth anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.
1948: May 14, Declaration of the founding of the State of Israel (Israeli Independence Day celebrated)
1948: June 24 to May 12, 1949, Berlin Blockade
1948: June 25, Congress passed the Displaced Persons Act, authorizing 200,000 DPs. Congress amended the bill with the DP Act of 1950. By 1952, over 80,000 Jewish DPs immigrated to the United States with the aid of Jewish agencies.
1948: June 28, SFR Yugoslavia expelled from the Communist Information Bureau (Cominform) due to Tito–Stalin split
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1948:</td>
<td>October 4, Golda Meir visit to Moscow draws 50,000 greeters at main synagogue</td>
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<td>1948:</td>
<td>November 2, Truman wins election against Dewey</td>
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<td>1948:</td>
<td>November 20, Liquidation of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee (JAFC) in the Soviet Union; last issue of journal, <em>Eynikayt</em> (Einikait) published: JAFC arrests take place June 1948, December 1948, Jan 1948, and June 1949</td>
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<td>1948:</td>
<td>December 15, the Superintendent of New York State’s Department of Insurance authorizes an investigation into the IWO’s fraternal (political) activities</td>
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<td>1949:</td>
<td>January, Start of Stalin’s “rootless cosmopolitans” campaign in the Soviet Union</td>
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<td>1949:</td>
<td>January 25, James Haley files financial report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Department’s Mutual and Fraternal Bureau. Haley asked earlier that month to start reviewing the IWO fraternal (political) activities.</td>
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<td>1949:</td>
<td>August 29, U.S.S.R. explodes atomic bomb</td>
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<td>1949:</td>
<td>Smith Act trials against CP leadership start (some of whom are Jews). After 10 month trial, 11 convicted on October 14 in New York. The Dennis Trials last to 1958: membership in the CPUSA was judged tantamount to advocating violent overthrow of the US government. Verdict is upheld on August 1, 1950 by Judge Learned Hand in an appeal to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>January, American Jewish Congress moved to expel JPFO (Executive Director 1945-1956, David Petegorsky)</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>January 15, James Haley files fraternal (political) report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Commissioner; the report is verified (approved) on April 21, 1950. The report concludes that the IWO is a “recruiting and propaganda unit for the Communist Party.” It also concludes that the IWO “constitutes a hazard to the public.”</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>May 18, Haley fraternal (political) report on the IWO for New York State Insurance Commissioner is given to IWO</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>May 20, IWO and JPFO hold 20th Anniversary celebration in Madison Square Garden</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>June 8, IWO files list of 23 exceptions to the Haley Report with the New York State Insurance Commissioner, -</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>June 23, IWO General Council decides to convene Eight National Convention in early 1951 [this is explicitly prohibited by Jude Greenberg’s June 25, 1951 ruling against the IWO]</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>June 24, Korean War starts</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>July 17, IWO member Julius Rosenberg arrested while shaving; August 11, 1950: Ethel Rosenberg arrested</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>Summer, INS presents deportation case against Andrew Dmytryshyn on the grounds that he was an IWO member (although he admitted to being a CP member that was not the charge).</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>Summer, US enters war with North Korea</td>
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<td>1950:</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>1951:</td>
<td>January 20-21st Emma Lazarus Division legally becomes the independent Emma Lazarus Federation of Jewish Women’s Clubs (ELF). At the Third National Convention of the Emma Lazarus Division of the Jewish People's Fraternal Order-IWO (ELD-JPFO), members voted to split away from the parent organization (JPFO).</td>
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1951: January 22nd, start of the New York State Supreme Court bench trial 60 Centre Street to liquidate the IWO
1951: March 6, Rosenberg trial begins; March 29th Rosenbergs convicted of espionage; April 5th sentenced to death
1951: March 19, 21, JPFO lodges instructed to remit cemetery payments directly to IWO Cemetery Department, Inc.
1951: March 26-30th, Rubin Saltzman's five full days of court testimony on IWO activities includes taking the Fifth
1951: April, the “IWO Cemetery Department, Inc.” moves to a separate office and dissolves its administrative connection with the IWO upon advice of counsel
1951: June 25, New York Supreme Court by Judge Henry Clay Greenberg decision affirms IWO liquidation order.
1951: July 25, New York State Department of Insurance requests all records from JPFO and affiliated organizations
1951: August 24, issues order for the New York State Department of Insurance to “take possession of the property and to liquidate the business and dissolving the corporate existence of the International Workers Order.”
1951: October 16, Brief in Support of Motion to Dismiss Proceedings Before the New York State Department of Insurance in the Matter of International Workers Order is submitted by Donner and Kinoy
1951: The Slansky Affair, involved the arrest in 1951 of Rudolph Slansky, the highest-ranking Jew in the CP who was number two in Czechoslovakia by 1948. After purges, he was arrested with 13 others, 11 of whom were Jewish. Prague Trial was held, November, 1952. 11 were executed December 3, 1952.
1952: June 30, decided against IWO. Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York, First Department, 280 App. Div. 517 (N.Y. App. Div. 1952). “The order appealed from as resettled, entered August 24, 1951, should be affirmed, with costs. The appeals from the order entered June 28, 1951, should be dismissed as academic.”
1952: Adult vacation camp Nitgedagit is closed down and abandoned.
1952: November 1, United States tests first hydrogen bomb
1952: November 4, Eisenhower elected president beating Adlai Stevenson
1952-3: Doctors Plot trials begin in the Soviet Union and spread to Eastern Bloc. The defendants, many of whom were Jewish, were accused of poisoning party officials; the accusations accompanied a broader anti-Jewish campaign including a January 13, 1953 Pravda article.
1953: January, Louis Harap, “Truth About the Prague Trial,” editorial, Jewish Currents (formerly Jewish Life) supports Slansky Trial in Czechoslovakia
1953: February, U.S.S.R. breaks off relations with Israel
1953: March 5, Stalin dies. JAFC relatives are then informed of the 1948 arrests of JAFC members but not of their deaths
1953: May, Attorney General Brownell asks that the IWO register with the Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB) as a “communist front,” a McCarran Act registration order action that would affect all past members
1953: Rosenberg v. United States appeal goes to the Supreme Court. Argued: June 18. Decided: June 19th
1953: June 21, Funeral of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg; executed on June 19th
1953: July 27, Korean War ends
1953: June 17, uprising in East Germany (GDR) results in no reparations to Poland
1953: October 19, Supreme Court upholds verdict against IWO on appeal. IWO and Intervenors filed Petitions for Granting the Writ of [Certiorari] on constitutional grounds (July 18, 1953); New York State filed a Brief for Respondent in Opposition (September 17, 1953)
1953: November 13, IWO and Intervenors filed Petitions for Rehearing with Supreme Court; Denied December 7th
1953: December 15, IWO dissolved [liquidated]; joint control by the Department of Insurance and the IWO stops and the State owns IWO’s assets.

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

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

1954: IWO legally disbanded

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

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

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

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

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

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

1956: June, “Review and Reappraisal” editorial, Jewish Currents (then Jewish Life)

1956: October first wave of official antisemitism in Poland, under Wladyslaw Gomulka’s new leadership

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

1957: Yidishe Kultur remembers Night of Murdered Poets

1958: Jewish Life becomes renamed Jewish Currents.

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

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

1964: Itche Goldberg takes over Yidishe Kultur from Nachman Meisel

1967: June, Israeli Six Day War

1968: March, Golmukla regime in Poland attacks “Zionist Fifth Column;” purge of Jews from government positions

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

1976: Frei Arbeiter Shtime (Anarchist) ceases publication

1988: September 11, Morgn Freiheit (Freihayt) ceases publication

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

2004: Yidishe Kultur edited by Itche Goldberg ceased publication

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

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

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