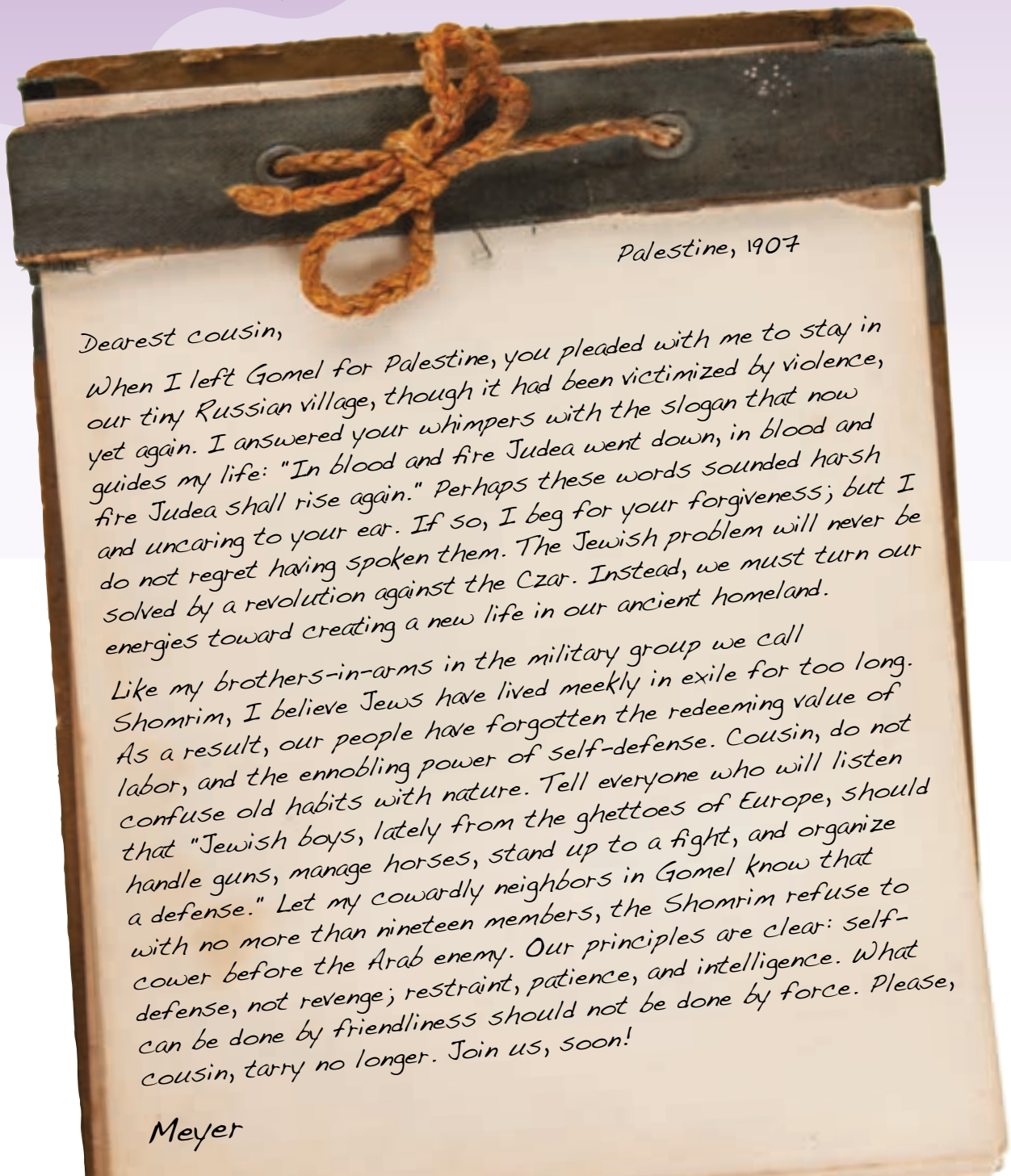


CHAPTER 7

ON THE WORLD'S STAGE



KEY EVENTS

1881–1948

Waves of Jewish immigrants enter Palestine

1909

First kibbitz founded in Palestine

1917

The Russian Revolution overthrows the czar, and Communist rule begins

1939–1945

The Second World War and the Holocaust destroy European Jewish life

Devastation and Triumph

The twentieth century saw great highs and lows for the Jewish people. The fall of old empires in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and the rise of newly independent nations offered Jews more opportunities but, in some cases, unleashed forces that made it impossible for them to stay. The anti-Jewish violence that had been developing in the previous century gathered strength and, in its darkest form during World War II, destroyed European Jewish life.

And yet on the heels of that devastation came the Zionist movement's great triumph, when a Jewish state was finally established in the Land of Israel. This began a new chapter in the life of the Jewish nation, one in which Jews had an opportunity to shape their own future. Building the Jewish state was no simple task, but Zionist pioneers and Jews around the world pitched in. Today, you can see the fruits of their efforts, and those of each generation that has followed, as the modern State of Israel continues to evolve and to thrive.

Spotlight On...

Jewish Youth Movements

As the world changed, young men and women were at the forefront of new movements in Jewish life. Kids played a role too. It had become common for Jewish children to attend state schools and study secular subjects, and as a result they became more educated about the world. But they still encountered prejudice and hardship. Jewish youth movements became popular in Europe in the early twentieth century as a result, because they gave members a way to connect with other Jewish kids and work toward improving life for all Jews.

Zionist youth groups prepared their members for life as pioneers in Palestine. Their members later built *kibbutzim* in Israel. Jewish youth movement members were also involved in Jewish resistance during World War II. A group of mostly young Jews led the dramatic Warsaw Ghetto uprising, in which Jews fought back against Nazi soldiers. Other groups helped Jews make it to Palestine from Europe after the Holocaust. Jewish youth movements were born out of a need for young people to have a say in the future of the Jewish people, and ultimately played an important role in saving and rebuilding Jewish lives.



Young pioneers picking oranges on a kibbutz in Palestine, 1938

1943

Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazis

1948

The modern State of Israel is established

1967

Israel wins the Six-Day War

1991

The Soviet Union collapses; Russian Jews immigrate to Israel and U.S.

Darkening Clouds on the Horizon

Jews around the world have suffered from discrimination for centuries. In some places, Jews were given an official lower status or had to wear identifying clothing; they were limited in the types of jobs they could have or where they could live; and they were restricted in their education and lacked political power. In the worst cases, Jews were barred from practicing their religion, expelled from their country, or even lost their lives. Both Jews and non-Jews debated the roots of anti-Jewish prejudice, with many blaming religious intolerance or economic jealousy.

As the world, especially in western Europe, became more secular and Jews became more integrated into society, they were hopeful that the hatred against them would fade away. So it was a great disappointment when new waves of anti-Jewish feeling arose in Europe in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Especially in Germany, things became increasingly worse for Jews in the 1930s, where anti-Semites blamed Jews for the poor economy, for losing World War I, and for all kinds of problems in society.

Words to Know: Holocaust, Shoah

It is hard to come up with a name for an event that is so terrible it is beyond our understanding. Some call the Nazi's destruction of European Jews the **Holocaust**, which means "completely burnt offering." Others refer to it as the **Shoah**, a Hebrew word meaning "catastrophe."

Jewish Life in Germany Is Shattered

"Nazis Smash, Loot and Burn Jewish Shops and Temples..." began the shocking headline in the *New York Times* on November 11, 1938. Over the course of two days, there was widespread destruction, synagogues were burned, and many Jews across Germany and Austria were brutally arrested. This event, called *Kristallnacht*, "night of broken glass," marked a turning point in the history of Germany's Jews, who had once seen a promising future in modern Germany. Ever since Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the Nazi party had increasingly restricted the rights of Jews, and the atmosphere had become more and more anti-Semitic. Many German Jews tried to leave, but many countries, including the United States, strictly limited the number of Jews allowed in. Jews around the world tried to help German Jews escape, but their power was limited. *Kristallnacht* was a chilling sign of even worse times to come.

A synagogue burns during
Kristallnacht in Nazi Germany.



Through Their Eyes

Anne Frank was a Jewish girl from Holland who lived in hiding during World War II. Her diary is famous for its vivid description of what it was like to live under the Nazis.



Saturday, June 20, 1942

After May 1940 the good times were few and far between... Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees: Jews were required to wear a yellow star; Jews were required to turn in their bicycles; Jews were forbidden to use street cars; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars, even their own;...Jews were forbidden to be out on the streets between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; Jews were forbidden to attend theaters, movies or any other forms of entertainment; Jews were forbidden to use swimming pools, tennis courts, hockey fields or any other athletic fields.... Jews were forbidden to visit Christians in their homes; Jews were required to attend Jewish schools, etc. You couldn't do this and you couldn't do that, but life went on. —The Diary of Anne Frank



Why do you think the Nazis required Jews to wear this yellow star?

Felix Nussbaum, a German-Jewish artist, hid from the Nazis in Belgium but was eventually captured. What do you think his painting *Self-Portrait with Jewish Identity Card* tells us about how he felt during this time?



The Flames of Destruction

The Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 and soon overran other European countries. Their Jewish populations shared the same fate as Germany's Jews. Hitler and the Nazis devised a plan, which they called the "Final Solution," to systematically destroy all Jews within their control. During the six years that the Second World War raged, millions of Jews were taken from their homes and sent to concentration camps where they were ultimately murdered. The destruction of two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population, six million in total, is called the **Holocaust** or **Shoah**. This tragedy, which ended when Germany was defeated by the United States, Britain, and the Soviet Union, had a major effect on Am Yisrael. Jews began to fear for the very existence of the Jewish people in the future. Jews around the world vowed never to let anything like this happen again and to fight against anti-Semitism and prejudice in any form.



Talk about It

Why do you think passing on Jewish history is important?

Welcome Home

When the United Nations voted in favor of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine in November 1947, Jews around the world burst into joyous celebration. The Zionist dream was finally coming true, and not a moment too soon. After the tragedy of the Holocaust, the desire for a Jewish homeland had taken on more urgency. The Jewish presence in Palestine had been steadily increasing since the late 1800s. During and after the Holocaust, these pioneers helped Jewish refugees make a new home in Palestine. However, many Arabs wanted only an Arab state in Palestine, and their anger increasingly turned to violence against the growing Jewish population. They opposed the United Nations plan, which divided the land between Arabs and Jews. On May 14, 1948, Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared Israel's independence. The next day, the neighboring Arab countries attacked Israel. After months of intense fighting, Israel won its War of Independence. The Jewish people finally had a home again in their ancient land.

From the Four Corners of the World

Israel's **Law of Return** states that "Every Jew has the right to come to this country...." From the beginning, Israel has welcomed Jewish immigrants who wanted to make *aliyah*, move to Israel, and has even helped whole communities of Jews escape danger in their home countries. As a result, the Jewish population in Israel today is incredibly diverse. Learn about some of the Jewish communities that immigrated to Israel by completing each photo's caption.

Word Bank:

Iraq
Morocco
Soviet Union
Yemen



In 1949, we walked across the desert from our villages in EENYM _____

before flying to Israel in a secret mission called Operation Magic Carpet.



We fled in secrecy to Israel from the mountains of RCOCMOO. _____

About 120,000 of us came to Israel from

QAIR _____

when anti-Jewish violence erupted after Israel became a state.



More than one million Jews made aliyah from the former IVSOTE NNIUO _____

beginning in 1991 with the collapse of Communism.



Israel Today

From ancient sites to modern cities, holy places to packed beaches, fragrant food markets to vibrant music scenes, modern Israel has something to offer everyone. Imagine that you are planning a trip to Israel. What is your "Israel tourist personality"? Take this quiz to find out.

1. What will be your family's first day trip?

- a. A bike trip around Lake Kinneret followed by a hike up a mountain.
- b. A visit to an artists' village where you can make jewelry with gems found in Israel.
- c. A tour of ancient Jerusalem and its Western Wall tunnels.
- d. A day of fun in the sun in Eilat, snorkeling and relaxing on the beach.

2. For a day of volunteer work, you sign everyone up to:

- a. Pick vegetables on an Israeli farm and donate them to poor families.
- b. Spend a day in a home for new immigrants, making art projects with children.
- c. Volunteer on an archaeological dig in southern Israel.
- d. Work with a forester planting trees in an Israeli forest.

3. Your top choice for an evening out is:

- a. Catching a Maccabi Tel Aviv soccer game, cheering with Israeli fans.
- b. Hearing popular musicians perform in the ancient Roman theater in Caesarea.
- c. Watching a nighttime show about Jerusalem's history projected onto its ancient walls.
- d. Spending time at an Israeli-style bonfire on the beach.

4. For a Shabbat to remember, you:

- a. Attend services at a synagogue whose members are culturally different from you, such as Ethiopian or Bukharan.
- b. Stay in the old city of Safed, touring the city's artists' quarter and beautiful old synagogues.
- c. Savor Shabbat in the Old City of Jerusalem, beginning with a spiritual moment at the Western Wall.
- d. Share a Shabbat meal on a kibbutz, enjoying foods that are mentioned in the Torah, such as pomegranates, dates, or figs.

If you answered . . .

Mostly a's: Action hero—you seek out new and exciting adventures as you explore the country.

Mostly b's: Art lover—from music to art, you appreciate the beauty and talent Israel has to offer.

Mostly c's: History buff—making contact with the past is your top interest.

Mostly d's: Land rover—you love nature and aim to set foot on every inch of the country.

Does this sound like you? How would you describe your Israel tourist personality? _____



Jerusalem