

JIMENA

Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa

ADAPTED FROM JOURNEY TO THE MIZRAH
FORGOTTEN REFUGEES: JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB LANDS:
APPENDIX A

Then and Now

Name _____

Date _____

Part 1. Jewish population in Arab countries

Country	1948	1958	Today (2018 estimates)
Morocco	265,000	200,000	about 2,150
Algeria	140,000	130,000	fewer than 50
Iraq	135,000	6,000	fewer than 10
Tunisia	105,000	80,000	about 1,050
Egypt	75,000	15,000	about 100
Yemen and Aden	63,000	4,300	fewer than 50
Libya	38,000	3,750	0
Syria	30,000	5,000	about 100
Lebanon	5,000	6,000	fewer than 100
Total	about 856,000	about 450,000	about 3,500

Source: Jewish Virtual Library, "Fact Sheet: Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries." Iran, which is not an Arab country, had about 80,000 Jews before 1979 and fewer than 10,000 today.

1 Which three communities were the largest in 1948?

2 Which community shrank the most between 1948 and 1958? What might explain such a fast change?

3 What does the "Today" column tell you about these communities?

Part 2. Why did they leave?

Read your assigned country cards

Iraq

In 1941, the Farhud pogrom in Baghdad killed about 180 Jews. In 1950, a law allowed Jews to leave only if they gave up their citizenship, and in 1951 their property was frozen. About 120,000 Jews were airlifted to Israel in 1950 and 1951.

Libya

Pogroms in 1945 and 1948 killed more than 150 Jews and destroyed hundreds of homes. Most of the community left for Israel between 1949 and 1951. After riots in 1967, nearly all who remained were evacuated, most to Italy.

Egypt

After 1948, the government confiscated property and imprisoned many Jews. After the 1956 Suez War, thousands were expelled or pressured to leave, often with almost nothing. Many went to Israel, France, and the Americas.

Yemen and Aden

In December 1947, riots in Aden killed about 82 Jews. In 1949 and 1950, Operation Magic Carpet airlifted about 49,000 Jews from Yemen and Aden to Israel.

Morocco

Morocco's community was the largest in the Arab world. Riots in 1948 killed 44 Jews. After independence in 1956, emigration was restricted; in the early 1960s it was allowed again, and most Jews left for Israel, France, and Canada. A small community remains.

Algeria

Algerian Jews had been French citizens since 1870, though they lost that citizenship under Vichy rule during the Second World War. When Algeria became independent in 1962, nearly the entire community left, most for France.

Country	Push factors (forces that drove Jews away)	Pull factors (forces that drew Jews to a new home)

4 Were the reasons for leaving the same in every country? Explain with one example.
