

Zeev W. Mankowitz, *Between Memory and Hope: The Survivors of the Holocaust in Occupied Germany* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002), 335 pp.

The surviving remnant of European Jewry – *She'erith Hapleithah* in Hebrew – is an almost mythic group in Jewish history. Their continuing suffering after liberation (ably recounted in Leonard Dinnerstein's *America and the Survivors of the Holocaust* [1982]) and their role in the establishment of the State of Israel have received wide attention. Yet the men, women, and children who made up the remnant of European Jewry that survived the Holocaust remain somewhat elusive figures. Too often we tell their story as if they are only symbolic of Jewish suffering, or as if their redemption must be understood as part of the creation of the modern State of Israel. Yet despite great odds, the psychological trauma of losing families and homes, and remaining for months as displaced persons, many of these survivors rebuilt their lives. Mankowitz tells the story of the challenges, failures, and triumphs of *She'erith Hapleithah* in their own right and as such is a welcome addition to the historical literature.

Eschewing the hagiography of popular legend, Mankowitz instead re-creates the world in which *She'erith Hapleithah* was formed. The quarter of a million Jews who made up this community initially sought political unity in order to strengthen their position with both the Anglo-American military authorities and the United Nations Rescue and Relief Administration (UNRRA). Despite some initial successes, the survivors were as prone to political divisiveness as any Jewish community. Mankowitz's artful and balanced telling of this political story reminds us of the old adage: two Jews, three arguments. There are many different stories told in this book, from the political machinations of the Anglo-American alliance over the survivors to the internal struggles among *She'erith Hapleithah* to define themselves to the politics of education in survivor-run schools. This book provides the reader with a greater appreciation of how the surviving remnant of European Jewry overcame their traumas and went on to rebuild their lives.