

a policy-planning institution closely allied to the World Jewish Congress (it would be integrated into the WJC in 1947), which was established in 1940, prepared plans for the post-war struggle to reclaim Jewish property throughout Europe,<sup>13</sup> as did some other organizations.<sup>14</sup> This even served as a cause for the legal definition of the Jews as a nation or collectivity – in order to be able to reclaim Jewish property on behalf of the Jewish abstract collective in places and cases where no individual Jew had survived. After the war, a Jewish Restitution Successor Organization (JRSO) was established in 1948 to tackle the topic and it composed documents that are still very helpful;<sup>15</sup> so too did the United Restitution Organization (URO), an organization which provided legal aid to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who were unable to secure legal counsel to obtain compensation vis-à-vis the labyrinth of laws and procedures. After the reestablishment of German statehood in 1949 in the form of two Germanys, agreements (under the terms of *Generalbereinigung* and *Wiedergutmachung*) were negotiated between West Germany (German Federal Republic) and several states.<sup>16</sup> The most well-known agreement was the one between West-Germany and Israel and West-Germany and the rest of the Jewish world to compensate the Jews and the Jewish people for losses during the Nazi period (this agreement was called in German *Wiedergutmachung*, but in Hebrew *Shilumim*, which has a double meaning: payments and – in Biblical Hebrew – recompense allied with vengeance). These agreements were based on calculations resulting from a series of scholarly studies and expert estimations. However, it later turned out that some of these calculations were insufficient, and that cer-

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of a Central Jewish Information Office aligned with the Amsterdam-based Committee for Special Jewish Affairs (Comité voor Bijzondere Joodsche Belangen), which monitored developments in Germany, including economic issues; see Barkow, Alfred Wiener and the Making of the Holocaust Library, pp. 57–63.

13 One such publication was by Robinson, *Indemnification and Reparations*. For the Institute of Jewish Affairs and its goals see Kubowitzki, *Unity in Dispersion*; Shafir, *Nahum Goldmann and Germany after World War II*, p. 208; Cohen, *Dr. Jacob Robinson, the Institute of Jewish Affairs and the Elusive Jewish Voice in Nuremberg*.

14 Zweig, *German Reparations and the Jewish World*, p. 12.

15 *Ibidem*, p. 15.

16 For instance with the Netherlands, on April 8, 1960 (Germany agreed to pay a total sum of 280 million DM).