

American Jewish Conference

American Jewish Organization created in August 1943 to unify American Jewry for the purpose of planning their postwar policy.

In January 1943, two months after the United States State Department confirmed reports that the Nazis intended to annihilate all of European Jewry, representatives of 32 American Jewish organizations met to organize a conference to be held later that year. The conference agenda was to include Jewish rights after the war; the Jewish right to Palestine; and the election of a group that would carry out the conference's decisions. In late July the rescue of European Jewry was added to the proposed agenda.

The American Jewish Conference was convened in August 1943. The first topic of discussion was rescue, but no new solutions were found. However, when the Palestine issue was raised, American Jewish leader Stephen Wise delivered a fiery speech that called for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. The conference was completely caught up in Wise's furor, and passed a resolution in favor of a Jewish state.

Despite its good intentions, the American Jewish Conference did not successfully unify American Jewry or gain the recognition of the US government as the American Jewish authority on rescue, Palestine, or postwar matters. The conference was dissolved in 1949.