Building a Jewish Future: The Resurgence of Jewish life in Europe, Post World War II

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About the Research:

This research explores how Jewish communities in Europe have rebuilt since the Holocaust and what Jewish life is like in Europe today. Upon studies completed in Warsaw, Krakow, Berlin, and Paris, this research consists of a cross-city analysis, based on evidence gathered from interviews with Jewish residents in each city. Ms. Kaden is writing a memoir about her experience.

Key Questions Asked:
- How has Jewish life resurfaced in Europe, post World War II?
- What is contemporary Jewish life like in Europe?
- How do Jewish people view their future in Europe?

Poland

“Here people really often have to make the decision: do I want to do something about my Jewish roots? So there’s a certain kind of energy and commitment because of that.”
- Poland’s Chief Rabbi, Michael Schudrich

“Today you have much more variety. In Berlin alone there are 15 active congregations...when the Russians started coming...the Jewish organizations, internationally and in Germany, saw...a huge opportunity...to build their communities.” – Toby Axelrod, journalist

Berlin

“In college, I got involved in an organization called Jung und Jüdisch...[most members] were also just starting to find out about their Jewish identity so we were all pretty much in the same place.” – Michelle Piccirillo, National President of JJ, 2004-2012

“Today you have much more variety. In Berlin alone there are 15 active congregations...when the Russians started coming...the Jewish organizations, internationally and in Germany, saw...a huge opportunity...to build their communities.” – Toby Axelrod, journalist

Paris

“We feel very French, but we feel like there is no choice, we must leave...The big problem is that my girls [daughters] are not prepared to leave the country. So for me, I really feel torn.”
- Joyce Sananes, 62 years old

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