

# Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees: The West's Response to Jewish Emigration

*The inside memoranda, records, government documents and correspondence that helped shape the course of Jewish emigration in the Nazi era.*

- Date Range: 1938-1948
- Content: 30,100 pages
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The Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees (IGCR) was organized in London in August 1938 as a result of the Evian Conference – which itself was called by President Franklin Roosevelt outside the formal framework of the League of Nations.

The IGCR's purpose was to facilitate involuntary emigration from Germany and Austria of persons who, said Roosevelt, “must emigrate on account of their political opinions, religious beliefs or racial origin, and persons who have already left their country of origin and who have not yet established themselves permanently elsewhere.” The discussions represented a historic first on behalf of would-be refugees.

## An unexpected outcome

The IGCR called for the creation of a fund, to be guaranteed by Jewish property in Germany, and a Coordinating Foundation in order to finance the emigration of 400,000 Jews from Germany. This attempt to resolve the Jewish emigration issue failed.

Throughout the life of the IGCR, member nations only half-heartedly funded its operation, supported the resettlement of refugees from Europe in countries allowing permanent immigration, and accomplished little in opening countries to refugees.

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# Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees: The West's Response to Jewish Emigration

To facilitate research, *Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees: The West's Response to Jewish Emigration* is divided into four sections, each containing primary-source correspondence, memoranda, reports and government documents:

- Meeting records, 1943-1947
- Country files, 1938-1941
- Subject files, 1938-1944
- Administration files, 1943-1948

## Country files include coverage on:

- Angola
- British Guiana
- China
- Dominican Republic
- France
- Germany
- Great Britain
- Haiti
- Italy
- Northern Rhodesia
- Palestine
- Portugal
- Sweden
- And other countries

## Subject files include coverage on:

- Aid for Jewish refugees
- American Friends of a Jewish Palestine
- American Joint Distribution Center
- Bermuda Conference
- Child refugees
- Emergency Refugee Committee
- Evian Conference
- Hadassah
- Havana ILO Conference
- International Catholic Office for Refugee Affairs
- Italian refugees
- Jewish communities in Latin America
- Archduke Otto
- Rublee Statement of Settlement
- Spanish gold and refugees
- SS Croix
- Union for the Protection of the Human person
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