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PREFACE

The issues emanating from the Eichmann trial have been the subject of considerable writing by both Jew and Gentile alike throughout the world.¹ However, very little sociological research has been carried out in connection with the trial, in spite of the fact that it obviously aroused sociological issues.² The challenge in initiating this study nearly two years after the trial took place in Jerusalem lay in the apparent advantage of having an opportunity to investigate the long run impact of the trial on Israeli Youth. That is to say, it would demonstrate whether, in the course of time, the dramatic courtroom revelation of the tragic fate of European Jewry had made a lasting impression on Israeli youngsters, considering the fact that they were, for the very first time, confronted with the historic implications of Nazism's "final solution." In other words, the study would

¹ J. Robinson, *And the Crooked Shall Be Made Straight*, The Macmillan Co., N.Y. 1965, Bibliography, Part I, pp. 375-377, see i.a. A. Segal's summary of publications and writings on Eichmann in 1960 and 1961 in *Yedioth Yad Washem*, Dec. 1961, No. 28, pp. 22-26 (Hebrew), as well as G. Hausner, *Justice in Jerusalem*, Harper and Row, N.Y. 1966, Appendix III, Bibliography.

² See p. 66 n. 11.

evaluate, on the basis of an empirical survey, whether the trial had an enduring impact on Israeli youth who, having been estranged from the Diaspora, were presumably incapable of an empathetic understanding for the tragic cataclysm which befell it.

This, in brief, constituted the challenge of such a study. It was to evaluate the trial's educational effect on Israeli youth, an aim explicitly emphasised by Israeli authorities, in addition to its obvious purpose of judging Eichmann for his war crimes against humanity and the Jewish people.

For various reasons, however, it soon became obvious (see introduction) that the prevailing conditions of the research situation would prevent the carrying out of a methodically meaningful study of long run impacts. Consequently, our study turned into one which focused mainly on the investigation of reactions of Israeli youth to some of the various complex issues connected with the Eichmann trial, and an analysis of their main attitudes towards these issues.

This change in the main focus of the study neither detracted from its general interest, nor diminished its sociological challenge, as one would at first imagine. Although not leading to conclusive results on long run impacts of the trial, it nevertheless enabled us to elicit meaningful information on a broad spectrum of aspects which provided us with sociological insights into some of the characteristic quality traits of Israeli youth (see Chapters I, II). Moreover, it supplied us with relevant cues for sociological generalizations, which led to at least tentative explanations of some of those revealed quality traits found to be conspicuously spurious (see Chapter III).

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For all the substantial shortcomings, not eliminated, I bear the entire responsibility.

A. W. Deutsch

Bar-Ilan University, Ramat-Gan
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