

18 Promises - Fulfilment through Israel

It is well known that the Jews were persecuted during the second World War - the holocaust. The maps which follow show that this was not an isolated incident. God's people have been ill-treated ever since they became a nation in Egypt in the time of Joseph.

Jews have been expelled from most of the countries in Europe; after several years of persecution they were expelled from Britain by King Edward I in 1290. Edward was a tough man, remembered chiefly for conquering Wales and building castles to defend the territory, many of which are still standing.

These notes relate to the maps on the pages which follow:

1. The Jews of England 1066-1290. Many Jews acted as money lenders, and became very rich. In several places Jews were attacked by people who owed them money, and the records of their debts were destroyed. In 1186 Aaron of Lincoln, the richest man in England died, leaving a vast amount of money. King Henry II immediately seized his estate, but his officials found it very hard to recover the money that had been owed to Aaron. As a result registers were created of the assets of Jewish people.
2. Expulsions 1100-1500. Nearly every country in Europe has expelled Jews at one time or another. Because they tended to be rich money-lenders they became unpopular, and it was easy for individuals and governments to drive them out and seize their money. Follow the arrows, and they often tell a story of people wandering from one country to another, with nowhere to call home.
3. The 'Pale of Settlement', an area of Russia roughly corresponding to modern Poland, Belarus and the Ukraine, in which Russian Jews were forced to live. When Hitler invaded Poland in 1939 there were millions of Jews living there, and the Germans created 6 death camps in Poland, where Jews were gassed.
4. Persecution was not restricted to Germany. One example, in France in 1894, is particularly important - the case of Alfred Dreyfus. He was a captain in the French Army, and a Jew. French Intelligence discovered that someone in France was selling French military secrets to Germany. Although there was no evidence against him, and although the French Government knew he was innocent, Captain Dreyfus was found guilty of spying - though later he was exonerated. The case became an excuse for widespread anti-Semitism in France. One of the journalists covering the trial was a reporter for an Austrian newspaper. He came from Vienna, his name was Theodor Herzl, and he was also a Jew. He was so struck by the anti-Jewish hatred aroused by the Dreyfus case that he published a book, arguing that the Jews would only be safe when they had a country of their own. The book started in earnest the movement for the Jewish people to have a land of their own.
5. It was not just Jews who suffered at the hands of Hitler's regime: many other groups were targeted as well, including gypsies, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, the chronically sick and mentally ill.
6. The situation in August 2000. Can you think of recent news items relating to events in Palestine?
7. In recent years, Israel has been building a West Bank barrier (commonly referred to as a "fence" by its supporters and a "wall" by its opponents).

THE JEWS OF ENGLAND 1066 – 1290

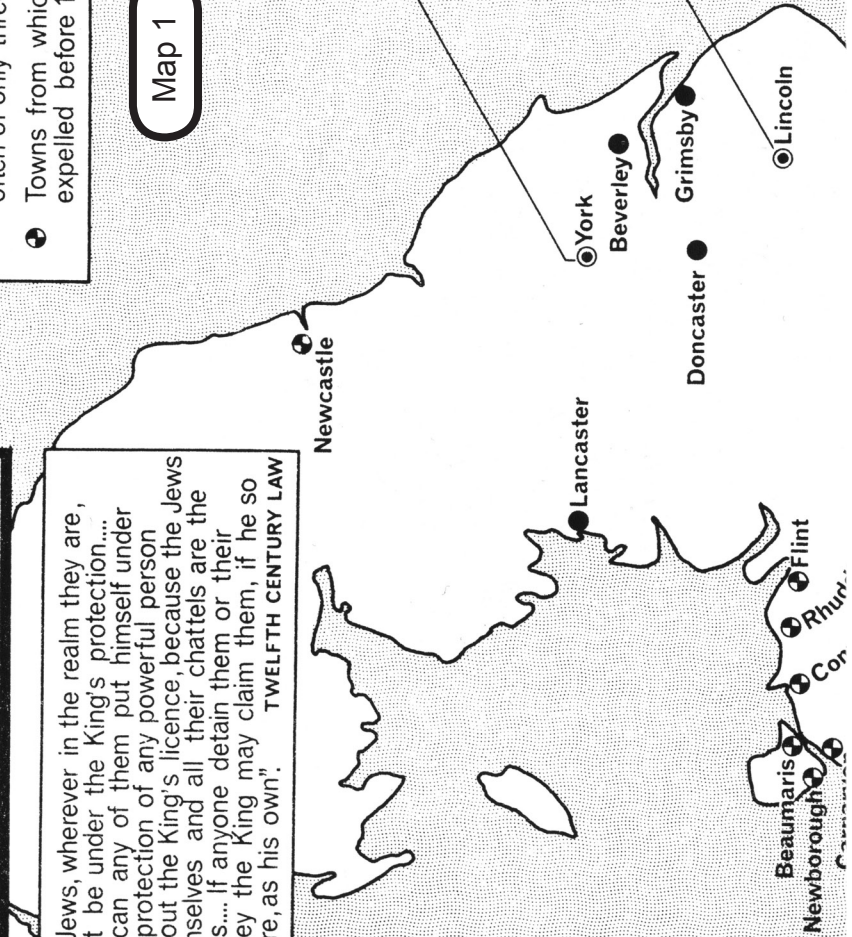
"All Jews, wherever in the realm they are, must be under the King's protection.... nor can any of them put himself under the protection of any powerful person without the King's licence, because the Jews themselves and all their chattels are the Kings.... If anyone detain them or their money the King may claim them, if he so desire, as his own."
TWELFTH CENTURY LAW

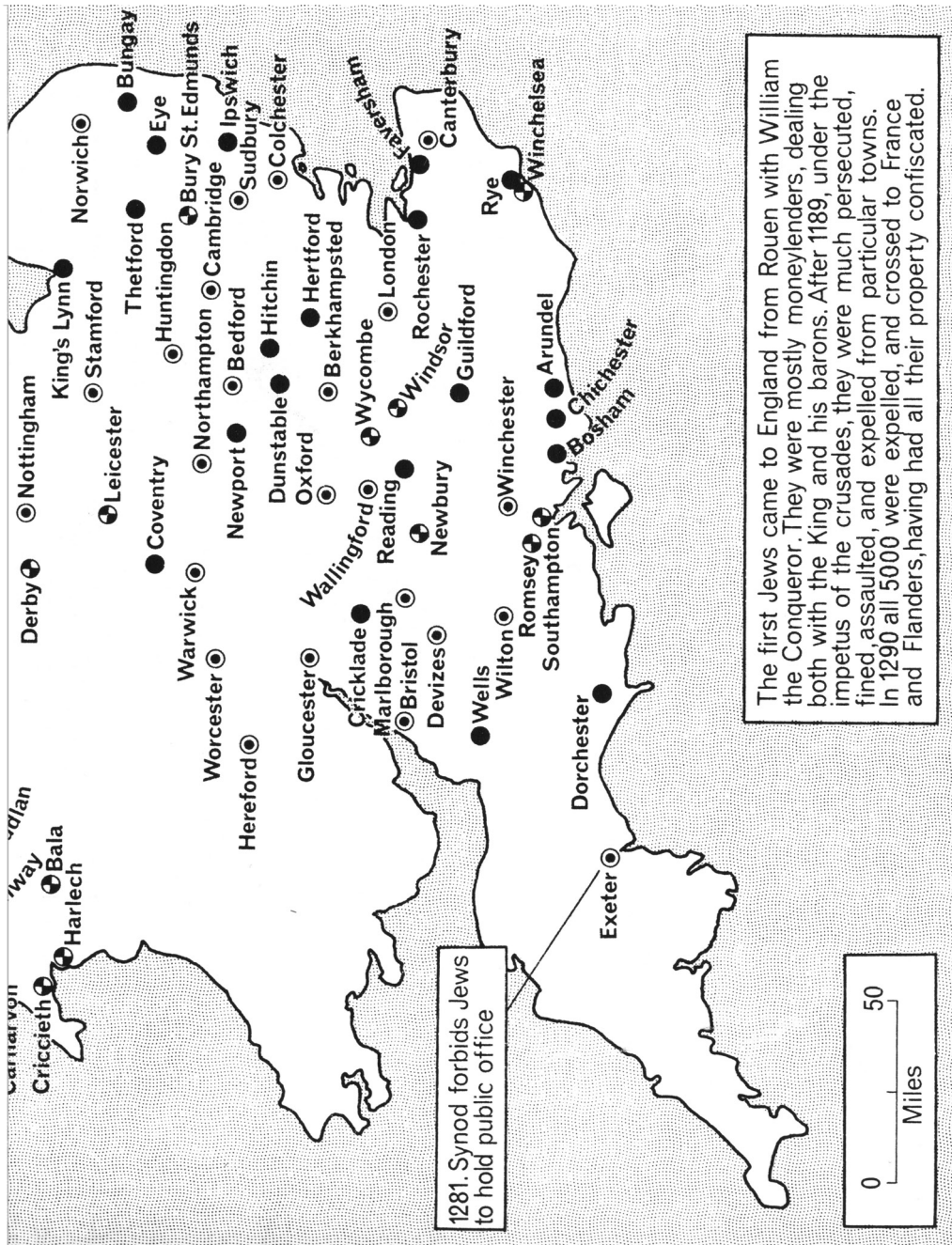
Map 1

- Towns with Archive, or official registers of Jewish financial transactions
- Other towns with Jewish communities, often of only three or four families
- ⊕ Towns from which the Jews were expelled before 1290

1190. Violent attack on Jews by crusaders. The Jews killed themselves rather than surrender

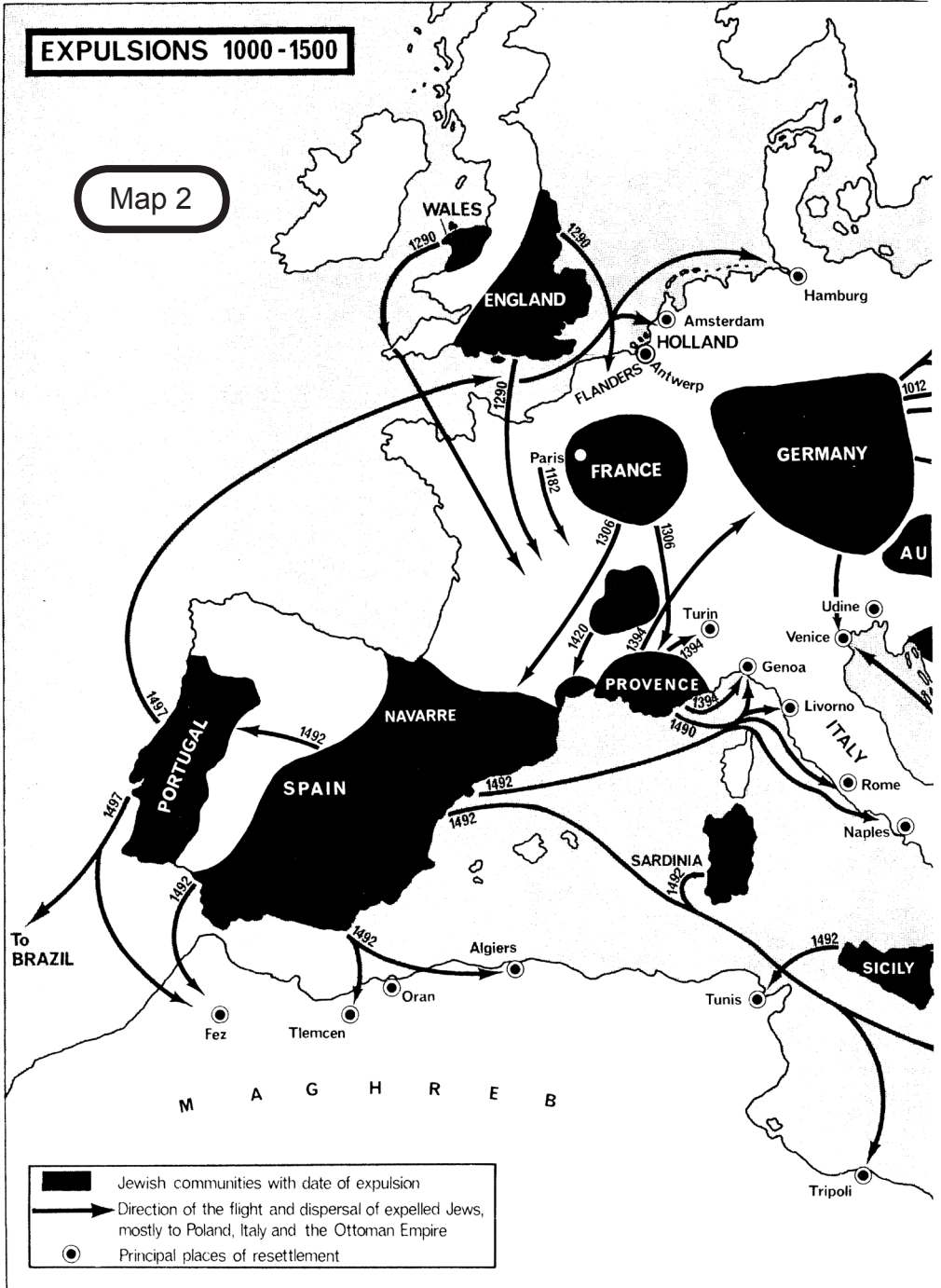
1255. Ritual murder charge. 18 Jews executed

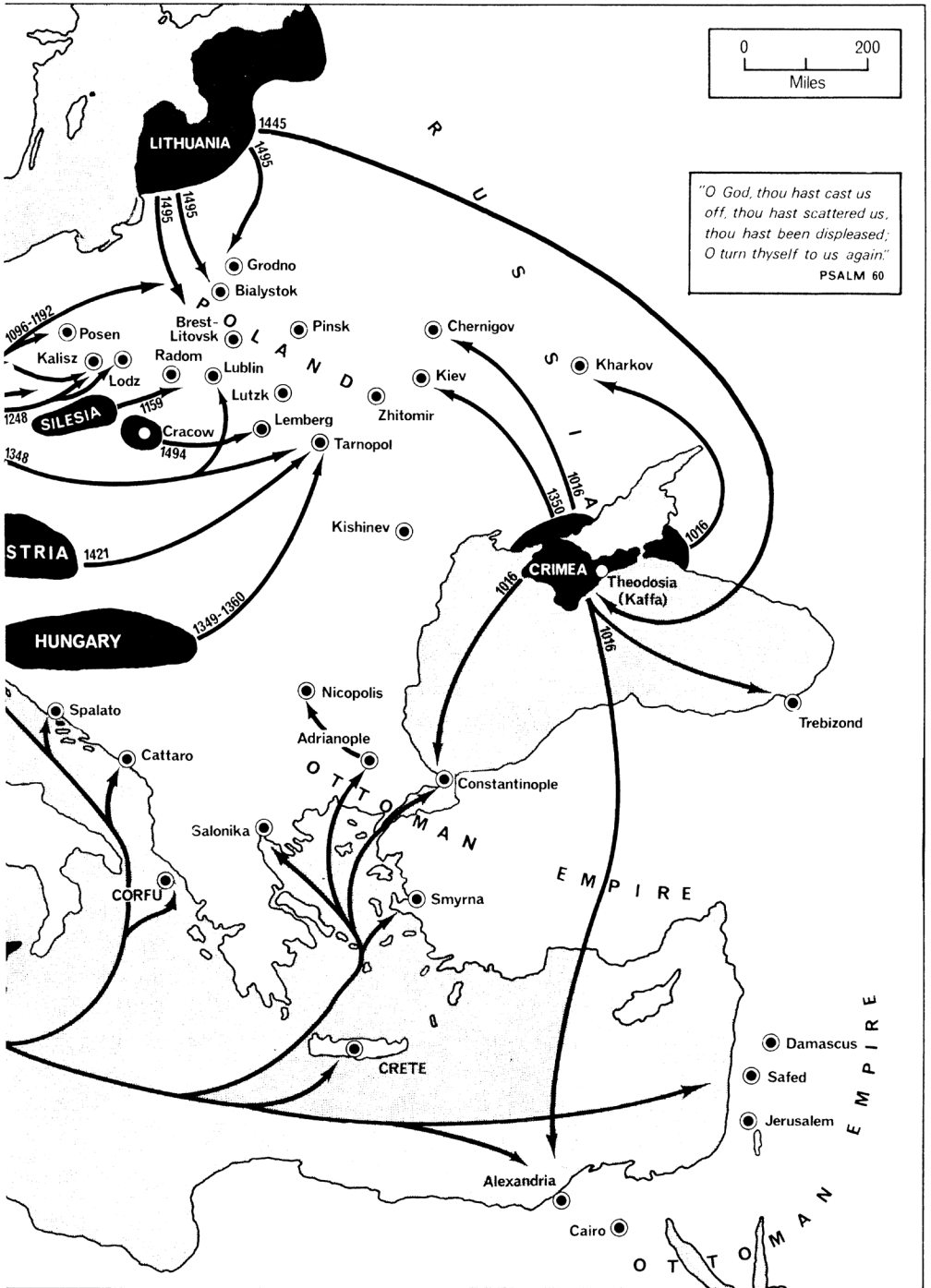




EXPULSIONS 1000 - 1500

Map 2





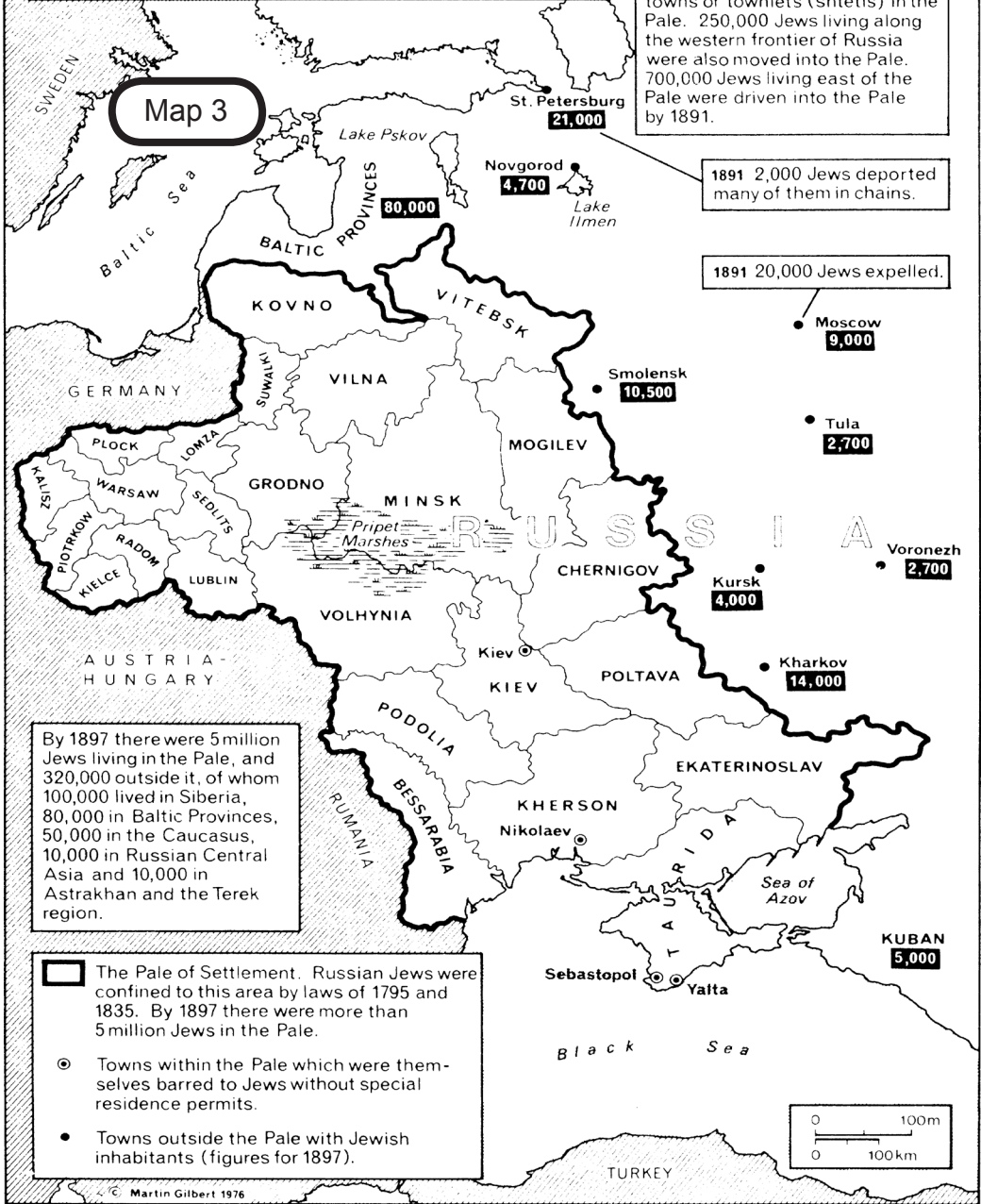
THE JEWISH PALE OF SETTLEMENT IN RUSSIA, 1835 - 1917

Map 3

In 1882 500,000 Jews living in rural areas of the Pale were forced to leave their homes and live in towns or townlets (shtetls) in the Pale. 250,000 Jews living along the western frontier of Russia were also moved into the Pale. 700,000 Jews living east of the Pale were driven into the Pale by 1891.

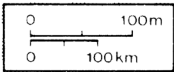
1891 2,000 Jews deported many of them in chains.

1891 20,000 Jews expelled.

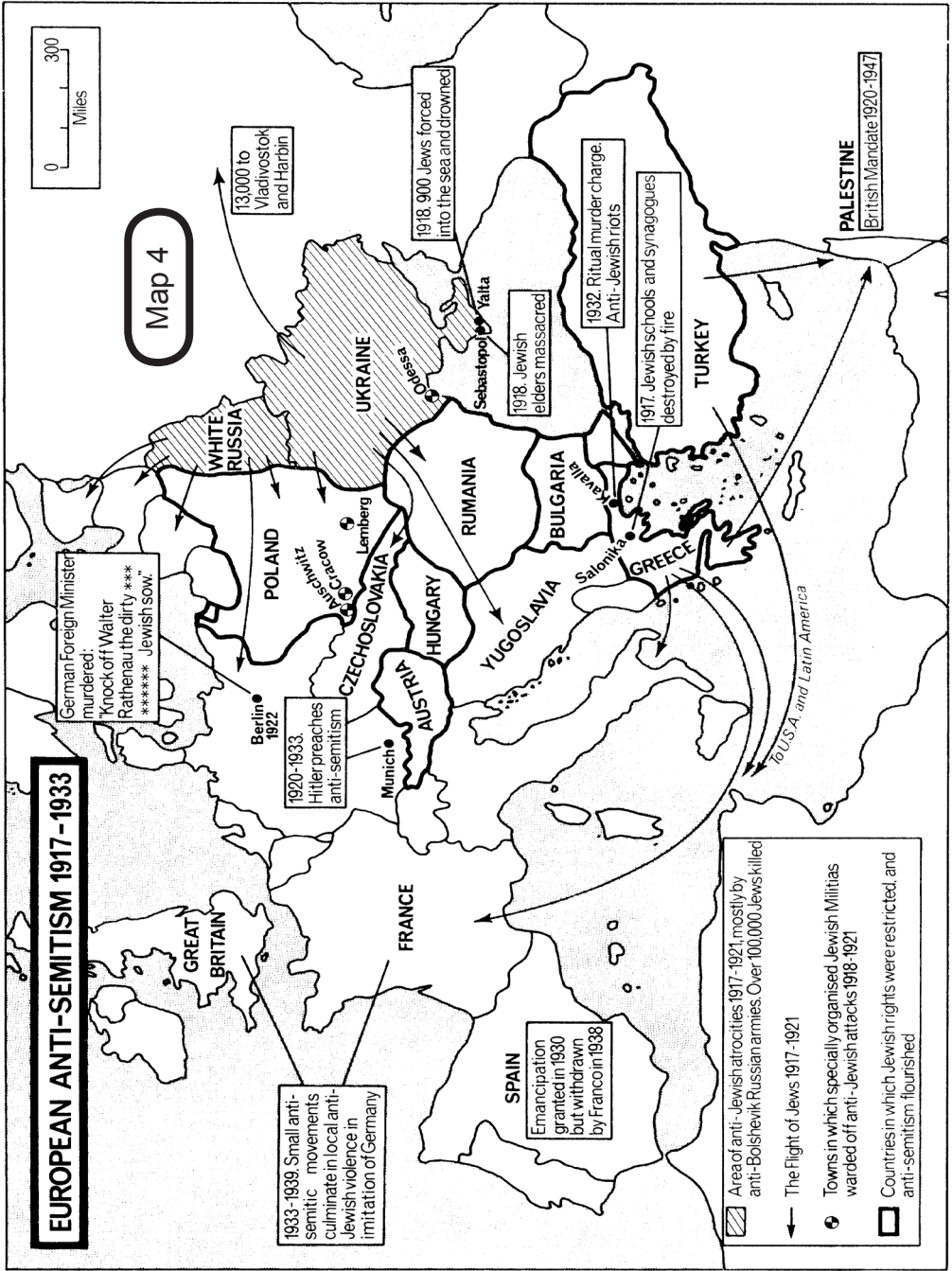


By 1897 there were 5 million Jews living in the Pale, and 320,000 outside it, of whom 100,000 lived in Siberia, 80,000 in the Baltic Provinces, 50,000 in the Caucasus, 10,000 in Russian Central Asia and 10,000 in Astrakhan and the Terek region.

- ▭ The Pale of Settlement. Russian Jews were confined to this area by laws of 1795 and 1835. By 1897 there were more than 5 million Jews in the Pale.
- ⊙ Towns within the Pale which were themselves barred to Jews without special residence permits.
- Towns outside the Pale with Jewish inhabitants (figures for 1897).



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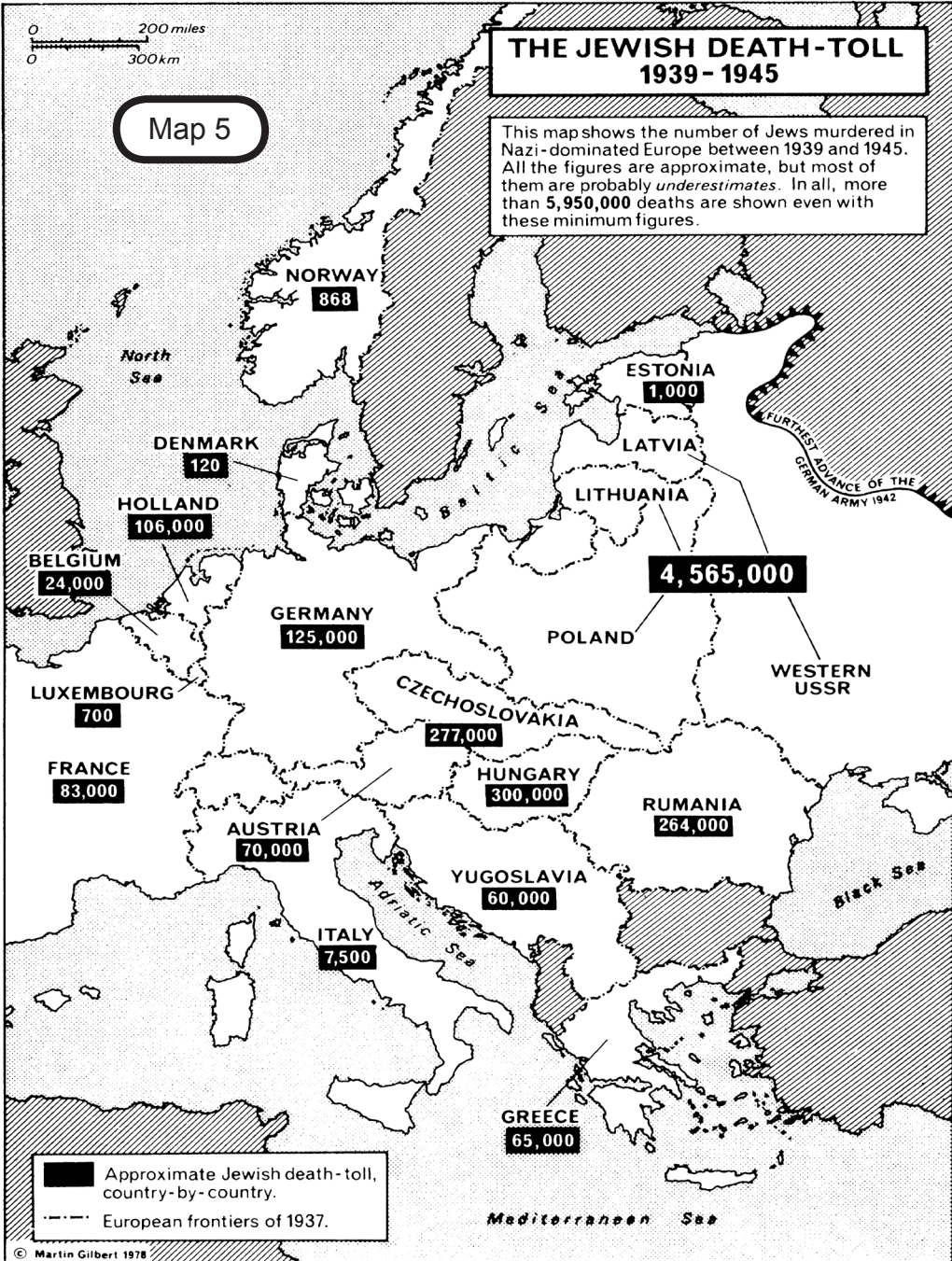


THE JEWISH DEATH-TOLL 1939 - 1945

This map shows the number of Jews murdered in Nazi-dominated Europe between 1939 and 1945. All the figures are approximate, but most of them are probably *underestimates*. In all, more than **5,950,000** deaths are shown even with these minimum figures.

Map 5

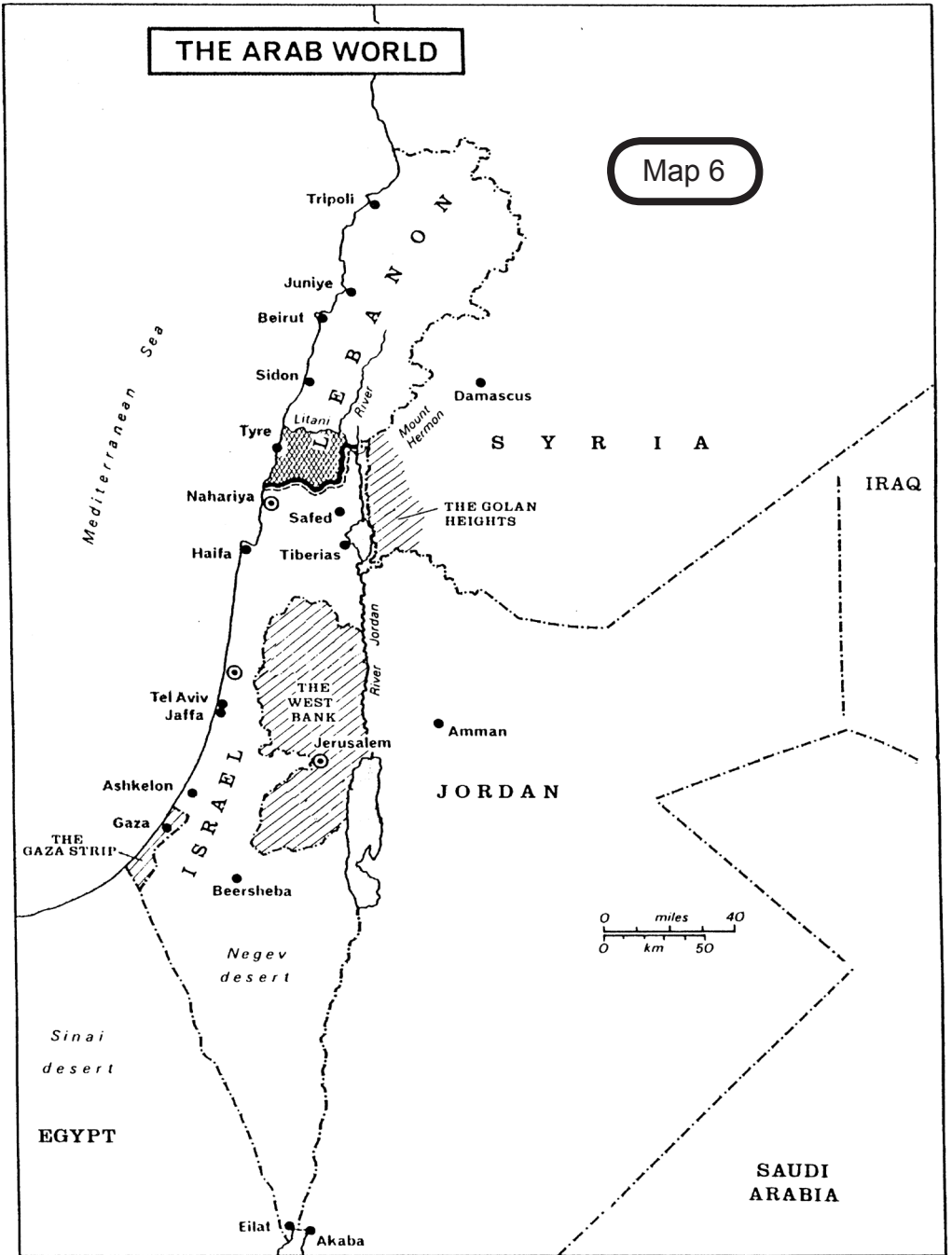
0 200 miles
0 300km



Approximate Jewish death-toll, country-by-country.
 European frontiers of 1937.




THE ARAB WORLD

Map 6



The West Bank barrier

Map 7

-  Green Line 1949
-  Fence Sections about to be Completed (July 2003)
-  Projected Fence Sections



A gate in the barrier at Bethlehem

