

Eastern European immigrants. Previously, Rehovot had been an ancient, biblical settlement that was destroyed and vacated well over 2,000 years ago. When the prophet Jacob left Beersheba on his way to Egypt during the seventeenth century, B.C., he stopped at a way station in what is now Rehovot.

Today, Rehovot is a growing, dynamic city of 75,000 people, located twenty miles southeast of Tel Aviv in the midst of a citrus growing area. In addition to the agriculture related economy, the city is also developing several high technology industries. Critical to Rehovot's growth was the development of modern irrigation methods. As late as the 1930's, Rehovot was described as a desolate wasteland without grass or trees. At that time it was the gateway to the Negev Desert. However, with the piping of water from the Yarkson River, Rehovot is no longer a "wasteland."

The Weitzmann Institute was established in Rehovot in 1934 by Chaim Weitzmann, one of modern Israel's founders and its first president. The world famous natural science research center is responsible for inventing the drip method of irrigation used to reduce evaporation.

In addition to that research center, Rehovot is also the home of an agricultural institute, a municipal art museum, and a modern regional hospital.

Krakow, Poland

A quaint, historical city on the Vistula River in southern Poland, Krakow was permanently settled 1,000 years ago. The capital of Poland until the sixteenth century, Krakow was also the official residence of Catholic cardinals. Many great castles were constructed for these secular and religious leaders. Unlike many Polish cities, Krakow was not damaged during the Second World War. As a result, many historical buildings dominate the city's skyline. Particularly impressive are St. Mary's Church, Wawel Cathedral, and Wawel Castel, which was the home of Polish kings for 500 years and contains a large collection of art treasures. Although modern buildings have been erected, the people of Krakow are proud of their architectural heritage.

Also prominent in Krakow is the presence of Jagiellonian University, established in 1364. Although Krakow has ten other colleges, this university, where Copernicus once studied, is the most prestigious center of higher education in Poland. As a result, the college is an important part of Krakow, with students and college oriented theaters and clubs very much in evidence. Krakow's universities help make the city a major Polish cultural center.

Today, the city contains 600,000 people and is the third largest urban area in Poland. Although Krakow contains large steel mills and salt mines, it is not marred by dreary factories. Krakow is governed by a ninety member city council, a nine member executive committee, and a mayor chosen by the council.

Bamako, Mali

Bamako is the capital and largest city in Mali, which was once part of a series of ancient African empires, Ghana, Malinke, and Songhai in western Africa. Dating back hundreds of years, these empires were in contact with contemporary centers of civilization in the Mediterranean and Near East. Conquered first by the Moroccans in approximately 1600 A.D. and then by the French after 1880, Malian independence was obtained in 1960.

Founded in 1640, Bamako, which translates from the Bambura language to mean "crocodile river," is situated on the Niger River. Bamako has a tropical climate and is located in an area characterized by low mountains and deep river vallies. While much of Mali is desert and unsuited for agriculture, Bamako is fortunate to receive sufficient rainfall.

The city is one of the few in Africa to demonstrate a fusion of the traditional and the modern and maintain an African identity. Since 1960, Bamako has experienced very rapid population growth, increasing from 120,000 people to over 700,000 in 1984.

The civil service is the largest employer in Bamako; however, the manufacture of textiles and cigarettes is also important to the local economy. Many residents spend time farming various grain crops to supplement their incomes. The national government is very involved in Mali's economy and partially or completely operates many businesses.

Bamako is also the location of a number of research and cultural facilities. For example, extensive agricultural, zoological, and medical research is conducted in the city. Several libraries, including the National Library, and two museums are located there.

Waterford, Ireland

The major urban center in southeastern Ireland, Waterford has a population of almost 40,000 people. Stretching for a half-mile on the River Suir, this rapidly growing city is a place of contrasts, containing modern commercial facilities, old crafts and shops, as well as new housing and preserved historical homes.

Waterford was founded by Sigtrygg the Norseman in 850 A.D. In subsequent generations, Waterford, located at a convenient point to cross the river, was overrun at various times by the