

Israel 101

Geography • Politics • Zionism • History • People • Culture



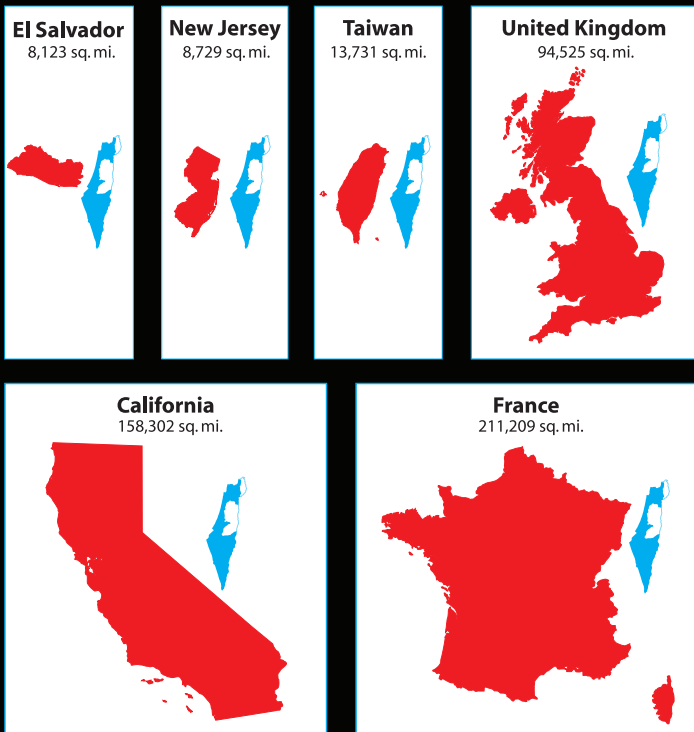
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Regional



**Israel's territory is 8,019 square miles (sq. mi.).
That makes it smaller than...**



Israel's Size Compared to the Arab World

- Israel's land mass is about $\frac{1}{625}$ ($\frac{1}{6}$ of 1 percent) the size of the Arab world.
- 05.9 million Israeli Jews (2011);
370 million Middle Eastern Arabs and Muslims

Christian Population in the Middle East

Israel is the only Middle Eastern country where the Christian population is thriving instead of disappearing. Between 1948 and 2011, Israel's Christian population grew over fourfold, from 34,000 to 154,000.

World Religions

Christianity:	2 billion people
Islam:	1.5 billion people
Hinduism:	900 million people
Buddhism:	360 million people
Judaism:	14 million people

Map



In the following pages, you will learn how the Jewish people restored their national independence in their ancestral homeland after 2,000 years of living under the rule of others. You will see how this young state built a vibrant society and how it lives up to the ethical and humanitarian ideals of both its ancient heritage and of modern times despite the challenges it faces.

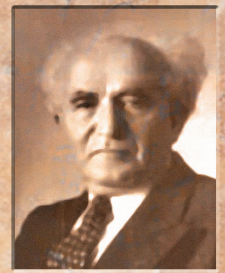
You will also learn about global terrorism. Some terrorist organizations described in this booklet have cells around the world and have attacked countries worldwide, from the U.S. to India. Because of its location and history, Israel has been forced to stand on the front lines of the global war against organized terrorism.



1897

ZIONISM

The Rebirth of a Nation



1948

A continuous Jewish presence in Israel for over 3,000 years

The Zionist movement "should stop" because it could lead to war, but "who can challenge the rights of the Jews in Palestine? Good Lord, historically it is really your country."

Yusuf Diya al-Khalidi, Mayor of Jerusalem, 1899

"It is, indeed, not the birth of a nation, for the Jewish nation through centuries of oppression and captivity have preserved their sentiment of nationality as few peoples could...it is the rebirth of a nation."

Lord Robert Cecil, British lawyer, MP, and diplomat, 1918

"We Arabs, especially the educated among us, look with deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement... We will wish the Jews a hearty welcome home...our two movements complement one another."

Emir Faisal, a leader of the Arab world, 1919

"It is manifestly right that the scattered Jews should have a national center and a national home and be reunited, and where else but in Palestine, with which for 3,000 years they have been intimately and profoundly associated?"

Winston Churchill, 1921



Zion is an age-old name for Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people who sought to restore their freedom and independence in their ancestral homeland.

Theodor Herzl founded the modern Zionist movement in 1897, but the dream of restoration and return had always been at the core of Judaism and Jewish identity. Rome tried to obliterate the millennia-old Jewish state in the first century, but unlike other nations conquered in ancient times, the Jews survived and never lost their profound attachment to their land of origin. Jews lived in the land of Israel continuously for 3,000 years. Those forced into exile expressed their yearning to return in their daily liturgy and prayers. For 2,000 years many came back in periodic waves of immigration. By the late 1860s Jews once again were the majority in Jerusalem.¹

Zionists adapted this historic dream to modern political ideals and circumstances. They were inspired by national liberation movements and driven by ongoing anti-Jewish persecution and discrimination that occurred even in progressive Europe. The Zionists believed that if the scattered Jews reunited in their historic homeland, joining the Jews who were already there, they could restore their freedom, be free from prejudice, and further develop their unique culture.

Disagreements arose among Zionists as Jews from different countries and with different ideologies—religious and secular, socialist and conservative—joined together. But they united around fundamental principles that combined idealism and practicality. They would seek official support from other national governments. They would return legally, purchase the land, and restore it through their own labor. Zionists envisioned living in friendship with non-Jewish residents and believed the entire region would benefit from their restoration of the land.

Within 50 years the Zionist dream became a reality. Britain recognized the thriving communities Jews had built, and in the 1917 Balfour Declaration, endorsed the "Zionist aspirations." In 1920, the League of Nations reinforced this commitment and carved out the Palestine Mandate from the defeated Ottoman Empire for the Jewish homeland.

On May 14, 1948, Israel was reestablished as a modern state and recognized by the community of nations. It lived up to the Zionist dream. Israel began modern statehood with a Jewish majority that had purchased and settled the land and accorded full civil, political, and cultural rights to all its minorities, including Arabs, Muslims, and Christians.

Today, Jewish and non-Jewish Zionists around the world support the state of Israel and hope to see the full Zionist vision realized—a safe and thriving Israel living at peace with its neighbors.



The remains of Gamla, evidence of an ancient Jewish city in the Golan Heights, where, in 67 C.E., Jews fought to the last person against the Roman army. Thousands of inhabitants were killed. Others jumped to their deaths from Gamla's cliffs to avoid capture and certain slavery. The city was destroyed and never rebuilt.



The "Kotel ha-Ma'aravi" — the Western Wall

This outer retaining wall on the west side of the Temple Mount was all that remained after the Romans destroyed the Second Temple in 70 C.E. It became Judaism's holiest site, and for centuries, Jews worshipped at the Kotel and put their prayers, written on scraps of paper, into its crevices.



When the Romans defeated the Jews in 70 C.E., they built this "Titus Arch" in Rome to commemorate their victory. The sculpture depicts the booty the Romans took when they ransacked and destroyed the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The Roman victors renamed the conquered Jewish region "Palestine."²



TIES THAT BIND

Jews Connecting Through The Centuries



Jews are one of the few ancient peoples who have survived into modern times. Judaism is among the world's oldest living religions.

Jewish civilization was already over 1,000 years old when the Romans conquered Judea, but the Jews safeguarded their unique heritage for the next two millennia. No matter how far they wandered, how much they adapted to their host societies, or how much they were persecuted, Jews maintained their identity.

Judaism and its sacred books bind the Jewish people together. Whether they are religious or secular, Jews are connected by the ethics and values that Judaism teaches. Parents have passed the tradition to their children, who passed it on to their own children, and so it has continued for thousands of years.

Jews everywhere observe the holy days in almost identical ways and repeat the rituals and prayers that Jewish families have used since the days of ancient Israel.

Jews share the same life-cycle rituals. When an eight-day-old infant is circumcised or adolescents celebrate their bar and bat mitzvahs and the whole community celebrates, they are reenacting age-old Jewish traditions. When a loved one dies, Jewish customs and prayers comfort



Fragment of a sixth-century mosaic (Byzantine Period) depicting King David playing the lyre, found in the ancient synagogue of Gaza. —Israel Museum



A boy carries a Torah scroll at his bar mitzvah at the Western Wall.

“Jews prefer being prisoners in Jerusalem to enjoying the freedom they could acquire elsewhere....The love of the Jews for the Holy Land which they lost...is unbelievable.”

—Jesuit Father Michael Naud on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 1674³

the grieving and spell out how the community should support and console the mourners.

Jewish life centers around home and family. Jewish tradition sanctifies family relationships. Parents’ devotion and sense of responsibility for passing on Jewish identity have bound generations to the past while linking them to the future.

Jews have always identified with Zion, the Jewish homeland. It is at the core of Jewish history, religious texts, and identity. Many consider title to the land to be at the heart of the promise between God and the Jewish people in the Torah, which dates back thousands of years. The Hebrew language, the Torah, the laws in the Talmud, the Jewish calendar and Jewish holidays and festivals all originated in ancient Israel and revolve around its seasons, way of life, and history. Zion and Jerusalem are mentioned 809 times in the Hebrew Bible. When Israel was reestablished in 1948, Jews everywhere came to embrace Israel and once again recognize it as the center of Jewish life and continuity.

“The Greeks and the Romans...are gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out...the Jews saw them all, survived them all...all things are mortal but the Jew; all other forces passed, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality?” —Mark Twain, 1898⁴

¹Dore Gold, “Jerusalem in International Diplomacy: Demography,” Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, October 27, 2006. ²Michael Grant, *The Jews in the Roman World*, 1973, p. 255; Elliott A Green, “What Did Rome Call the Land of Israel...,” *Midstream*, October 1995. ³R.P. Michael Naud, *Voyage Nouveau de la Terre-Sainte*, Paris, 1702, pp. 58, 563. ⁴Mark Twain, “Concerning the Jews,” *Harper’s Magazine*, March 1898.

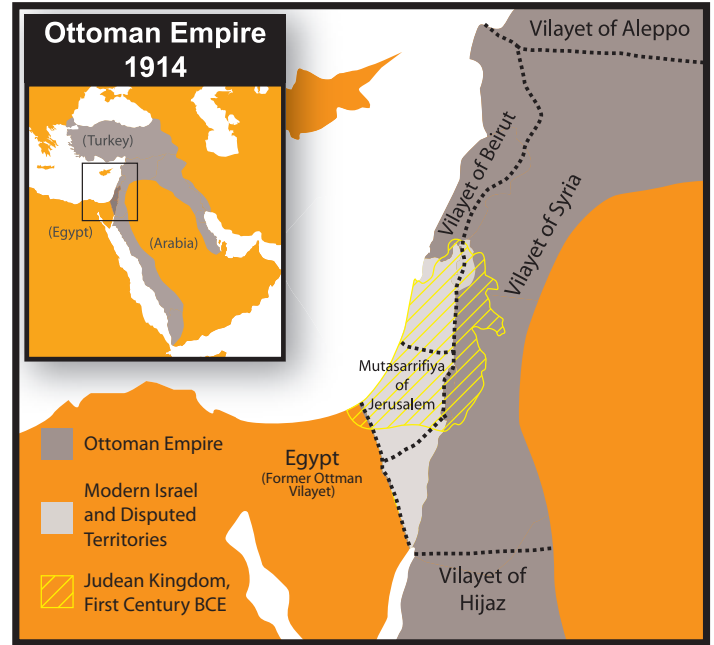
Evolution of the Region

The Rise and Fall of Empires

In the first century the Roman Empire defeated the over 1,000-year-old nation of Judea, destroyed its Holy Temple in Jerusalem and exiled hundreds of thousands of Jews. To erase all memory of Judea, Rome renamed it "Palestine" after the Jews' biblical enemy, the Philistines, an Aegean people who had once settled along the coast.¹ Afterward, Westerners referred to the Jewish-Christian Holy Land as Palestine. Arab peoples did not widely adopt the name "Palestinian" until the 20th century. Though the name had always been associated with Jews, in the 1960s it became associated with the Arab Palestinian nationalist movement.

For the two millennia after the Roman conquest, no other state or unique national group developed in Palestine, and no ruler chose Jerusalem as its capital. Instead, different empires and peoples came, colonized, ruled, and disappeared. Jews remained throughout these changes. Their numbers grew as exiled Jews returned in periodic waves of immigration; their numbers fell when the area's rulers persecuted them.

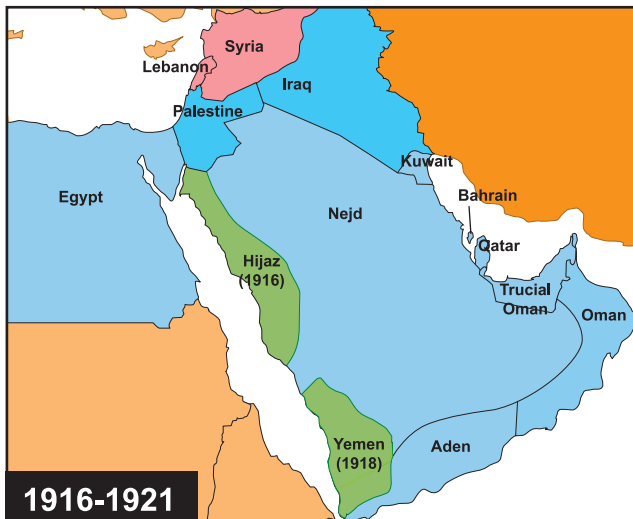
Between 1517 and 1917 Palestine was an unimportant backwater of the sprawling Ottoman Empire, which, at its height in 1683, covered vast parts of the Middle East, North Africa, and Eastern Europe. It was separated into small subdistricts within the large province of Syria (and later Beirut). The Palestine region initially prospered under the Ottomans, but during the Empire's decline it was reduced to a sparsely populated, impoverished, barren area.²



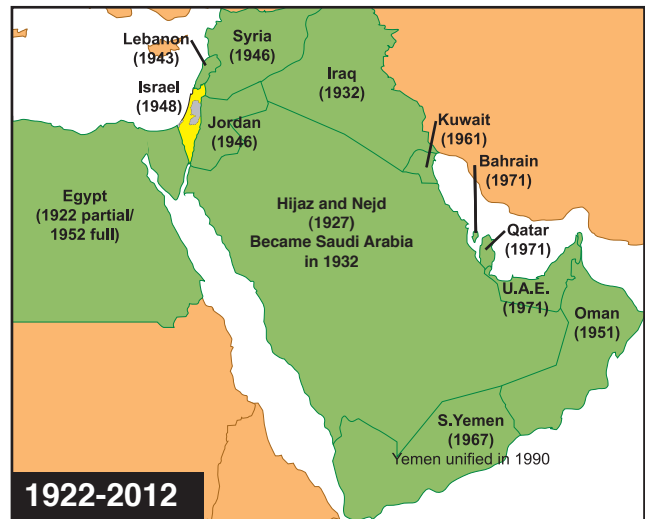
The former lands of the Judean kingdom did not constitute a single "Palestine" entity during 400 years of Ottoman rule. Instead, it was broken up and placed under various administrators by the Ottoman Empire.

When the Ottoman Empire was defeated in World War I (1914-1918), its lands were ceded to the victorious Allies. Just as the Allies carved new nations out of Europe's defeated empires, so too they carved nations out of the former Ottoman Empire and created most of the Middle Eastern states we know today, including Iraq, Lebanon, and Syria. They also drew Palestine's boundaries and officially recognized it as the Jewish national home.

The Middle East: A neighborhood of young countries



- British Mandate
 - British Protectorate
 - French Mandate
 - Independent From Foreign Power (Date of Independence)
- The newly established League of Nations set up "mandates" to be administered by France and England until the new states were ready for self-government. The boundaries established at the end of World War I would be changed several times before assuming their current form.



- Israel (1948 Independence)
 - Land Disputed with Palestinian Arabs*
 - Decolonization of Arab States (Date of Independence)
- The independence of most of the Middle East's modern nation-states is relatively recent, although the region is home to many ancient cultures. Several of these states, such as Bahrain and Kuwait, are younger than Israel.

*Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005.

¹Michael Grant, *The Jews in the Roman World*, 1973, p. 255; Elliott A Green, "What Did Rome Call the Land of Israel...", in *Midstream*, October 1995.
²League of Nations, "An Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine, during the period 1st July, 1920-30th June, 1921," July 1921.

Israel Reborn

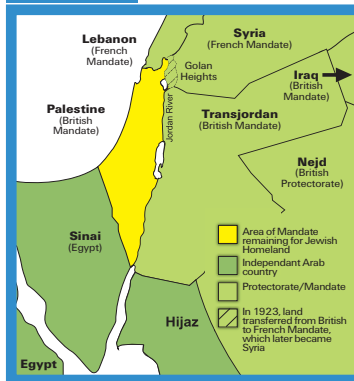
The League of Nations recognized the Jews' deep ties to their historic homeland, admired the thriving community they had been revitalizing since the 1880s, and established the Palestine Mandate for a Jewish homeland. **This is modern Israel's story in maps.**

1917-1922



In the 1917 Balfour Declaration, Britain endorsed "Zionist aspirations" to reestablish their homeland in Palestine and promised to "facilitate" the effort.¹ In 1920 the Covenant of the League of Nations incorporated the Balfour Declaration in Article 22.² In 1922 the League of Nations instructed the British Mandate authorities to "facilitate" Jewish immigration and settlement of Palestine.³ Many European and Arab leaders hoped Jews would revive this small, impoverished, thinly populated region.

1922-1947



In 1922 in response to Arab pressure, Britain violated the Mandate and cut off 77 percent of Palestine, granted it exclusively to the Hashemites, and forbade Jewish settlement in what became Jordan. Today, over 70 percent of Jordanians are Palestinian Arabs. In 1923 Britain again violated the Mandate and gave the Golan Heights to the French Mandate, which later became Syria. During the Mandate the term Palestinian described both Jewish and Arab residents of Palestine. Jews have been the majority in Jerusalem since the late 1860s.

1947: UN Partition Proposal

UN Resolution 181 recommended partitioning the remaining Palestine Mandate between Arabs and Jews. The Jewish portion had a Jewish majority. Jewish leaders accepted it though their portion comprised only 13 percent of the original Mandate and 60 percent of it was the arid Negev Desert. Arab leaders rejected the offer to create an Arab state in the Mandate and instead launched the 1948 war to seize the whole area and eliminate Israel.



Proposal Rejected by Arab Leaders

1948-1967



When the 1948 war ended, Jordan annexed the area it renamed the "West Bank," while Egypt occupied Gaza. Both areas remained unallocated portions of the former British Mandate. With these ceasefire lines, Israel was only nine miles wide at its center, leaving its population centers vulnerable to military and terrorist attacks. In the 1950s and 1960s, Arabs opposed to Israel's existence repeatedly launched attacks from Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza.

1967-1979



In 1967, when Israel's neighbors again mobilized for a full-scale invasion and blocked her waterways, Israel preempted them in a defensive war. In six days of fighting, Israel captured strategically vital buffer zones: the Golan Heights, the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza, and the West Bank.

Israel immediately offered to negotiate with Jordan, Syria, and Egypt and exchange land for peace. Arab governments refused to talk to or recognize Israel.⁴ In 1973 Syria and Egypt launched a surprise attack to destroy Israel on Yom Kippur and were again defeated.

1979-2010



Hoping to foster peace, Israel relinquished the entire Sinai Peninsula, which it had captured in 1967, to Egypt in the 1979 Camp David Peace Accords. In 1994 Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty.

Using a "land for peace" model, Israel and the Palestinians tried to negotiate for a possible future Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza. By the time Arafat began the violent second intifada in 2000, 98 percent of Palestinians lived under an autonomous Palestinian government.

Seeing it had no peace partner and hoping for progress, Israel withdrew unilaterally from Lebanon in 2000 and from Gaza and parts of the West Bank in 2005. Nonetheless, following the withdrawal, Israel was continuously attacked by Palestinians from Gaza and by Hezbollah from Lebanon.

¹Balfour Declaration, November 17, 1917. ²Treaty of Sevres, Section VII, Article 94, August 10, 1920. ³Council of the League of Nations, The Palestine Mandate, Article 6, July 24, 1922. ⁴Government of Israel, "Land for Peace Principle, June 19, 1967." (Document reproduced in Itamar Rabinovich and Jehuda Reinharz, *Israel in the Middle East: Documents and Readings*, 2008, pp. 238-9.)

RESTORING THE

Jews are indigenous to the Palestine region and have lived there continuously for over 3,000 years. Even after the Roman conquest in the first century, Jewish communities remained and periodically flourished, and exiled Jews returned in waves of immigration. But Jews became an oppressed

The Modern Revival Begins—Pre-World War I

In the mid-1800s a new energy seized the Jewish community in Palestine. With help from philanthropists like Sir Moses Montefiore and donations from ordinary Jews around the world, Jews branched out from the cities and began purchasing land and building farms, villages, and schools. More exiles returned. By 1854 Jews were the largest religious group in Jerusalem; by 1870 they had once again become the majority of the city's population.¹

They were young, energetic idealists imbued with Western political principles and the dreams of national liberation that were sweeping across Europe. Many were socialists. They believed their country could be restored through their hard physical labor and dedication. They hoped to start a renaissance of Jewish culture and to restore Jewish dignity, self-reliance, and independence.



Jewish family in Tiberias, 1893.



Jewish immigrants disembark.



Young Jewish pioneer.



Jewish pioneers in Palestine.

Between 1882 and 1914 a new kind of Jewish immigrant arrived—the “Lovers of Zion” and other early Zionists—who laid the groundwork for the modern Jewish state.

These immigrants sought freedom from the oppression and persecution that had plagued Jews in Europe and the Middle East.

Between 1881 and 1906 Jews in Russia were slaughtered, their homes and towns were destroyed, and their women were raped. In Kishinev “[t]he mob was led by priests and the general cry, ‘Kill the Jews’ was taken up all over the city. The Jews...were slaughtered like sheep...Babies were literally torn to pieces by the frenzied and bloodthirsty mob.”

—*New York Times*, April 28, 1903, p. 6

“Like the miserable dog without an owner, he [the Jew] is kicked by one because he crosses [a Muslim’s] path, and cuffed by another because he cries out—to seek redress he is afraid, lest it bring worse upon him; he thinks it better to endure than to live in the expectation of his complaint being revenged upon him.”—British Consul in Jerusalem, William T. Young, to Colonel Patrick Campbell, May 25, 1839²

The returning Jews had no powerful nation to help them. They had no weapons. They were often penniless.

The land was only sparsely populated, and much of it had become barren. The Jews wanted to restore the land’s once-famous fertility and build villages and communities where none existed. The region was an impoverished backwater of the Ottoman Empire.

“The country was...and is now, underdeveloped and under-populated....There are...large cultivable areas that are left untilled. The summits and slopes of the hills are admirably suited to the growth of trees, but there are no forests. Miles of sand dunes that could be redeemed, are untouched.”—Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine to the League of Nations, June 1921³

In 1880 there were only an estimated 250,000 to 400,000 people, many of whom were also recent arrivals, who had no sense of unity or ethnic or national identity.⁴ Their allegiance was to the Ottoman Empire, their religious group, their clan, and their local community.

The area included such an assortment of ethnic groups that over 50 different languages were spoken.

—“Palestine,” *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition, 1911, p. 600

JEWISH HOMELAND

minority in their homeland, and their numbers rose and fell depending on the kindness or cruelty of the region's different rulers. In the 1700s and early 1800s, crippling taxes, discrimination, persecution, and natural disasters brought the Jewish community to a new low.



Founding of Tel Aviv, 1909.

Using money donated from Jewish communities around the world, the Jews legally bought the land they developed primarily from absentee landowners. Most of it was uncultivated swampland or sand dunes.

"They (Jews) paid high prices for the land, and in addition, they paid to certain occupants of those lands a considerable amount of money which they were not legally bound to pay."—Hope Simpson Report, 1930⁵

"Of the total of 418,000 dunums (quarter-acres) acquired by Jews in Palestine [between 1878 and 1914], 58 percent was sold by non-Palestinian [Arab] absentee landlords and 36 percent by Palestinian absentee

landlords, for a total of 94 percent."

—Palestinian-American historian Rashid Khalidi⁶

"Arab claims that the Jews have obtained too large a proportion of good land cannot be maintained. Much of the land now carrying orange groves was sand dunes or swamps and uncultivated when it was bought."

—Peel Commission Report, 1937⁷

Through backbreaking labor the early Jewish pioneers cleared the wastelands and malarial swamps, reforested the hillsides, and built towns and villages.

"Nobody knows of all the hardships, sickness and wretchedness they [the early Zionists] underwent. No observer from afar can feel what it is like to be without a drop of water for days, to lie for months in cramped tents visited by all sorts of reptiles, or understand what our wives, children, and mothers go through.... No one looking at a completed building realizes the sacrifice put into it."—Early Zionist account of settling, 1885⁸

"Jewish agricultural colonies... developed the culture of oranges.... They drained swamps. They planted eucalyptus trees. They practiced, with modern methods, all the processes of agriculture.... Every traveler in Palestine... is impressed by... the beautiful stretches of prosperous cultivation about them."

—Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine to the League of Nations, June 1921⁹

Evolution of the term "Palestine"

From the second century when Rome renamed the Jewish state "Palestine" until the mid-20th century, "Palestine" was associated with Jews and the Jewish homeland.

Jews in the area used the name Palestine for their symphonies, newspapers, and other enterprises. There was the *Palestine Post* (later the *Jerusalem Post*), the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, the Palestine Electric Company, the Palestine Potash Company, and others.

Arabs and Jews who lived in the Palestine Mandate all had Palestine Mandate passports, but Arab residents were generally referred to as Arabs, not Palestinians.

"Palestine is a term the Zionists invented!... Our country for centuries was part of Syria."

—Local Arab leader Auni Bey Abdul-Hadi, to the Peel Commission in 1937

Before and after World War II, anti-Semites in Europe and the U.S. told Jews to get out and "go back home to Palestine."

After 1948, when the reborn Jewish state took the name Israel, the term "Palestine" went out of usage to refer to Israel.

In 1964 the term was revived when Egypt helped organize the PLO, the Palestine Liberation Organization. By the 1970s the term came to be associated with Arabs, not Jews.



Top: A map produced in 1759 by a German mapmaker shows the geographic boundaries of Israel's 12 ancient tribes in the region that became known as Palestine after 135 C.E.

Middle: The earliest currency of Palestine (1927) was inscribed with both Hebrew and Arabic, the languages of Jews and Arabs.

Bottom: A Palestine stamp from the Mandate era. Notice the Hebrew and Arabic writing.

Post-World War I

Britain and the League of Nations created the Palestine Mandate as the Jewish national home in part because of the growing number of Jews and their achievements in the pre-World War I period. Between 1890 and 1915, the Jewish population rose from 42,900 to 83,000.¹⁰ They had built thriving farms, created villages and towns and social institutions, introduced innovations like socialist communes, revived Hebrew, and created a rich culture.

“During the last two or three generations, the Jews have recreated in Palestine a community....This community [has] its town and country population, its political, religious and social organizations, its own language, its own customs, its own life.”

—The Churchill or British White Paper, June 1922¹¹

“The British Government was impressed by the reality, the strength and the idealism of this [Zionist] movement. It recognised its value in ensuring the future development of Palestine.”

—Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine to the League of Nations, 1921¹²



Tel Aviv, circa 1930.

During the Mandate (1920-1948), Zionists continued their prewar policies of purchasing and restoring the land, often using innovative agricultural techniques.

By 1935 the Jewish National Fund had planted over 1.7 million trees.¹³

Zionists also developed industry, power plants, urban life and social institutions, such as labor unions, political parties, hospitals, universities, and a national orchestra. Three universities were founded before 1948. The Hebrew Opera first performed in 1922. The Palestine Orchestra, later the Israeli Philharmonic, was founded in 1936.

Zionists hoped to live in friendship and cooperation with the Arab population and believed that restoring the land would benefit everyone. Many Arabs welcomed this development, which also attracted Arab immigrants from the neighboring countries. An estimated 25 percent to 37 percent of immigrants to pre-state Israel were Arabs, not Jews. Between 1922 and 1946 alone, approximately 100,000 Arabs entered the country from neighboring lands. Approximately 363,000 Jews immigrated in the same period.¹⁴

“Those good Jews brought...prosperity over Palestine without damage to anyone or taking anything by force.” —Syrian Alawi notable’s letter to French Prime Minister, June 1936¹⁵

“No one doubted that the Arabs had benefited from Jewish immigration. Their numbers had almost doubled between 1917 and 1940, wages had gone up, the standard of living had risen more than anywhere else in the Middle East.” —Historian Walter Laqueur¹⁶

Some Arab leaders in Palestine became increasingly hostile to the Jewish community. Many were affiliated with the rising Nazi movement and incited violence and instigated mob attacks against the Jews in 1920, 1921, 1929, and 1936-1939.

The British violated the Mandate obligations in response to Arab protests. They repeatedly restricted Jewish immigration and land purchases. As anti-Semitism mounted in Europe, these policies doomed hundreds of thousands of Jews who otherwise could have reached safety in Palestine, which had been established in part to serve as a refuge for persecuted Jews.



Palestinian Arab leader Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini meets with Adolf Hitler in Germany, 1941. Al-Husseini recruited a Bosnian Muslim SS unit for Hitler.

By 1947 the Zionist achievements had paved the way for the UN to recommend partitioning the Mandate into a Jewish state alongside an Arab state. The area the UN allotted for the Jewish state had a Jewish majority. They now numbered 650,000 and formed one-third of the whole Mandate population. Over 70 percent of the land for the proposed Jewish portion was not privately owned but was state land that belonged to the British Mandate.¹⁷ The 277 rural Jewish communities stretched throughout the countryside.¹⁸ Tel Aviv had grown from 550 people in 1911 to 230,000 in 1948.¹⁹



First Aliyah group of Biluim, 1882.



Celebrating Israel's fourth Independence Day, 1952.

The Kibbutz—Utopian Socialist Community

Inspired by socialism, Zionism, agrarian ideals and necessity, young Zionists created unique collective communities dedicated to equality and communal ownership of all wealth. They worked cooperatively in decision-making, production, consumption, welfare, and education.

The first kibbutz was established by 12 young pioneers in 1909 at Degania. The kibbutz movement became one of the largest communal movements in history.

Today Israel has 270 kibbutzim with 130,000 people. Though they are less utopian and agricultural than they were originally, they still try to uphold the idealism of their founders.

The Hebrew term for immigration to Israel is “aliyah” or “going up.” There were five different waves of aliyah prior to World War II, when Jews from around the world joined the Jews who were already living there

Date	Numbers / Motive	Majority From
1st Aliyah 1882-1903	25,000 Pre-Zionist socialists and religious Jews wanted to escape persecution and/or rebuild their homeland.	Russia, Romania, Kurdistan, and Yemen
2nd Aliyah 1904-1914	40,000 Escape pogroms and persecution; restore nationhood and dignity and realize socialist ideals.	Russia and Poland
3rd Aliyah 1919-1923	35,000 Escape persecution and impoverishment; restore nationhood and dignity and realize socialist ideals.	53% from Russia, 36% from Poland, 11% from Lithuania, Romania, and Western and Central Europe
4th Aliyah 1924-1928	67,000 Escape persecution and impoverishment.	Poland
5th Aliyah 1929-1939	250,000 Escape persecution and anti-Semitism.	Germany, Austria, and other countries

In May 1948 the Jewish state of Israel was reborn and the Jews’ 2,000-year yearning to restore their national independence and ingather the exiles had become a reality.

But difficult struggles lay ahead: state-building, absorbing successive waves of immigrants and refugees (the majority of whom came from Arab countries), defending the new state from wars and terrorism, finding paths to peace, and keeping Judaism’s ancient ethical tradition vibrant even while facing harsh realities and an often hostile world.

The young state of Israel worked hard to meet these challenges.

¹Dore Gold, “Jerusalem in International Diplomacy: Demography,” *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, October 27, 2006. ²Quoted in David Landes, “Palestine Before the Zionists,” *Commentary*, May 1976, p. 22. ³Arieh L. Avneri, *The Claim of Dispossession*, 4th ed., 2005, p. 12; Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*, 1989, pp. 17-18; “Demography of Palestine & Israel, the West Bank and Gaza,” *Jewish Virtual Library*. ⁴League of Nations, “An Interim Report on the Civil Administration of Palestine,” July 1921. ⁵Sir John Hope Simpson, “Palestine: Report on Immigration, Land Settlement and Development,” 1930, p. 5. ⁶Rashid Khalidi, *Palestinian Identity*, 1998, pp. 112-113. ⁷The Peel Commission Report, Chapter IX, July 1937. ⁸Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, 2001, p. 133. ⁹League of Nations, “Interim Report on Civil Administration...” op. cit. ¹⁰“Demography of Palestine & Israel, the West Bank and Gaza,” *Jewish Virtual Library*. ¹¹The Churchill White Paper, in Walter Laqueur and Barry Rubin (eds.), *The Israel-Arab Reader: A Documentary History of the Middle East Conflict*, 4th ed., 1987, p. 45. ¹²League of Nations, “Interim Report on Civil Administration...” op. cit. ¹³Jewish National Fund, “JNF Centennial Celebration,” JNF website at www.jnf.org. ¹⁴Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel*, 2000, pp. 156, 167; Yehoshua Porath, *Palestinian Arab National Movement*, Vol. 2, 1977, pp. 17-18, 39. ¹⁵Quoted in Daniel Pipes, *Greater Syria*, 1990, p. 179. ¹⁶Walter Laqueur, *A History of Zionism*, 1989, p. 510. ¹⁷Moshe Aumann, “Land Ownership in Palestine, 1880-1948,” in Michael Curtis et al., *The Palestinians*, 1975, p. 29. ¹⁸Naftali Greenwood, “Redeemers of the Land,” October 18, 1999 at www.mfa.gov.il. ¹⁹The Economist, “Tel Aviv,” *The Economist: Cities Guide*.

ARAB-ISRAELI WARS AND TERRORISM: 1920-2011

“This will be a war of extermination and a momentous massacre which will be spoken of like the Mongolian massacres and the Crusades.” —Azzam Pasha, Secretary-General of the Arab League (BBC, May 15, 1948)

“We have come from an anguished and grieving land...from a people...that has not known a single year—not a single month—in which mothers have not wept for their sons.” —Yitzhak Rabin, 1993

■ = Wars

■ = Major Terrorist Event

1920-1921 Arab Riots/Terrorism in the Early Mandate Period

Palestinian leader Haj Amin al-Husseini repeatedly fomented riots against Jews. In the 1920 incidents six Jews were killed and 200 wounded; in 1921, 43 Jews were killed and 147 wounded. In response Jews organized defensive forces that would later become the Haganah, the forerunner of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

1929 Massacres Instigated by Haj Amin al-Husseini

Mobs attacked Jews in Jerusalem, Safed, Jaffa, and Kfar Darom, a kibbutz in the Gaza Strip. The centuries-old Jewish community of Hebron was destroyed, and 67 Jews were slaughtered. British authorities reported incidents of rape, torture, beheadings of babies, and mutilation. British High Commissioner John Chancellor wrote, “I do not think that history records many worse horrors in the last few hundred years.”¹ In total, 135 Jews were killed, and 350 were maimed or wounded.



Hebron massacre.

1936-1939 Great Arab Revolt

With the support of Nazi Germany, Haj Amin al-Husseini led a three-year rebellion against the British, the Jews, and his political opponents to force an end to Jewish immigration and land purchases. An estimated 415 Jews, 200 Britons, and 5,000 Arabs were killed.²

1948-1949 Israel's War of Independence

On May 14, 1948, the British Mandate ended, and the state of Israel was established. Less than 24 hours later, Israel was invaded by the armies of five Arab nations: Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Lebanon, and Iraq. The newly formed IDF managed to defeat the invasion in 15 months of war that claimed over 6,000 Israeli lives, roughly 1 percent of the total population.

1949-1956 The Fedayeen Raids

Arab terrorists (fedayeen), trained and equipped by Egypt, repeatedly attacked Israeli civilians from bases in Lebanon, Gaza, and Jordan. One thousand three hundred Israelis were killed or wounded in terrorist attacks.



Fedayeen ambushed this bus and massacred its civilian passengers.

1956 The Sinai/Suez War

Egypt increased its fedayeen attacks, prevented Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal, and blockaded the Israeli port of Eilat, violating international law and threatening Israel's economic survival. With the support of France and Britain, Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza. Israel completely withdrew six months later when Egypt assured Israel unimpeded navigation, and UN peacekeeping forces were stationed in the Sinai.

1959 Al Fatah Raids

The Egyptian-born Yasser Arafat formed Fatah in 1959 to conduct guerrilla warfare operations against Israel. In 1965 Fatah adopted “the entanglement theory,” which presumed that its repeated attacks would force Israel to respond aggressively against the Arab states hosting Arafat's fighters, thereby escalating the animosity between Israel and her Arab neighbors.



Home damaged by Syrian regular shelling in the Galilee before 1967.

1964 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Formed

The PLO was formed in Egypt, supported by the Arab League as an umbrella organization for anti-Israel militant groups. In 1968 Arafat's Fatah joined the PLO and eventually dominated it. Over the decades the PLO carried out thousands of attacks against Israelis and others around the world, including the first airplane hijackings.



1967

The Six-Day War

Israel was forced to defend itself when Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq intensified their terrorist attacks and Egypt illegally blocked Israel's access to international waters and expelled UN peacekeeping forces. The four Arab countries mobilized more than 250,000 troops, armed with Soviet-supplied tanks and aircraft, on Israel's borders in preparation for a full-scale invasion. The Iraqi defense minister ordered his troops to "strike the enemy's civilian settlements, turn them into dust and pave the Arab roads with the skulls of Jews."³ Israel preempted them in a defensive war and managed to capture the West Bank from Jordan, Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria.



IDF liberates the Old City of Jerusalem, 1967.

1967-1970

The War of Attrition

Shortly after the Six-Day War ceasefire, Egyptian President Gamal Nasser ordered attacks on Israelis in the Sinai. During the three-year-long conflict, 1,424 Israeli soldiers and more than 100 Israeli civilians were killed.

1972

The Munich Massacre

After 1967, Palestinian terrorists attacked Israelis worldwide. In their most public operation, the group Black September held hostage and murdered 11 members of the Israeli Olympic Team at the 1972 Munich Olympics. It is widely accepted that the terrorists were controlled by Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction of the PLO.



Munich massacre, 1972.

1973

The Yom Kippur War

Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack against Israel on the holiest day of the Jewish year. Caught unprepared, the IDF nonetheless managed to fend off this assault, cutting off Egyptian forces across the Suez Canal and pushing Syrian troops back from the Golan Heights. While Israel was victorious militarily, the human toll was devastating—2,688 Israeli soldiers were killed in the nearly three weeks of fighting. Egypt claimed to have restored its own honor because of its success in the war's first 48 hours.

1982-1985

The Lebanon War

After Jordan expelled the PLO in 1970, it entrenched itself in southern Lebanon. During Lebanon's ensuing civil war (1975-1990), PLO attacks on northern Israel intensified. Israel entered Lebanon in 1982 to root out the organization. The PLO was forced to relocate to Tunis. In 1985 Israel withdrew to a security zone, approximately four miles wide along the border, and stayed until it unilaterally withdrew in 2000. By 1982, 95,000 people had already died in the bitter Lebanese civil war. During this civil war, Lebanese Christian Phalangists entered the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatilla and massacred an estimated 460 to 700 people, including 200 PLO fighters. Although no Israelis were involved in the massacre, an Israeli court determined that Israel and General Ariel Sharon had indirect responsibility for it because the IDF did not stop the Phalangists' entry into the camps.

1987-1991

First Intifada

The PLO initiated the intifada ("shaking off") after false rumors of Israeli atrocities circulated through Palestinian territories. Palestinians claim this was a nonviolent uprising, but it quickly turned violent with 27 Israelis killed and more than 1,400 Israeli civilians and 1,700 Israeli soldiers injured. Almost half of the Palestinian casualties (1,000) were caused by other Palestinians in the "intrafada," or internal, fighting among Palestinian factions.⁴

1991

Persian Gulf War

When the U.S.-led coalition fought to get Saddam Hussein, the dictator of Iraq, out of Kuwait, Hussein attempted to draw Israel into the war and fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel. To avoid disrupting the U.S.-led coalition, Israel did not retaliate.

1994

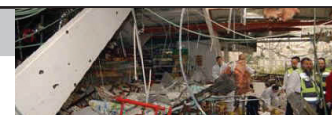
First Suicide Bombing in Israel

Eight civilians were killed in a suicide bombing on a bus in central Israel, a tactic that would increasingly be used by radical Islamic terrorist factions all over the world.

2000-2006

Second "Al Aqsa" Intifada

A campaign of suicide bombings and terrorist attacks began September 29, 2000 and within five years had left over 1,068 Israelis dead and over 7,000 injured—69 percent of them civilians. Approximately 3,000 Palestinians were also killed in this conflict.



Aftermath of suicide bombing, second intifada.

2006

Second Lebanon War

Hezbollah, the Iranian-supported terrorist group in Lebanon, attacked from across the Israeli-Lebanese border on July 12, killing eight soldiers and kidnapping two and simultaneously launched barrages of rockets at civilians in northern Israel. Israel responded with a military operation that lasted 34 days.

2008

"Cast Lead": The War against Hamas

After Israel completely withdrew from Gaza in 2005, Hamas and other terrorist groups fired over 7,000 rockets and mortars into southern Israeli communities. As the attacks escalated in 2008, Israel finally responded with a military operation against Hamas, "Cast Lead," to protect Israeli citizens. The 22-day operation ended on January 18, 2009.

¹Tom Segev, *One Palestine Complete*, 2000, p. 327. ²Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, 2001 p. 133; "The 1936 Riots," *The Jewish Virtual Library*. ³Michael Oren, *Six Days of War*, 2002, p. 293. ⁴Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG), "Collaborators: New Impetus for an Old Witch Hunt," *PHRMG Monitor*, February 2002.

Aftermath of Wars: Arab and Jewish Refugees

Wars create refugees. If Arab leaders had accepted the UN Partition plan instead of launching a war to seize the whole British Mandate, today an independent Palestinian-Arab state would exist alongside Israel. There would have been no Palestinian refugees and no “Nakba” (catastrophe), the Arab term for their 1948 defeat. If Arab countries had not expelled their Jewish citizens, there would have been no Jewish refugees from Arab countries, either.

“The Palestinian refugee problem was born of war, not by design.” –Historian Benny Morris¹

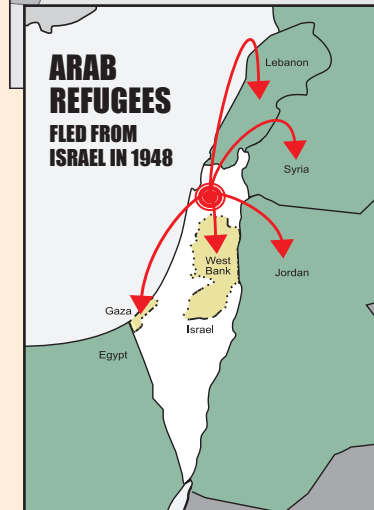
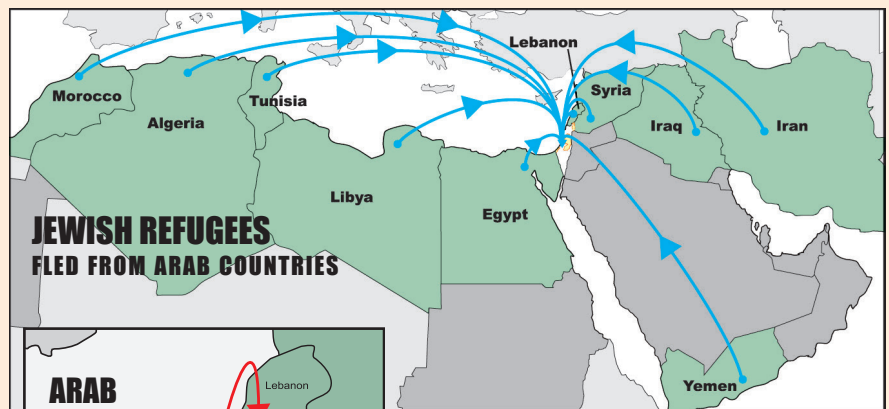
JEWISH REFUGEES FROM ARAB COUNTRIES

Over 10,000 Jews became refugees from areas of the Palestine Mandate where Arab armies prevailed.² In the West Bank and Gaza, Arab armies razed Jewish communities and killed or expelled all Jews. After the 1948 war, no Jews were allowed to live in Arab-occupied zones. Jordan took control of the West Bank and refused to protect Jewish holy sites. In East Jerusalem alone, 57 synagogues, libraries, and houses of learning, many of them centuries old, were desecrated and destroyed, their stones later used to build urinals, sidewalks, and roads.³

Over 850,000 Jews fled rising persecution or were expelled from Arab and Muslim lands after the War of Independence. Between 1949 and 1954 they became homeless though some of their communities were over 2,000 years old. Between 1948 and 2000 the Jewish population in Middle Eastern and North African countries dropped from around 900,000 to less than 50,000.⁴

Israel resettled close to 600,000 Jews from Arab lands. The new state, barely recovered from the devastation of the 1948 war, struggled to absorb both the now-homeless Jews from Arab lands and 300,000 European refugees of World War II. Israel’s 1948 population of 650,000 more than doubled in three years as it fulfilled its mission to be a refuge for persecuted Jews. “No influx like it had been witnessed in modern times. It was an ‘open door’ from which older and vastly wealthier nations would have recoiled in dismay,” noted historian Howard Sachar.⁵ Yet, although the world community supported the rebirth of the Jewish state, no international aid agency assisted in the resettlement of homeless Jews.

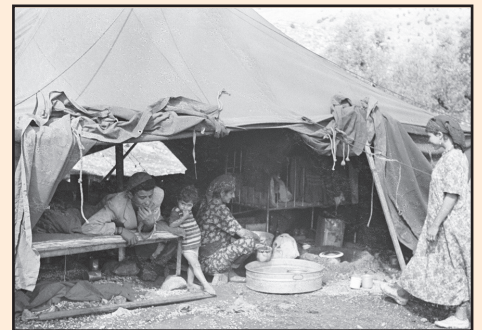
Jewish refugees today: These early refugees are no longer refugees. Like the tens of millions of other refugees of the last century, the Jews resettled in other nations. Two-thirds of them chose to live in Israel. These refugees from the Middle East and their descendants made up over half of Israel’s Jewish population until the late 1990s.



Over 850,000 Jews fled or were expelled from Arab and Muslim lands after 1948 (see chart below).

JEWIS IN GRAVE DANGER IN ALL MOSLEM LANDS
By MALCOLM BRIDGES
Nine Hundred Thousand in Africa and Asia Face Wrath of Their Foes
...to the anger of the Jews, threatened from their side...
 ...the right, freedom of movement has...
 ...the United Nations, the Arab States...

New York Times, May 16 1948: “Nine Hundred Thousand [Jews] in Africa and Asia face wrath of their foes.”



Temporary refugee camps called “ma’abarot” were set up in Israel during the state’s early years to absorb Jewish refugees.

Between 472,000 and 750,000 Palestinian Arabs were displaced by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. Most fled to the territories of Gaza and the West Bank as well as neighboring Arab countries.

Declining Jewish Population in Middle East Countries⁶

	1948	2000	1948	2000
Algeria	140,000	< 100	Libya	38,000
Egypt	75,000	200	Morocco	265,000
Iran	100,000	12,000 - 40,000	Syria	30,000
Iraq	150,000	100	Tunisia	105,000
Lebanon	20,000	100	Yemen	55,000
				0
				5,800
				200
				1,500
				200

In 1948, 160,000 Arabs who lived within Israel's borders accepted Israel's invitation to choose peace and become Israeli citizens. They elected three Israeli-Arabs to the first Knesset.⁷ After difficult postwar problems between the government and Israeli-Arabs were resolved, they became freer, more educated, and more prosperous than average citizens living in all other Arab countries. Today Israeli-Arabs number over 1,600,000 and continue to elect representatives to the Knesset.

Between 472,000 and 750,000 Palestinian Arabs (scholars dispute the numbers) left what became Israel for several reasons:⁸

- Most fled to escape the fighting, which Israel didn't start and didn't want.
- Wealthy classes fled to avoid the coming war. Without their leadership, Palestinian civil society fell apart, causing more flight.
- Many left because Arab leaders encouraged them to get out of the way of advancing Arab armies, promising victory would be quick and they could soon return.
- Many left as Arab propaganda backfired when its manufactured tales of Israeli atrocities caused panic.⁹
- In some cases Israeli troops forced Arab residents from their homes in sensitive strategic zones vital to the survival of the young state of Israel, such as Ramla-Lod and the region along its northern border.

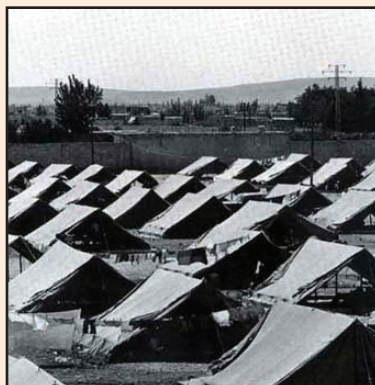
For years Palestinian Arabs blamed Arab states for encouraging their flight:

"The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians... but instead they abandoned them, forced them to emigrate and to leave." —PA President Mahmoud Abbas, 1976¹⁰

"We will smash the country. The Arabs should conduct their wives and children to safe areas until the fighting has died down." —Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri Said, 1948¹¹

"Since 1948 we have been demanding the return of the refugees to their homes. But we ourselves are the ones who encouraged them to leave. Only a few months separated our call to them to leave and our appeal to the United Nations to resolve on their return." —Haled al Azm, Syrian Prime Minister, 1948-1949¹²

The fabricated atrocity stories about Deir Yassin "were our biggest mistake...Palestinians fled in terror." —Hazem Nusseibeh, editor of the Palestine Broadcasting Service's Arabic news in 1948¹³



Palestinian refugee camps like this one were set up in the territories and neighboring Arab countries following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. The camps now are small rundown cities that the Arab leadership never improved, and the inhabitants and their descendants are still considered refugees. Most Arab countries still refuse to integrate them and unfortunately use them as pawns in the propaganda war against Israel.

Unique situation of Palestinian refugees: The tens of millions of refugees from other wartorn areas in the world during this period resettled in other countries, but neighboring Arab states, with the exception of Jordan, would not resettle the Palestinian Arabs despite their shared history, language, and religion. Instead, Arab governments confined them in refugee neighborhoods, refused them citizenship, and then used their plight as a propaganda weapon against Israel.

"The Arab states do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it an open sore, as an affront to the UN and as a weapon against Israel." —Ralph Galloway, former director of UNRWA, August 1958¹⁴

"Since 1948 Arab leaders...have used the Palestine people for selfish political purposes. This is...criminal." —King Hussein of Jordan, 1960¹⁵

"All the Arab countries want to keep this problem looking like an open wound." —Ana Liria-Franch, regional representative in Cairo for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2003¹⁶

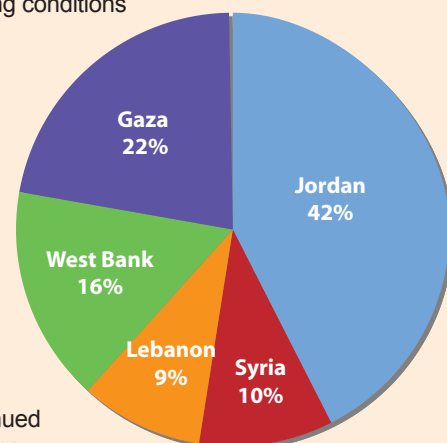
The "Right of Return": Arab governments promised refugees they could go back to their homes. Arab leaders openly stated that their goal was to dismantle the Jewish state demographically by flooding it with Palestinian Arabs.

"If Arabs return to Israel—Israel will cease to exist." —Gamal Abdel Nasser, President of Egypt, 1961¹⁷

"The demand for the return of the Palestinian refugees...is tantamount to the destruction of Israel." —As'ad Abd-Al Rahman, Palestinian Authority Minister of Refugee Affairs, 1999¹⁸

The refugees today: The UN has given special treatment to Palestinian refugees. In 1949 it set up UNRWA, an agency exclusively serving the Palestinian refugees. UNRWA's website reports that the agency "is unique in terms of its longstanding commitment to one group of refugees...and to four generations of refugees."¹⁹ All the world's other refugees are served by one UN agency, UNHCR, and no other group's descendants are also considered refugees. By 2011 UNRWA was serving 4.8 million Palestinians. After the PA was established, it governed 38 percent of the Palestinian refugees but did not use its billions of foreign aid dollars to improve their living conditions or opportunities.

Israel has contributed money to UNRWA but has no control over UNRWA policies. When Israel administered the territories (1967-1994), its efforts to improve refugee housing were denounced by the PLO and the UN (UN GA Resolutions 2792 (1971) and 41/69 (1986)). The Palestinian refugees continued to be used as political pawns.



Percentage of Palestinian refugee population by country/location, 2012²⁰

¹Benny Morris, *Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*, 1989, p. 286; David Meir-Levi, "The Origins of the Refugee Problem," *Jewish World*, 2005. ²Anita Shapira, "The Past is not a Foreign Country," *The New Republic*, November 29, 1999. ³Gerald M. Steinberg, "Jerusalem — 1948, 1967, 2000: Setting the Record Straight," *Canadian Jewish News*, August 24, 2000. ⁴John F. Burns, "In the Islamic Mideast, Scant Place for Jews," *Week in Review, New York Times*, July 25, 1999. ⁵Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel*, 2000, pp. 395-405. ⁶Statistics derived from Mitchell Bard, *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict*, 2001, pp. 192-198. ⁷Members of the First Knesset at www.knesset.gov.il. ⁸Benny Morris, *Righteous Victims*, 2001 pp. 252-258; Yoav Gelber, *Palestine 1948*, 2001, pp. 74-84. ⁹Sachar, op. cit., p. 333; "Israel and the Arabs: The 50 Year Conflict," BBC documentary. Cited by CAMERA, "Pattern of Bias," July 1999. ¹⁰Mahmoud Abbas, *Falastin a-Thaura*, March 1976, cited in "Palestine's Pawns," *Wall Street Journal*, June 5, 2003. ¹¹Quoted in Nimr el-Hawari, *Sir An-Nakbah*, 1952. ¹²*The Memoirs of Haled al Azm*, 1973, Part I, pp. 386-387. ¹³Hazem Nusseibeh interview in "Israel and the Arabs: The 50 Year Conflict," BBC documentary. Cited by CAMERA, "Pattern of Bias," July 1999. ¹⁴Quoted in Terence Prittie, "Middle East Refugees," in Michael Curtis, et al., *The Palestinians*, 1975 p. 71. ¹⁵Quoted in Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*, 2003, pp. 87-88. ¹⁶Quoted in Paul Garwood and Maggie Michael, "Palestinian refugees: championed by Arab world yet treated like outcasts," *AP*, December 30, 2003. ¹⁷Quoted in the Swiss *Zibicher Woche*, September 1, 1961. ¹⁸Quoted in the *Jordanian Al-Dustur*, August 16, 1999. ¹⁹Self-description of UNRWA from UNRWA website: www.unrwa.org/unrwa. ²⁰Statistics from UN/UNRWA website: www.un.org/unrwa.

The Aftermath of the 1967 War

The term “occupation” refers to Israel’s military administration of the West Bank and Gaza, which lasted from the end of the 1967 War until the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993. Israel then turned civil administration of most of the territories over to the newly created Palestinian Authority and intended to gradually end its military presence in the area. However, radical Palestinian groups call all of Israel “occupied territory.”

Facts You Should Know About Occupation

The “occupation” was a direct result of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. The term “occupation” often implies an aggressive effort to take over and rule a foreign people, but the territories came under Israeli control during its defensive war in 1967. Arab states and Palestinians refused to accept the Jewish state’s right to exist and mobilized again in 1967 to destroy it (see page 13). As Israel defended itself it drove back Jordanian, Egyptian and Syrian troops and captured the Territories that fell on Israel’s side of the armistice lines.

Palestinians had not made any claims to the Territories until Israel captured them from Egypt and Jordan in 1967. During Egypt and Jordan’s 19-year occupation (1948-1967), no one called for a Palestinian state that would include Gaza and the West Bank. West Bank residents became Jordanian citizens. The original PLO Covenant (1964) explicitly excluded the territories from its description of Palestine and called instead for the destruction of Israel and for replacing it with Arab rule.¹ The PLO amended its charter to include a claim to the territories only after Israel captured them in 1967.²

The PLO “does not exercise any regional sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip or the Himmah Area.”

—Article 24, PLO Covenant, 1964

Israel repeatedly tried to end the occupation after 1967. Israel had no wish to rule over the Palestinians. Within two weeks after hostilities ended, Israel offered to exchange land for peace, but Arab leaders categorically rejected the offer, officially issuing the “three nos” in Khartoum.

“No peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it.”—Khartoum Resolution, September 1, 1967³

Between 1967 and 1969, again in 1979 in the letters attached to the Israel-Egypt peace treaty, and from 1991 until today, Israel’s leaders have sought to negotiate with the Palestinians to peacefully resolve the conflict, but their efforts have been repeatedly rejected.⁴

Israel was forced to continue its presence in Gaza and the West Bank from 1967 until 1993 because no Palestinian leader emerged as a peace partner. International law and custom required Israel to administer the territories until a successful peace treaty could be negotiated. International law and UN Resolution 242 required the belligerents to negotiate a solution with agreements about new borders that would be mutually recognized. Initially, the international community assumed that Israel would negotiate with Jordan and Egypt, which had occupied the territories between 1949 and 1967, but Egypt and Jordan refused to negotiate at the time. When they renounced their claims to the Gaza Strip and the West Bank

territories in 1979 and 1988, respectively, Israel was left with the responsibility to continue its administration. Once Yasser Arafat and the PLO claimed they would accept Israel’s existence and negotiate for peace, Israel seized the opportunity to resolve the conflict.

During its administration of the territories, Israel sought to improve the lives of the Palestinians. Military barriers came down, and for the first time since the 1948 war, Israelis and Palestinians could travel freely between the territories and the Jewish state. Israel also removed all the Jordanian and Israeli military barriers that had divided Jerusalem between 1948 and 1967. Israel helped modernize Palestinian infrastructure (aiding in the creation of more than 2,000 manufacturing plants), established seven universities, expanded schools, taught modern agriculture, set up medical programs, and opened over 100 health clinics. Israel instituted freedom of the press, of association, and of religion and “launched something entirely new, the first authentically Palestinian administration the local Arabs had ever known.”⁵ Unemployment plummeted, life expectancy soared, and the population nearly doubled in the 26 years between 1967 and 1993.⁶

“During the 1970s, the West Bank and Gaza constituted the fourth-fastest-growing economy in the world—ahead of such ‘wonders’ as Singapore, Hong Kong and Korea, and substantially ahead of Israel itself.”

—Historian Efraim Karsh⁷

1993-2007: Israel gradually ends the “occupation.” When the Oslo peace process began in 1993, Israel began ending its military administration as it turned civil governance of the Palestinian population over to the Palestinian-elected government. Since 2005 Israel has uprooted Jewish communities from land claimed by the Palestinians. Israel’s plan was to help create a self-governing Palestinian state in all of Gaza and most of the West Bank, incorporating land where 98 percent of Palestinians live.

- Israel began turning civilian administration of the territories over to the newly created Palestinian Authority (PA) in 1994.

Facts about Israeli Administration of the Territories (1967-1993)

- The territories became the world’s fourth-fastest-growing economy in the 1970s.⁸
- West Bank per capita income rose 80 percent between 1967 and 1973.⁹
- Unemployment in Gaza plummeted to 2 percent.¹⁰
- Infant mortality plunged from 60 to 15 per 1,000 births between 1968 and 2000.¹¹
- Israel disbursed millions of dollars to improve refugee camps.¹²
- The number of Palestinian school children rose 102 percent, and illiteracy dropped to 14 percent for adults over age 15.¹³

- By 1997 Israeli troops had left Palestinian towns and cities and turned them over to the PA. These areas were home to 98 percent of all Palestinians who were now self-governing under the PA.¹⁴
- After Yasser Arafat rejected the 2000 Camp David proposals and the intifada began, Israel intermittently redeployed its troops in emergency counterterrorism operations that became necessary because terrorist groups refused to end hostilities against the Jewish state.
- Despite ongoing terrorism and the collapse of peace negotiations, Israel continued its withdrawals. In August 2005 Israel withdrew from the remaining few areas it still held in Gaza and from sections of the northern West Bank, which were three times the size of Gaza. In the process Israel uprooted more than 8,500 Jews who had built thriving communities over the previous 30 years in Gaza and who had employed over 10,000 Palestinians from the surrounding areas. Israel left its expensive infrastructure intact for future use by the Palestinians. After Israel's disengagement no Jewish or non-Jewish Israelis remained in Gaza. Even Jewish cemeteries were moved out of the area.

Border Issues and Settlements

Israelis built communities in Gaza and the West Bank after 1967. Though these communities have been politically contentious, they were built in undeveloped, uninhabited areas and were entirely legal. Palestinians claim they have rights to sovereignty over this land. Many are longtime inhabitants who feel they have been deprived of political rights and self-determination. Israel does not want to interfere with their political rights, but it disputes their territorial claims. Israel also has strong claims to the land, and therefore, the West Bank and Gaza should be called *disputed territories*.

Israel's Claims Include:

Legal claims: The British Mandate (1920-1948) was the last legal sovereign authority for the territories. Jordan and Egypt illegally held them between 1948 and 1967. They remain unallocated portions of the British Mandate since no government formally replaced the Mandate's jurisdiction. Its guidelines called for Jews to settle the area.¹⁵

Historical claims: Judea and Samaria (renamed the West Bank by Jordan in 1951) were the cradle of Jewish civilization and had a continuous Jewish presence until the 1948 war, when Jewish inhabitants were killed and approximately 10,000 were expelled by the Jordanians.¹⁶

Security-related claims: Arab states repeatedly launched attacks against Israel from the territories' strategic locations, and UN Resolution 242 envisioned bilateral negotiations that would give Israel more secure borders and lead to greater regional stability. Until as recently as 1988, the PLO officially continued to call for a Palestinian state to replace Israel, not for a separate state that would exist alongside it.

Israel's security needs remain urgent. Today the Hamas-led Palestinian government continues to call for Israel's destruction, and Israel is repeatedly attacked from Palestinian and Lebanese territories. Hamas has close ties with Iran, Syria, and Hezbollah and has forged ties with Al Qaeda, all of which call for Israel's destruction (see pages 24-27).

Unresolved Border Issues:

The pre-1967 boundary (Green Line) is not an internationally recognized border. It is an armistice line, marking positions held by Israeli and Arab troops when the final truce was called at the end of the 1948 war. The Green Line remained an armistice line because Arab leaders refused to negotiate to set final border lines. The Oslo Accords called for, among other things, Israelis and Palestinians to negotiate for a final border between the state of Israel and a future Palestinian state. To date, these negotiations have not resolved outstanding issues to the satisfaction of both parties.



Israel's security concerns stem from its vulnerability to attack from nearby territories.

Facts about Israeli Settlements in the West Bank:¹⁷ Legal but Politically Contentious

- 1967-1979: Forty-seven Jewish communities were built in the territories on undeveloped land. Most were built to ensure security, but some Israelis, such as the survivors of the Gush Etzion block, returned to rebuild Jewish communities that Arab forces had captured and destroyed in the 1948 war.
- After 1977, 74 additional communities were built in the territories on unallocated government land.
- After 1995 no new communities were built. In 2012 the existing 121 authorized communities included 350,000 Israelis living on 1.7 percent of West Bank land.
- Eighty percent of the settlers live in communities close to the Green Line, currently consisting of suburbs of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

The Jews' right to settle the land is "a legal right assured by treaty and specifically protected by Article 80 of the U.N. Charter... The Jewish right of settlement in the area is equivalent in every way to the right of the existing Palestinian population to live there."

—Eugene Rostow, former U.S. Under Secretary of State, 1990¹⁸

¹Article 24 of original Palestinian National Charter, 1964. ²The amended Palestinian National Charter passed by the 4th Palestinian National Council, 1968.

³Khartoum Resolutions, September 1967. ⁴Letters between President Sadat, Prime Minister Begin and President Carter attached to the Treaty of Peace between the State of Israel and the Arab Republic of Egypt, March 26, 1979. ⁵Howard Sachar, *History of Israel*, 2000, pp. 678, 707. ⁶Efraim Karsh, "What Occupation?" *Commentary*, July 2002; "Demography of Palestine & Israel, the West Bank and Gaza," *Jewish Virtual Library*; Bennett Zimmerman et al, "The Million Person Gap: The Arab Population in the West Bank and Gaza," February 2006, p. 12. ⁷Karsh, op. cit. ⁸Ibid. ⁹Sachar, op. cit. p. 688. ¹⁰Ibid. p. 687. ¹¹Karsh, op. cit. ¹²Sachar, op. cit. p. 687. ¹³Karsh, op. cit. ¹⁴Freedom House, "Freedom in the World: Palestinian Authority-Administered Territories [Israel] (2002)" ¹⁵The Palestine Mandate, 1922.

¹⁶Anita Shapira, "The Past Is Not a Foreign Country: The Failure of Israel's 'New Historians' To Explain War and Peace," *The New Republic*, November 29, 1999.

¹⁷Jeffrey Helmreich, "Diplomatic and Legal Aspects of the Settlement Issue," *Jerusalem Issue Brief*, January 19, 2003 and Tovah Lazaroff, Front Lines: "Is Settlement Growth Booming?" *Jerusalem Post*, December 30, 2010. ¹⁸Eugene W. Rostow, "Bricks and Stones: Settling for Leverage; Palestinian Autonomy," *The New Republic*, April 23, 1990.

The Evolution Of U.S.-Israel Relations

Americans and Israelis developed deep ties because of their similar histories and values. Although the Jewish people were reestablishing their nation, both countries were founded by people seeking to create a better society; both were built by people whose hard physical labor made the land productive; both welcome immigrants; both are committed to liberty and democracy.



U.S. founding father John Adams wished the “Jews again an independent nation in Judea” (1819).¹

As World War I came to an end and new nations were carved out of old colonial empires, the U.S. endorsed the Balfour Declaration and the British Mandate over Palestine, which were the forerunners for the modern state of Israel.

Despite their deeply shared values, the U.S. never automatically gave preference to Israel. The young state had to prove itself and fit into America’s larger geostrategic, economic, and political interests. Israel gradually became a critical U.S. ally and a valued partner in trade, humanitarian programs, and scientific research. The partnership has benefited both nations.

Along with its commitment to a safe and secure Israel, U.S. policymakers have also supported Arab states, assisted Palestinians, and repeatedly sought to help bring peace to the region.

Israel was politically isolated in the Middle East by the Arab League’s diplomatic boycott (imposed in 1948). Israel was further isolated by the Soviet and non-aligned nations blocks, which severed diplomatic relations with it in the mid-1950s. Instead, Israel developed strong relationships with Iran (until 1979), Turkey, and other European and Latin American nations. When the Soviet Union fell (1989), Israel rapidly formed diplomatic, trade and cooperative agreements with India and other Asian nations and with Eastern European states. Nonetheless, the U.S. remains Israel’s most steadfast partner and ally.



“Since 1948, United States Presidents and both houses of Congress, on a bipartisan basis and supported by the American people, have repeatedly reaffirmed the special bond between the United States and Israel, based on shared values and shared interest.”
—Congressional resolution, March, 2012²

1948: U.S. recognizes Israel

The United States was the first nation to recognize the reestablished state of Israel.

1950-67: While recognizing that Israel shares U.S. values, U.S. supported Arab states and Israel

The U.S. government believed that one of the best policies for peace in the Middle East was a balance of military power between all the countries in the region. France and Germany were Israel’s main arms partners. U.S. economic aid was equally even-handed. Between 1946 and 1971 Israel received an average of \$60 million in U.S. aid per year. During the same period Arab states received an average of \$170 million a year.³ The U.S. also financed almost two-thirds of the budget for UNRWA, the UN agency that supported Palestinian refugees.⁴ Nonetheless, the U.S. recognized that Israel shared its values.

Israel “carries the shield of democracy, and it honors the sword of freedom.”—U.S. President John F. Kennedy

“The Israelis have shown qualities that Americans identify with: guts, patriotism, idealism, a passion for freedom.”

—U.S. President Richard M. Nixon

1967-68: U.S. regarded Israel as an ally in the Middle East

Israel’s surprising victory over Soviet-backed Arab countries in the 1967 War convinced the U.S. that Israel could help the U.S. policy of containment of Soviet expansion in the Middle East. In 1968, for the first time, Congress agreed to sell U.S. Phantom jets to Israel. At the same time, the U.S. also continued to provide sophisticated military equipment to Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states.

1969: Israel proved its strategic value by capturing new Soviet military equipment

The Soviets supplied arms and their newest military technology to their Arab allies. In a daring raid in December 1969, called “Operation Rooster 53,” Israeli paratroopers captured the newest Soviet radar in Egypt and gave the technological information to the U.S.⁵

1970: Israel proved its strategic value when Syria threatened Jordan

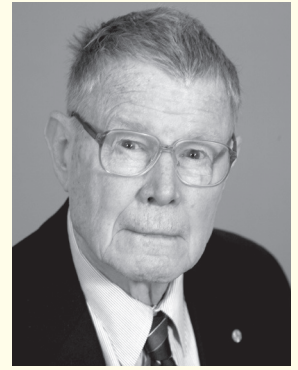
The U.S. asked Israel to support Jordan when Syrian tanks invaded. Israeli jets did not attack. They simply flew low enough for the invading Syrian tank commanders to see Israel’s Stars of David on the wings. The Syrian tanks quickly withdrew from Jordan.



Israel participates in international space mission, 2003.



Israeli Robert Aumann (left) and American Thomas Schelling (right) shared the 2005 Nobel Prize in Economics for their joint research on game-theory analysis.



1973-80: The U.S. recognized Israel as a vital strategic partner

After Israel's victory against the surprise Arab attack in the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the U.S. saw that Israel could pit itself against Soviet military technology and weaponry. The U.S. realized Israel was its only militarily strong, stable friend in the Middle East. Israel became eligible to sell military equipment to the U.S., and the two countries began joint, limited military programs.

"A strong, secure Israel is not just in Israel's interest, it's in the interest of the U.S. and...of the entire free world."

—U.S. President Jimmy Carter

"My commitment to the security and future of Israel is based upon basic morality as well as enlightened self-interest."

—U.S. President Gerald Ford

1981: U.S.-Israel ties grew stronger

President Ronald Reagan believed Israel was critical for U.S. interests in the Middle East. The U.S. and Israel signed a "Memorandum of Understanding" for military and strategic cooperation.

"Only by full appreciation of the critical role the State of Israel plays in our strategic calculus can we build the foundation for thwarting Moscow's designs on territories and resources vital to our security and our national well-being."

—U.S. President Ronald Reagan

1980s-2012: U.S. military grants to Israel helped not only Israel but the U.S. and other countries as well

At a fraction of the cost the U.S. spends to protect its allies and interests in Europe, East Asia, and Iraq, the U.S. protects its Middle East interests through military grants to Israel. The amount the U.S. spends annually to protect South Korea alone is equal to the amount it grants to Israel. However, South Korean expenses are in the U.S. defense budget, while Israeli costs are in the foreign aid budget.⁶

Three-fourths of the military financing that the U.S. grants to Israel is spent in the U.S. This spending generates American profits and jobs. "More than 1,000 companies in 47 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico have signed contracts worth billions of dollars."⁷

Israeli technological developments save the U.S. significant funds in research and development.

1985: Israel became a major U.S. trading partner

The U.S. and Israel signed an agreement giving U.S. goods free access to Israeli markets. U.S. exports to Israel grew 437 percent

by 2001, bringing profits to U.S. businesses. Israel became second only to Canada in per capita imports of U.S. products.

1987: The U.S. recognized Israel as a major Non-NATO ally

U.S.-Israel strategic and military cooperation develops further. By 1988 "the U.S. had pre-positioned equipment in Israel, regularly held joint training exercises, began co-development of the Arrow Anti-Tactical Ballistic Missile and was engaged in a host of other cooperative military endeavors."⁸

1991: Israel cooperated with U.S. requests during the Gulf War

Iraq fired 39 Scud missiles into Israel during the first Gulf War. At the request of the U.S., Israel did not launch any counterattacks to defend itself in order to protect the U.S.-led coalition.

1990-2012: Israel and U.S. researchers cooperated in technological and biomedical breakthroughs

Israel and America have worked hand-in-hand in research and development of high-tech and biomedical products.

Israeli has more companies traded on NASDAQ than any other non-U.S. country except China.⁹ Companies like Microsoft, IBM, and Intel established research and development centers in Israel, where Israeli and American researchers work jointly. Israeli and American researchers shared Nobel Prizes in 2002 in Economics, 2004 in Chemistry, in 2005 in Economics, and in 2009 in Chemistry.¹⁰

1996-2012: Allies on the front line against terrorism

The U.S. and Israel signed a counterterrorism cooperation accord on April 30, 1996, pledging to jointly fight international terrorism and to form a joint counterterrorism group. In 1999 they agreed to "share intelligence assessments, and prepare plans for cooperation in the development of technological means for counterterrorism."¹¹ Israel provides the U.S. with extensive intelligence on terrorists groups.

The U.S. continues to aid Middle East governments

The U.S. has been a principal backer of Jordan, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the Gulf states. It has given \$2 billion a year to Egypt since 1979 and regularly sold state-of-the-art military equipment to Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The U.S. has also continued to be a major supporter of Palestinian refugees and of the Palestinian Authority, directly as well as through the UN. When Hamas won the PA parliamentary elections in 2006, the U.S. redirected its aid because the U.S. government identifies Hamas as a terrorist group. Hamas remained committed to terrorism and refused to transform into a peaceful political movement.

¹All President quotes in "U.S. Presidents on Israel," *Jewish Virtual Library*. ²Resolution, "112th Congress 2nd Session H.R. 4133," March 5, 2012. ³Mitchell Bard, "U.S. Aid to Israel," *Jewish Virtual Library*. ⁴Mitchell Bard, "The United Nations and Israel," *Jewish Virtual Library*; Mohammed Daraghme, "Palestinian Aid Groups Refuse U.S. Money," *AP*, January 5, 2004. ⁵"Operation 'Rooster,'" *Jewish Virtual Library*. ⁶Tamar Sternthal, "WSJ Columnist Overstates U.S. Aid to Israel by Almost \$1 Trillion," *CAMERA*, December 12, 2003. ⁷Bard, "U.S. Aid to Israel," op. cit. ⁸Mitchell Bard, "U.S.-Israel Relations: A Special Alliance," *Jewish Virtual Library*. ⁹Leon Lazaroff, "China to capitalize on Nasdaq jump with Tech IPOs, BNY says," *Bloomberg News*, May 7, 2012. ¹⁰Dr. E. E. Jaffe, "Israeli-American Nobel Prize Winner," *Jewish Federation of Delaware*, 2002; Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, "Press Release," October 6, 2004; "The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2004," Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, "Press Release," October 10, 2005; Thomas H. Maugh II, "2 Americans, Israeli, Share Nobel Prize in Chemistry," *Los Angeles Times*, October 8, 2009. ¹¹"Counterterrorism Cooperation Accord Between the Government of the State of Israel and the Government of the United States of America," April 30, 1996; "Counterterrorism Group Formed," October 1999, *Jewish Virtual Library*.

ISRAEL'S SEARCH FOR PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS



Zionists and then the reborn state of Israel always sought friendship with neighboring states and envisioned them benefiting one another in joint trade, science, environmental, and humanitarian projects. After World War I many Arab leaders shared this vision:

"We Arabs...look with deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement...We will wish the Jews a hearty welcome home...our two movements complete one another...I think that neither can be a real success without the other."

—Emir Feisal, Leader of the Arab national movement, March 3, 1919¹

But within a short time, many Arab leaders became hostile to Zionism, denied the Jewish state's right to exist as their neighbor and repeatedly tried to destroy it. Nonetheless, Israel has clung to the dream of peaceful coexistence. The small Jewish nation has re-emerged and has protected itself with strong defenses while simultaneously reaching out for friendship and compromise. The state of Israel has always shown its willingness to make painful concessions when genuine peace was offered. Unfortunately, only two of the 22 Middle Eastern states have signed peace agreements with Israel: Egypt and Jordan.

1937: Zionists accepted Britain's partition recommendation with some reservations. Based on the Peel Commission report, the proposal called for a Jewish state in only 4 percent of the original British Mandate, which included Jordan, and a Palestinian Arab state confederated with Jordan in the remaining 96 percent of the land. Arab leaders rejected it.

1947: Zionists accepted the UN Partition Plan, Resolution 181, which recommended dividing the remaining 22 percent of the land originally designated for the Jewish homeland for a two-state solution. Forty-five percent of the land was allotted for an Arab state and 55 percent for a Jewish state, though over 60 percent of the Jewish portion was the arid Negev Desert. Arab states rejected the compromise and continued hostilities to take over the whole area. The UN did not intervene to enforce its recommendation.

1949: Armistice agreements: After the 1948 war (see page 12), Israel and neighboring Arab states agreed to armistice lines that left the Old City of Jerusalem and the West Bank occupied by Jordan and the Gaza Strip occupied by Egypt. The UN-sponsored Lausanne talks were to lead to permanent peace agreements, but the Arab states refused to make peace and their hostility to the Jewish state intensified. In 1951 Jordan's King Abdullah was assassinated for trying to negotiate peace with Israel.

"We have a secret weapon...and this is time. As long as we do not make peace with the Zionists, the war is not over; and as long as the war is not over, there is neither victor nor vanquished."—Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of League of Arab States (1945-1952), 1949²

1957: Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula: Israel captured the Sinai during the 1956 Suez War (see page 12). Egypt refused to make peace. Nevertheless, Israel withdrew after Egypt stopped its illegal blockade of Israeli ships in the Suez Canal and Straits of Tiran and after the UN put peacekeeping troops along the Egyptian-Israeli borders.

1967: Israel accepted UN Resolution 242—land-for-peace formula: The resolution called for all parties to make peace, recognize each other's independence and sovereignty, and negotiate for more "secure borders." In return Israel was to withdraw from some of the territory it had captured in the 1967 War. Arab states rejected this formula and remained committed to the "three nos" of their Khartoum Resolution—no peace, no negotiations, and no recognition of the Jewish state.³

1979: Peace treaty with Egypt: When Egyptian President Anwar Sadat came to Jerusalem and made a sincere peace offer, Israel welcomed him. Although Israel had discovered oil and gas in the Sinai, it gave the entire Sinai Peninsula to Egypt (91 percent of all the land captured in the 1967 War) in accordance with Resolution 242, dismantled all Jewish communities that had been built, ceded its oil drilling infrastructure intact, and gave up the oil revenues the wells had produced. In 1981 President Sadat was assassinated by Egyptian extremists for striking a deal with Israel. It is unclear whether the "Arab Spring" of 2011 will affect this treaty.

1993: Oslo Peace Accords with the PLO: After the PLO agreed to make peace, Israel agreed to withdraw from most of the territories and grant self-government to the Palestinians. In exchange the PLO was supposed to stop incitement, renounce terrorism, and accept Israel's right to exist in peace as a Jewish state within secure borders. By 1997, 98 percent of the Palestinian people were governed by the Palestinian Authority.

1994: Peace treaty with Jordan: King Hussein and Israel had multiple working arrangements, but Hussein kept them nonpublic because of pressure from Arab states. The regional atmosphere changed after the Oslo Accords of 1993, allowing Jordan and Israel to publicly formalize their peaceful relations.

2000-2006: Unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon: Despite continuing hostilities and threats from the Iranian- and Syrian-sponsored terrorist group Hezbollah and despite the fact that Lebanon had not made peace with Israel, Israel unilaterally withdrew its troops from the security zone it had established in southern Lebanon, hoping to promote peace. Unfortunately, between 2000 and 2006, Hezbollah amassed over 12,000 rockets in Lebanon that were aimed at Israel, continued rocket attacks against Israel's northern border, and performed multiple acts of violence in the region and elsewhere. On July 12, 2006, Hezbollah launched an unprovoked attack against Israel, kidnapping two soldiers and killing eight while simultaneously firing rockets at Israeli cities.

2005: Unilateral disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank: Though the Palestinian Authority was not living up to its commitments, Israel withdrew from parts of the northern West Bank and from the area it still controlled in Gaza and uprooted more than 8,500 Israeli residents who reluctantly gave up their homes and the thriving communities they had built. These actions were taken with the hope of breaking the impasse in the peace process and to facilitate a two-state solution with defined borders. As of this printing, these expectations have not been realized.

2008: Prime Minister Ehud Olmert presented a far-reaching compromise but PA President Abbas did not respond or make a counter offer. Prime Minister Olmert offered all of Gaza, 94 percent of the West Bank with land swaps equivalent to the remaining 6 percent; evacuation of 60,000 Israelis from the West Bank; a shared capital in Jerusalem with an international body overseeing holy sites; a family reunification program for approximately 50,000 Palestinian refugees as a compromise on the Palestinian demand for a "right of return" for Palestinian refugees.⁴ President Abbas did not respond.

2009-12: Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu repeatedly asked PA President Abbas to resume direct negotiations for two states for two peoples, but Abbas refused. At the time of this printing, direct negotiations have not resumed.⁵

¹Emir Feisal letter to Felix Frankfurter, March 3, 1919, reprinted in *The Israel-Arab Reader*, 1969, p. 21. ²Quoted in Howard M. Sachar, *A History of Israel*, 2000, p. 453. ³Khartoum Resolutions, September 1967. ⁴Richard Boudreaux, "Olmert's Peace Offers Put Livni in Tight Spot," *Los Angeles Times*, February 4, 2009. ⁵Tovah Lazaroff and Khaled Abu Toameh, "PM calls on Abbas to return to negotiating table," *Jerusalem Post*, May 8, 2012, at www.jpost.com/DiplomacyAndPolitics/Article.aspx?id=269193



ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE EFFORTS

"We, who have come from a land where parents bury their children...say to you today in a loud and clear voice: Enough of blood and tears. Enough."

—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Speech on the White House Lawn, 1993



The handshake on the White House lawn at the signing of the Oslo Accords. (Pictured left to right: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, U.S. President Bill Clinton, PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.)

High hopes for a new era of peace began with the Oslo Accords. The accords promised to end decades of warfare and to fulfill Palestinian aspirations, while ensuring Israel's security.

Since its founding in 1964, the PLO's explicit goal had been to replace Israel, not to live alongside it. New opportunities arose in the early 1990s when the first intifada ended and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat claimed he endorsed UN Resolution 242. Israel's enemies seemed ready to lay down their arms and make peace. Israel was prepared to seize the opportunity. Most Israelis and Palestinians were full of hope and optimism.

PLO and Israeli representatives began secret talks in Oslo, Norway, in 1992. Arafat, the architect of terrorism against Israel, claimed he renounced violence, would stop incitement, recognize Israel's right to exist, and accept a two-state solution. In return Israel and the United States looked beyond the PLO's terrorist past, acknowledged the PLO as the official representative of the Palestinian people, and agreed to give the Palestinians self-rule.

The Oslo process did not go smoothly. Though the Palestinian Authority governed 98 percent of its civilian population by 1997, escalating Palestinian incitement and terrorism led Israel to delay further withdrawals. Palestinians questioned Israel's commitment to Oslo because of these delays, while calls to violence by official Palestinian media, agencies, and religious and political leaders led many Israelis to question Arafat's sincerity. At Camp David in 2000, Arafat rejected Israel's offer of a two-state solution, which was endorsed by U.S. President Bill Clinton, and made no counter offer. The campaign of terrorism known as the second (al-Aqsa) intifada erupted two months later. In 2003 the UN, the EU, the U.S., and Russia endorsed a new plan, the "road map," to revive the peace process. When the negotiations envisioned in the road map also failed, Israel embarked upon a policy of unilateral withdrawals.

Important Events in the Oslo Peace Process

September 13, 1993: Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin shook hands on the White House lawn and signed the **Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements (DoP)**. The DoP laid out gradual steps for Israeli withdrawals. In exchange the PLO was to refrain from all incitement and all violence, dismantle terrorist groups, and eliminate the clauses in its charter that call for the destruction of Israel. The most difficult issues—Jerusalem, refugees, final borders, settlements, and security—were to be negotiated five years later once Israel was assured that its former enemy had sincerely renounced violence and the goal of destroying the Jewish state.¹

May 4, 1994: The Palestinian Authority was established to govern the Palestinians in the **Gaza-Jericho Agreement**. Israel turned civil service administration over to the PA and withdrew from Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

July 1, 1994: Arafat's exile in Tunis ended, and he returned to the Gaza Strip with his PLO associates, who had been with him in Tunis.



Peace Rally in Tel Aviv, 1995.

The Oslo Accords, The Road Map, The Gaza Disengagement: 1993-2011

October 14, 1994: The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Rabin, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Arafat.

September 28, 1995: In *Oslo II* or the *Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement*, Israel was scheduled to withdraw from Palestinian population centers, which would then be governed by the PA. The West Bank and Gaza were divided into Areas A, B, and C. Areas A and B included Palestinian population centers. Israel completed the withdrawal from population centers in December 1995. Oslo II also called for the creation of a Palestinian police force of 30,000 men to keep order and control militant factions. Israel agreed to provide arms for the new police force. The PLO again agreed to stop incitement, amend the PLO Charter that still called for Israel's destruction, and to guarantee respect for Jewish holy sites in its territory.

November 4, 1995: Rabin was assassinated by an Israeli extremist who rejected any concessions to Palestinians, and Peres became prime minister.

March 1997: Violent demonstrations broke out in Hebron and Bethlehem when Israel began building Har Homa, a new Jewish neighborhood in southern Jerusalem that Palestinian critics claimed should be part of their future state.

October 23, 1998: The *Wye River Memorandum* was drafted to clarify each side's ongoing obligations and to address Palestinian violations of previous agreements to end incitement, amend the PLO Charter, and dismantle terrorist groups. Further Israeli withdrawals were tied to Palestinians fulfilling these obligations.

July 11-25, 2000: In **Camp David negotiations** to resolve final status issues, Clinton acted as mediator. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered 95 percent of a contiguous West Bank, 100 percent of Gaza, a capital in eastern Jerusalem, the removal of Jewish communities from those areas, and \$30 billion to help resettle Palestinian refugees. Palestinians did not respond to the offer. PLO officials later claimed that Barak's offer would have given them only disconnected enclaves. Israeli and U.S. officials disputed this claim.



Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, U.S. President Bill Clinton, and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at Camp David, 2000.

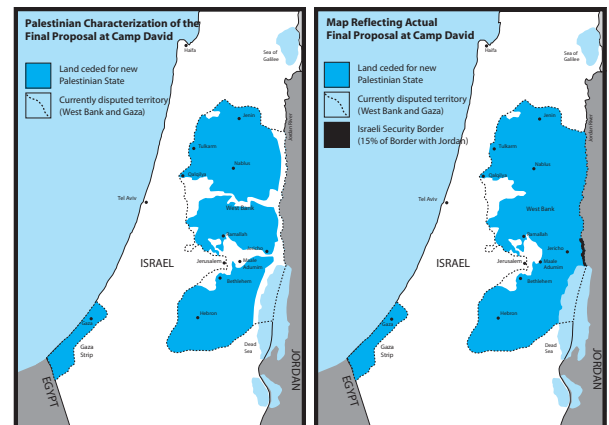
“You understand that we plan to eliminate the state of Israel and establish a purely Palestinian state. We will make life unbearable for Jews by psychological warfare and population explosion.... I have no use for Jews; they are and remain Jews.”

—Yasser Arafat to an Arab audience in Stockholm, Sweden, January 30, 1996²

The final proposals made to the Palestinians “couldn’t be a floor for negotiations. It couldn’t be a ceiling. It was the roof... Those who say there were cantons, completely untrue. It was contiguous.” —Dennis Ross, U.S. envoy and negotiator³

September 28-30, 2000: Violence erupted, marking the start of the *al-Aqsa* or *second intifada*, a campaign of Palestinian terrorism, which effectively ended the Oslo process. Though at the time Palestinians claimed Israeli prime ministerial candidate Ariel Sharon's walk on the Temple Mount triggered the violence, Palestinian leaders (including Palestinian Minister of Communication Imhad Falouji) later admitted publicly that the intifada had been planned since the end of the Camp David negotiations.⁴

January 22-28, 2001: At the *Taba Conference*, where Barak made another offer, including 97 percent of the West Bank, again, no deal was reached. Barak's offer was rescinded as Israeli elections approached and terrorist attacks against Israel escalated.



Palestinian leaders claimed the offer they rejected at Camp David for a Palestinian state was a nonviable series of cantons (left). U.S. Middle East envoy and negotiator Dennis Ross asserted that Israel's Camp David proposal was contiguous (right) and far-reaching. (Maps from Dennis Ross, *The Missing Peace*, 2004.)

U.S. President George Bush with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.



June 4, 2003: The **road map** was formally endorsed at the Aqaba Summit by Israeli Prime Minister Sharon, Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas, Jordan's King Abdullah II, and U.S. President George Bush. The performance-based plan called for Palestinians to end terrorism and anti-Israel incitement. Israel was to help the Palestinians build their institutions and to freeze settlement building. It envisioned the establishment of a Palestinian state by 2005. The "Quartet," the UN, European Union, the U.S., and Russia, was to oversee the process.

November 11, 2004: **Arafat died** in Paris. Former PA Prime Minister and Arafat colleague **Abbas** (Abu Mazen) was elected chairman of the PLO and later president of the PA.

August 2005: Israel unilaterally withdrew from the remaining 20 percent of the Gaza Strip that was still under Israeli administration and from the northern West Bank, uprooting Israeli communities (including the deceased from cemeteries) as announced in April 2004.

January 2006: **Ehud Olmert** became interim Israeli prime minister after Sharon suffered a stroke. Hamas, a terrorist group dedicated to destroying Israel in accordance with its founding charter, won in the PA parliamentary elections.

July-August 2006: Hezbollah War

June 2007: Hamas launched a violent coup that separated the PA into Hamas-controlled Gaza and the PA-controlled West Bank.

2009-2012: PA President Abbas refused to continue direct negotiations with Israel.

Major Players During the Peace Process

Year	U.S.	Israel	Palestinians
1993	President Bill Clinton, Mideast Envoy Dennis Ross	Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Labor Party; Foreign Minister Shimon Peres	PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat
1995	President Bill Clinton, Mideast Envoy Dennis Ross	Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Labor Party	PA President Yasser Arafat
1996	President Bill Clinton, Mideast Envoy Dennis Ross	Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud Party	PA President Yasser Arafat
1999	President Bill Clinton, Mideast Envoy Dennis Ross	Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Labor Party	PA President Yasser Arafat
2001	President George W. Bush, Mideast Envoy Dennis Ross	Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Likud Party	PA President Yasser Arafat
2004	President George W. Bush	Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Likud Party	PLO Chairman Mahmoud Abbas
2006	President George W. Bush	Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, Kadima Party	PA President Mahmoud Abbas
2009	President Barack Obama	Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Likud Party	PA President Mahmoud Abbas; Hamas Leader Ismail Haniyeh, Gaza

Terrorism Since the Start of the Oslo Peace Process⁵

In the five years after the Oslo Accords were signed, Palestinian terrorist groups opposed to the two-state solution killed 282 Israelis, far more than the number killed (216) in the entire 15 years that preceded the accords. Despite escalating terrorism and incitement, Israel continued to withdraw until 98 percent of Palestinians were governed by the PA. Israel intermittently reoccupied these areas as needed for security purposes with its defensive operations during the second intifada. The violence undermined the central premise of the Oslo Accords, that differences would be resolved peacefully, and effectively shattered the Oslo peace process.

Year	Israelis Murdered in Terrorist Attacks
September 1993-1994	26
1994	73
1995	52
1996	87
1997	31
1998	13
1999	4
2000—Second Intifada Begins	47
2001	206
2002	452
2003	214
2004	117
2005	45
2006	32
2007	17
2008	38
2009	15
2010	11

¹Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangement," September 13, 1993. ²Quoted in "Arafat in Stockholm," *Arutz-7*, February 27, 1996. ³Interview with Dennis Ross on *Fox News Sunday*, April 21, 2002. ⁴Lamia Lahoud, "PA minister: Intifada planned since July," *Jerusalem Post*, March 4, 2001. ⁵Statistics compiled from "Fatalities in Palestinian Terror Attacks (1967-2005)," *Jewish Virtual Library*; 2007 data from Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Anti-Israel Terrorism in 2007 and its Trends in 2008: Overview," June 5, 2008; Israel Security Agency, "2010 Summary: Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism."



TERRORIST

SEPTEMBER 28, 2000-PRESENT: The Oslo process came to an end in September 2000 when multiple extremist Palestinian groups, with the backing of Yasser Arafat and the PA, launched a terrorist war against Israel. These groups hijacked the peace agenda from ordinary Palestinians and forced Israel to focus on self-defense.

Though there had been terrorism throughout the Oslo years, it now escalated into an organized, systematic campaign of roadside explosives, ambushes and shootings. The intifada's signature tactic, suicide bombing, was the most lethal, causing 47 percent of all Israeli casualties. Terrorists targeted Israeli civilians. Suicide bombers struck restaurants, dance clubs, synagogues, bar mitzvah celebrations, and public buses. Snipers shot at commuters on the highways. Attackers infiltrated private homes and launched rockets into schoolyards. During the Oslo negotiations, Yasser Arafat, the PLO, and the PA committed to disarming and dismantling terrorist groups. Instead, they continued to arm terrorists, promote incitement, and give terrorists financial and ideological support, hoping to force more concessions from Israel.

The PA has officially celebrated suicide bombers as heroic martyrs and authorized public incitement in the media, schools and mosques to attack Israel and Israelis. Many PA security officials doubled as terrorist operatives. In January 2006 PA Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas announced he would continue the PA policy of paying suicide bombers' families with annual stipends.³ In the same month the radical Islamic group Hamas won the majority vote in the PA elections, and, in a violent coup in 2007, took over the Gaza Strip.

"Whoever thinks that the intifada broke out because of the despised Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa Mosque is wrong. This intifada was planned in advance, ever since President Arafat's return from the Camp David negotiations, where he turned the table upside down on President Clinton."

—PA Communications Minister
Imad Falouji, March 3, 2001¹

Terrorism Against Israel Sept. 28, 2000 - Dec. 31, 2005²

25,770 terrorist attacks

147 suicide bombings
(causing 47% of all deaths)

1,084 killed

7,454 injured

82% of dead and wounded were
civilians (2000-2004)

Palestinian Terrorism: A Who's Who in the Terror War against Israel

Terrorists come from a large network of armed Palestinian groups. Some are directly connected to the PLO, which remains a force in the PA. Most PA officials belong to the PLO or Hamas. Some groups, like Hamas, are radical Islamist, while others, like the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), are secular. Immediately following Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in the fall of 2005, Al Qaeda and Hezbollah operatives established cells in Gaza. Though these groups often compete with one another, they also frequently collaborate. All receive encouragement, financial support, weapons, and, in some cases, direction from Arab and other states, which also offer them safe havens. For example, Iran has given Hamas and Hezbollah millions of dollars annually; the Hamas leader Khaled Maashal lives in Damascus, Syria; and Hamas and Hezbollah signed an agreement in 2004 to increase attacks on Israel.⁴

HAMAS (ISLAMIC RESISTANCE MOVEMENT)⁵

FOUNDED:	1987 - Won PA Parliamentary elections in January 2006
FOUNDER/LEADERS:	Sheikh Ahmed Yassin (1987-2004); Khaled Mashal (2004-present)
LOCATION:	West Bank and Gaza; Leaders also in Syria, Lebanon, Iran
IDEOLOGY:	Muslim Brotherhood Islamist. Opposes PLO. "Israel will exist until Islam will obliterate it. There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad (Holy War)." --Hamas Charter
OPERATIONS:	Shootings, bombings, rocket attacks, suicide missions. 773 terrorist attacks in just 2003 and 2004 41 suicide bombings (1993-2000) 58 suicide bombings (2000-2005) 377 Israelis killed, 2,076 wounded (9/00-4/04) 29 suicide bombers foiled and arrested (2005) 40% of all suicide bombers (2000-2005)
NOTES:	Major player in the terrorist war against Israel. Perpetrated 40% of suicide bombings. Dominates Gaza. Has shifted its strategic emphasis to rocket and mortar attacks. Closely tied to Syria, Iran and Lebanon. Funded by groups in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Western Europe, Hezbollah, and others. Listed as terrorist organization by US State Department.



GROUPS

"My message to the loathed Jews is that there is no God but Allah, we will chase you everywhere! We are a nation that drinks blood, and we know that there is no blood better than the blood of Jews. We will not leave you alone until we have quenched our thirst with your blood, and our children's thirst with your blood."
 —Hamas broadcast, February 2006⁶

"We may lose or win [tactically], but our eyes will continue to aspire to the strategic goal, namely, to Palestine from the river to the sea [euphemism for all of Israel]. Whatever we get now cannot make us forget this supreme truth."

—Faisal Husseini, PLO representative in Jerusalem and a PA minister, April 2001⁷

PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)⁸



FOUNDED:	1964
FOUNDER/LEADERS:	Egyptian-born Ahmed Shukairy. Sponsored by Egyptian president Gamal Nasser. Yasser Arafat, PLO Chairman: 1969–2004. Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), PLO Co-founder. Served as PLO Chair 2005–present.
IDEOLOGY:	Secular Arab nationalist. "Armed struggle is the only way to liberate Palestine. The partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of the State of Israel are entirely illegal, regardless of the passage of time. Claims of historical or religious ties of Jews with Palestine are incompatible with the facts of history." -- PLO Charter 1968
OPERATIONS:	Plane hijackings, hostage taking, bombings, assassinations. 1968–1982: targeted Israeli civilians and Jews globally, and conducted operations against Lebanese, Jordanians and Americans. Tried to overthrow King Hussein of Jordan and was crushed by Hussein's army in September of 1970.
NOTES:	Founded as umbrella organization for militant Palestinian nationalist groups. 1974: UN recognizes PLO as sole representative of the Palestinian people. 1993: PLO is signatory of Oslo Peace Accords and says it formally recognizes Israel. Becomes dominant political party in the PA. 1996: PLO votes for amending its Charter to eliminate clauses calling for destruction of Israel. Charter unchanged in public documents, as of 2007. Accused by the international community of extensive corruption and theft of international aid during its governance of the PA.

MOVEMENT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (FATAH)⁹ OFFSHOOT MILITIAS OF FATAH: TANZIM AND AL AQSA MARTYRS BRIGADE



FOUNDED:	1959
FOUNDER:	Egyptian-born Yasser Arafat, with Mahmood Abbas (Abu Mazen) and others.
IDEOLOGY:	Revolutionary nationalist liberation group. Took over PLO in 1968 and remains PLO's largest faction.
OFFSHOOT MILITIAS:	Tanzim: founded in 1983. Fatah's military and operational wing. Marwan Barghouti, Tanzim leader in West Bank, currently in Israeli jail serving five life terms. Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade: founded in 2000 after outbreak of Second Intifada. Most Fatah operatives work in Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.
OPERATIONS:	Guerilla warfare, shootings, bombings, and rocket and suicide attacks. 214 terrorist attacks in just 2003 and 2004. 33 suicide bombings (2000–2005). 1st female suicide bomber (1/27/02). 5 female suicide bombers dispatched (2002–2005). 47 suicide bombers foiled and arrested (2005).



NOTES:	Fatah has several militias, including Force-17. Midway into the Second Intifada, Fatah militias started coordinating with radical Islamist terrorist groups for joint terrorist attacks.
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TERRORIST

PALESTINIAN ISLAMIC JIHAD (PIJ)¹⁰



FOUNDED:	1979
FOUNDER/LEADERS:	Fathi 'Abd al-Aziz al-Shqaqi (1979-1995), Sheikh 'Abd al-Aziz 'Odah, Dr. Ramadan Shalah
LOCATION:	West Bank and Gaza. Sponsored by Iran and Syria.
IDEOLOGY:	Radical Islamist and nationalist. Committed to "creation of an Islamic Palestinian state and the destruction of Israel through holy war." Opposes pro-Western and Arab governments.-BBC Report
OPERATIONS:	Operations: Shootings, bombings, rocket attacks and suicide bombings. 1,000 terrorist attacks (2000-2004) 950 Israelis wounded, 150 killed 39 suicide bombings (2000-2005) Jenin battle, 2002. PIJ's hub was in Jenin, the Palestinian terrorist "suicide capital." 59 suicide bombers foiled and arrested (2005).
NOTES:	Small group but increasingly a major player. It recruits followers in mosques and universities. Opposed to hudnas (ceasefires) and lulls in the terrorist operations, such as the one negotiated for February 2005 to January 1, 2006.



Suicide bomb attack.

HEZBOLLAH (PARTY OF GOD)¹¹



FOUNDED:	1982. Official manifesto released February 16, 1985.
FOUNDER/LEADER:	Iranian Revolutionary Guards; spiritual father Sheik Muhammed Hussein Fadlallah; General Secretary Sheik Abbas al-Musawi, 1991-1992; Sheik Hassan Nasrallah 1992-to present
LOCATION:	Southern Lebanon. Established by Iran.
IDEOLOGY:	Shia Islamic fundamentalist terrorist group/Lebanese political party. Goals are to establish Islamic state across the Arab world, eliminate Israel and fight "Western imperialism."
OPERATIONS:	Shootings, rocket attacks, bombings, kidnappings, suicide bombings. 241 US marines killed by suicide bombers driving a truck. Bombing of US marine barracks and embassy, Beirut, 1983. Beheaded US CIA Chief William Buckley, Beirut, 1985. 29 killed in bombing of Israeli Embassy, Buenos Aires, 1992. 96 killed in bombing of Israeli Cultural Center in Buenos Aires, 1994. 813 terrorist attacks, 1990-1995. 3 Israeli border guards kidnapped and murdered in 2000. 183 terrorist attacks (May 2000-May 2004). Initiated a war across internationally recognized border of Israel by kidnapping two Israeli soldiers and killing eight and shelling northern Israeli towns, 2006 (see more information about Hezbollah war on pages 28-31).
NOTES:	Not Palestinian-based but extensively supports Palestinian terrorist groups. Set up cells in the West Bank and Gaza. Continuously attacked across the Israel/Lebanon border. Operatives now in Caribbean and Central, North and South America. Listed as a terrorist organization by US State Department.



Katyusha launched from southern Lebanon.

GROUPS

"No one can ask why Hitler punished the Jews.... Did Hitler attack the Jews or did their crime deserve even more?" —Egyptian government newspaper, May 27, 2001¹²

Smaller Terrorist Groups

POPULAR FRONT FOR THE NATIONAL LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (PFLP)¹³

SPLINTER GROUPS:

POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE – GENERAL COMMAND (PFLP-GC)

DEMOCRATIC FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE (DFLP)

FOUNDED:	1967
FOUNDER/LEADERS:	George Habash (1971–2000); Ahmad Sadat (2001–present)
LOCATION:	West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon
IDEOLOGY:	Marxist/Leninist, revolutionary nationalism through armed insurrection. Refuses to recognize Israel. Broke with PLO in 1974 for its "Stages Strategy" ("liberating" Palestine in stages rather than in a single war) but later rejoined the PLO.
OPERATIONS:	Initiated showcase, media-oriented attacks in the 1970s, such as plane hijackings. Shootings, bombings and suicide attacks. Assassinated Israeli Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi, October 2001. 8 suicide bombings (2000–2005). 14 suicide bombers were stopped and arrested (2005).
NOTES:	Major players in the 1970s and 1980s, but PFLP and related groups are small and considered minor players today.



The bed of a child murdered by a terrorist.

Additional terror groups not listed here also pose serious threats to Israeli civilians.



The aftermath of a suicide bomb attack on a Tel Aviv bus station, 2006.



A Palestinian suicide bomb attack on an Israeli bus, March 5, 2003, 17 people murdered, 53 injured.

¹Quoted by Lamia Lahoud, "PA Minister: Intifada planned since July," *Jerusalem Post*, March 4, 2001. ²Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Palestinian Terrorism in 2005," December 31, 2005. ³Jonathan D. Halevi, "Abbas Approves PA Assistance to Families of Suicide Bombers," *News First Class*, December 5, 2005. ⁴Terrorist Group Profile for Hizballah, *Country Reports on Terrorism, 2004*; United States Department of State, April 2005; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Special Information Bulletin," April 4, 2005. ⁵" Hamas" at Jewish Virtual Library; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Suicide Bombing terrorism during the current Israeli-Palestinian confrontation," January 1, 2006; Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), "2005 Terrorism Review," January 2, 2006. ⁶Itamar Marcus and Barbara Crook, "Hamas Video: We will drink the blood of the Jews," *Palestinian Media Watch Bulletin*, February 14, 2006. ⁷Quoted in the Lebanese *Al-Safir*, March 21 2001. ⁸"PLO" at Jewish Virtual Library; CAMERA, "Yasir Arafat's Timeline of Terror," November 13 2004 at CAMERA; Barry Rubin and Judith Colp Rubin, *Yasir Arafat: A Political Biography*, 2003. ⁹"Fatah's Political Program" at Jewish Virtual Library; Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), "Fatah Tanzim," ICT website (www.ict.org.il); Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Suicide Bombing," op. cit.; MFA, "2005 Terrorism Review," op. cit. ¹⁰"Palestinian Islamic Jihad" at Jewish Virtual Library; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Special Information Bulletin," February 28, 2005; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Suicide Bombing," op. cit.; MFA, "2005 Terrorism Review," op. cit.; http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/1005081.stm. ¹¹ICT, "Hezbollah," ICT website; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Background Information about Hezbollah..." July 13, 2006; U.S. Department of State, "Background Information on Foreign Terrorist Organizations"; MFA, "Terrorism from Lebanon-Hezbollah," January 29, 2004. ¹²Mahmoud Muhammad Khadr, "In Defense of Hitler," *Al-Akhbar*, May 27, 2001. ¹³"PFLP" at Jewish Virtual Library; Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine," ICT website; Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center, "Suicide Bombing," op. cit.; MFA, "2005 Terrorism Review," op. cit.

TERRORIST WARS



Conventional wars against Israel ended after the 1979 Israel-Egypt peace treaty. Since then, Israel has had to defend itself in wars against terrorist organizations that are supported by countries like Syria and Iran. Iranian proxies Hezbollah and Hamas openly call for the murder of Jews and the destruction of Israel, routinely violate the rules of armed conflict by using human shields, embed themselves in population centers, and systematically target Israeli civilians and other individuals around the world. They also manipulate and use the media as a propaganda weapon. Israel has sought humane strategies for fighting terrorist wars and for targeting terrorists while avoiding harm to innocent civilians.

Hezbollah, based in Lebanon, triggered a war against Israel in 2006, called the second Lebanon or Hezbollah war (see page 13). In December 2008 Israel was forced to launch a military operation against Hamas, which controls Gaza.

CAST LEAD: Israel's Military Operation Against Hamas December 27, 2008–January 18, 2009

In 2005 Israel evacuated all its 8,500 citizens and soldiers from Gaza, hoping to promote peace.

Israel's withdrawal, however, brought escalating terrorism, not peace. In June of 2007 Hamas seized control of Gaza in a bloody coup. Between 2005 and 2008 Hamas and its affiliated groups launched over 9,500 rockets and mortars against civilians in southern Israel. Twenty civilians were killed, and 333 were seriously injured. Hamas continually upgraded its weapons, putting 1 million civilians in southern Israel in target range.

Hamas' goal, as stated in its founding document and regularly repeated by its leaders, is the murder of Jews, the "obliteration" of Israel, and its replacement with a Taliban-like Muslim theocracy (Hamas charter, 1988-present).



The psychological trauma: Rockets and mortars hit kindergartens, hospitals, schools, day care centers, homes and shopping malls. Israelis lived in dread of the warning sirens that gave them only 15 to 45 seconds to flee to bomb shelters. In

Sderot, a town just one mile from Gaza, 94 percent of children have suffered from post-traumatic stress syndrome.

Israel's response: restraint and continued transfer of humanitarian aid. For three years Israel did not respond with a major military operation. It mounted periodic pinpoint operations to destroy rocket-launching sites, munitions depots, and arms-smuggling tunnels. At the same time Israel continued transferring thousands of tons of humanitarian aid, fuel, and general supplies to Gaza's civilians through designated border crossings.

In November 2008 Hamas violated a temporary truce and renewed its attacks. Egypt had brokered a six-month "lull" in June, but Hamas exploited the lull, digging smuggling tunnels, including one near the Israeli border designed for infiltration and kidnapping of Israelis. On November 4 Israel destroyed this tunnel. Six Hamas fighters were killed in the confrontation. Hamas used this limited operation to justify escalating attacks. It fired 340 rockets and mortars, averaging more than seven a day, between November 4 and December 19.

In December 2008 Hamas refused to stop its attacks or renew the truce. Israel was running out of options. Like every sovereign nation, Israel had to protect its citizens from incessant rocket fire.

"If somebody is sending rockets into my house where my two daughters sleep at night, I'm going to do everything in my power to stop that. And I would expect Israelis to do the same thing." –Presidential candidate Barack Obama, July 2008¹

AGAINST ISRAEL

Israel's military goals during Cast Lead: disabling Hamas while preventing harm to ordinary Palestinians. Hamas boasted that it had 15,000 to 20,000 armed fighters.² "Residents of Gaza...we are not fighting against you. This terrorist organization [Hamas] has brought disaster to two peoples." —Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, December 27, 2008



Hamas consistently committed "human rights" crimes. It indiscriminately targeted Israeli civilians and regularly used Gazans as human shields. Hamas hid its arsenals in schools, mosques, hospitals, UN buildings, and residential homes.

"That the crimes allegedly committed by Hamas were intentional goes without saying — its rockets were purposefully and indiscriminately aimed at civilian targets."
—Judge Richard Goldstone³

Hamas tried to spark a humanitarian crisis. Hamas snipers killed workers transporting humanitarian goods to Gaza.⁴ It seized aid intended for Gaza's civilians and gave it to Hamas operatives or Hamas-owned stores to sell at inflated prices.⁵

During the war Israel went beyond the requirements of international law to protect Gaza's civilians. Israel warned them about impending attacks so they could move to safe areas through 163,000 personal telephone calls, 2,250,000 widely distributed leaflets, and radio broadcasts.⁶

- Israel ensured the regular transport of goods during the war with Hamas. It delivered 59,280 tons of humanitarian supplies in 2,281 trucks.⁷ One week into Cast Lead, Israel declared a daily three-hour ceasefire so that it could transport goods, though Hamas did not observe the ceasefire.⁸
- Israel used surgical strikes and precision munitions to avoid damaging structures near military targets, and it aborted operations that might have endangered innocent bystanders.⁹

"I don't think there's ever been a time in the history of warfare when any army has made more efforts to reduce civilian casualties and deaths of innocent people than the IDF is doing today in Gaza."—British Colonel (ret.) Richard Kemp, BBC TV News, January 18, 2009¹⁰

Hamas confirmed that the majority of the estimated 1,166 to 1,400 Palestinian fatalities in Cast Lead were combatants. In September 2010 Hamas Interior Minister Fathi Hamad publicly admitted that 600 to 700 of the casualties had been Hamas combatants or members of other terrorist groups.¹¹

In 2009 Judge Goldstone, the chair of the UN Goldstone report, confirmed that "Israel had not intentionally targeted civilians as a matter of policy."¹² He recognized that civilian casualties are a tragic byproduct of war.

Some claim that Israel used illegal, "disproportionate force" because Palestinians had many more casualties than Israel. The rule of proportionality does not require that the number of casualties be equal. Instead, it "forbids collateral damage that is excessive in relation to the military need."¹³ Israel's objective was to stop Hamas' ability to continue firing thousands of rockets at Israeli civilians. Unfortunately, civilian casualties are a legal byproduct of war.¹⁴ Many Palestinian civilian casualties resulted from Hamas' abuse of its own people by systematically using them as human shields and fighting in densely populated areas. In contrast, Israel made a serious effort to protect every civilian during the war, whether he was an Israeli or a Palestinian civilian.

"When Palestinian militants launch rocket attacks from civilian areas, they are themselves responsible — and no one else is — for the civilian deaths caused by Israeli counter-fire." —Political Philosopher Michael Walzer, 2006¹⁵



¹Dr. Aaron Lerner, "Obama's Sderot Remarks Illustrate How Olmert Team's Inaction Is Incomprehensible," IMRA, July 23, 2008. ²Marie Colvin, "Iran Hones Skills of Hamas Fighters," *The Australian*, March 10, 2008. Hamas Commander: "Iran Training Our Men," *Jerusalem Post*, March 9, 2008. ³Judge Richard Goldstone, "Reconsidering the Goldstone Report on Israel and War Crimes," *Washington Post*, April 1, 2011. ⁴IDF: "Army Didn't Fire on UN Truck Driver," *Jerusalem Post*, January 10, 2009. ⁵"Hamas Raids Aid Trucks, Sells Supplies," *Jerusalem Post*, January 12, 2009, Khaled Abu Toameh, "Hamas, Fatah Bicker Following Gaza Operation," *Jerusalem Post*, January 20, 2009. ⁶MFA, "IDF Issues Warnings to Gaza Civilians," January 7, 2009. ⁷Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Humanitarian Aid to Gaza during IDF Operation," January 22, 2009. ⁸Israel Diplomatic Network, Newsletter: "News from Israel," January-February 2009. ⁹Dore Gold, "Did Israel Use Disproportionate Force?" *Jerusalem Issue Briefs*, December 28, 2008. ¹⁰*BBC News*, January 18, 2009, "Interview With Col. Richard Kemp," YouTube. ¹¹*Ha'aretz News Service*, "Hamas admits 600-700 of its men were killed in Cast Lead," *Ha'aretz*, September 11, 2010. ¹²Richard Goldstone, "Reconsidering the Goldstone Report on Israel and War Crimes," *Washington Post*, April 1, 2011. ¹³Justus Reid Wiener and Avi Bell, "International Law and the Fighting in Gaza," *Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs*, 2008. ¹⁴Office of the Prosecutor, International Criminal Court, The Hague, February 9, 2008. ¹⁵Michael Walzer, "How Aggressive Should Israel Be?" *The New Republic Online*, July 31, 2006.

REGIONAL THREAT: A NUCLEAR IRAN



—Ali Rafsanjani, Former Iranian president, 2012²



—Iranian leader Ayatollah Khamenei, 2012¹

In 1979, as Israel made peace with its most powerful regional enemy, Egypt, a new threat emerged. The 1979 Islamic Revolution in Iran brought extremist, anti-Israel ayatollahs to power. The theocratic regime severed the friendly ties that had existed between Israel and Iran since 1950.³ The Iranian regime began using genocidal rhetoric calling for Israel's destruction and racing to build nuclear weapons capability in defiance of six UN Security Council resolutions.⁴ The international community regards a nuclear Iran as a global threat.⁵ Israel sees it as an existential threat.

Iranian leaders are more likely to use nuclear weapons than any state that has possessed them to date. Religious extremists with expansionist, apocalyptic ideology, the regime's leaders want to spread the Islamic revolution worldwide.⁶ They have encouraged their citizens to carry out suicide attacks,⁷ sacrificed tens of thousands of Iranian children,⁸ and committed grave human rights violations in pursuit of their goals.⁹

A nuclear Iran would trigger a nuclear arms race in the Middle East, further destabilizing the volatile region. Neighboring states such as Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia¹⁰ have already indicated that they, too, plan to start nuclear programs.

The risk of nuclear terrorism, with "dirty" weapons in the hands of terrorists, would escalate in Israel and around the world. Iran is already the world's leader of state-sponsored terrorism,¹¹ and has sponsored terrorism in the Middle East, Europe, and Central Asia.¹² Iran and its proxies have also killed Americans: 241 U.S. marines in Lebanon in 1983¹³ and 23 soldiers in Saudi Arabia in 1996.¹⁴ Iran gave "lethal" support to the insurgency in Iraq¹⁵ and to the Taliban in Afghanistan.¹⁶

A nuclear Iran could destabilize the world economy by manipulating oil supplies and prices. Iran has threatened to close the Strait of Hormuz, the shipping route for 40

percent of the world's crude oil, and it could bully the Gulf states and Saudi Arabia into altering oil prices.¹⁷

A nuclear Iran poses special threats to Israel.

- The Iranian regime has repeatedly issued genocidal threats against Israel, attacked Jews and Israelis around the world, and committed acts of war against Israel. Between 2011 and 2012 Iranian agents attacked or attempted to attack Israeli diplomatic missions in India, Thailand, Georgia, and Azerbaijan.¹⁸
- Iran has been the main supporter of Hezbollah¹⁹ and Hamas,²⁰ terrorist groups dedicated to the destruction of Israel.
- A nuclear attack would be catastrophic for Israel, a small country of only 8,000 square miles and 7.8 million people.²¹

Israel and the international community are trying to stop Iran's nuclear quest through UN resolutions, stiff economic sanctions, and negotiations. At the time of this printing, harsher sanctions are being imposed on Iran along with pressure to conduct productive negotiations.

Both Israel and the U.S. have declared that the military option remains on the table.

¹Ayatollah Khamenei, "Friday prayer sermons in Tehran," The Office of the Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali Khamenei, February 3, 2012. (Note: In the Farsi version Khamenei is quoted as using the word "Israel." In the English translation of the speech "Israel" is replaced with "The Zionist Regime." This is either a mistake or an intentional mistranslation.) ²www.iran-press-service.com/articles_2001/dec_2001/rafsanjani_nuke_threats_141201.htm ³Rachel Brandenburg, "Iran and the Palestinians," U.S. Institute of Peace. ⁴AFP, "Iran Nuclear Plant Violates UN Resolutions: Envoys," ChannelNewsAsia, January 12, 2012. ⁵World Leaders Oppose a Nuclear Iran," Stop Iran's Nukes web site. ⁶Agence France Presse, April 28, 2006. Office of the Supreme Leader Sayyid Ali Khamenei, "IR Leader Receives Researchers on Mahdism," July 9, 2011, MehdiOnline, "Home," n.d. ⁷"Iran's New Government Glorifies Martyrdom," MEMRI, July 29, 2005, Global Security, "Intelligence," n.d. ⁸Dave Siavashi, "Brainwashing Children: Basij militia to be established in 6,000 elementary schools," *Iran News Now*, November 12, 2009. ⁹Amnesty International, "Annual Report 2011," 2011. ¹⁰Richard Beeston, "Six Arab States Join Rush to Go Nuclear," *London Sunday Times*, November 4, 2006. ¹¹www.state.gov/cr/rls/crt/2005/64337.htm. ¹²Richard Esposito and Brian Ross, "Iran 'Directed' Washington DC Terror Plot, US Says," ABC News, October 11, 2011. ¹³www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/target/etc/cron.html. ¹⁴Philip Shenon, "23 U.S. Troops Die in Truck Bombing in Saudi Base," *New York Times*, June 26, 1996. ¹⁵US State Department Report on Terrorism, 2009, Chapter 3. ¹⁶www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/afghanistan/article7066239.ece. ¹⁷www.iags.org/n050707.htm. ¹⁸Daniel Byman, "Iran, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 2008, AP, "Did Iran plot to kill Israelis in Azerbaijan?" CBS News, February 21, 2012, Herb Keinson, Gil Hoffman, and Jpost Staff, "Netanyahu: Iran is behind attacks on Israeli embassies," *Jerusalem Post*, February 13, 2012, Daniel Ten Kate and Suttinee Yuvejjattana, "Iranian Bombing Suspects 'Targeted' Israelis, Thai Police Say," Bloomberg, February 15, 2012. ¹⁹Ali Akbar Velayati, advisor to the Supreme Leader Khamenei, Al-Jazeera TV, July 25, 2009. ²⁰"Palestinian Hamas Groups Admits that Its Fighters are Trained in Iran," *Times* (UK), March 9, 2008. ²¹Elliott Abrams, "Israel and Iran: The Grounds for an Attack," *World Affairs Journal*, May/June, 2012.

The Soft War Against Israel

BOYCOTTS DIVESTMENT SANCTIONS



After Israel prevailed in conventional and terrorist wars, a new effort emerged to try to defeat Israel through non-military tactics: propaganda, boycott campaigns, and the manipulation of international law to condemn Israel for alleged crimes. Arab states have boycotted Israel since its founding, but in 2005 the new boycott effort became an aggressive, organized movement that tries to convince citizens in liberal democracies to adopt anti-Israel campaigns. Using the rhetoric of human rights and claiming to stand for “peace” and “justice,” boycott activists attempt to defame and demonize Israel’s self-defense measures, domestic policies, and legal foundations. Their goal is to poison hearts and minds against Israel, isolating it and crippling it with condemnations and punishments.



The Boycotts, Divestment, and Sanctions campaign (BDS) is a decentralized but cohesive movement that began in 2001 at the UN World Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa.¹ Hijacked by radicals and some Islamic states, the conference singled out Israel. In 2005 as the second intifada subsided, the boycott movement energized and mobilized its allies around the world.² The movement has hundreds of partner organizations in the U.S. and abroad. It carefully plans its strategy, mentoring organizers, operating speakers bureaus, and providing how-to manuals and skills training.

BDS seeks to cripple Israel’s self-defense options and to dismantle the Jewish state. The goals of the BDS movement, including the right of return, are a transparent attempt to force Israel to adopt policies that would turn it into an Arab-majority nation. The BDS movement is a “cult... to abolish Israel”—even according to anti-Israel activist Norman Finkelstein (February 9, 2012).³

BDS activists lobby a wide array of institutions. They try to enlist businesses, mainline churches, unions, corporations, universities, performing artists, city and state governments, and the general public to adopt anti-Israel boycott policies. Their goal is to force anti-Israel debate into the mainstream.

Boycott activists repeatedly claim successes though to date, only one small college in Washington State has adopted the policy. However, the boycott campaign’s real purpose is to force debate about Israel in order to make anti-Israel propaganda seem normal and familiar. The boycott campaign is a weapon in the larger ideological war to deny Israel’s right to exist and to defend its citizens.

BDS chooses a variety of categories as campaign targets:

- **Cultural and academic boycotts:** Activists call for boycotts of Israeli universities, research institutions, spokespeople, performers, orchestras, dance companies, and athletes. They pressure popular artists to cancel performances in Israel. When Israeli artists and speakers travel abroad, the activists try to have their events canceled, or they put on obtrusive demonstrations and try to shut down or shout down the speakers and performances.
- **Economic boycotts:** Activists lobby companies to stop doing business with Israel and present resolutions to universities and shareholders to divest from holdings in Israeli corporations and from American or other foreign companies that sell products to Israel. They also urge retailers and institutions to stop stocking Israeli goods.
- **Travel/diplomatic boycotts:** In what is known as “lawfare,” boycott activists in Europe falsely charge Israeli officials with war crimes and have arrest warrants issued against them. Prominent Israeli officials, including Tzipi Livni, have had to cancel trips to the UK for fear of arrest.
- **Political boycotts:** Boycott activists attempt to undermine American support for Israel and to end U.S. military aid to Israel.

¹ Gerald Steinberg, “The Centrality of NGOs in the Durban Strategy,” *Yale Israel Journal*, July 11, 2006, at www.ngo-monitor.org/article.php?viewall=yes&id=1958 and Tom Lantos, “The Durban Debacle: An Insider’s View of the World Conference against Racism at Durban,” *Fletcher Forum of World Affairs*, Winter/Spring 2002, at www.eyeontheun.org/assets/attachments/.../568_durban_debacle.pdf.

² BDS Movement website at www.bdsmovement.net/call.

³ Norman Finkelstein interviewed by Frank Barat, February 9, 2012 at http://krishna109.newsvine.com/_news/2012/02/14/10409898-the-anti-israel-boycott-divestment-and-sanctions-bds-campaign-norman-finkelstein-interview.

ISRAEL'S SELF-DEFENSE

The long history of terrorism against Israel has forced it to develop innovative counterterrorism strategies. Israel is now respected as a global expert in the field, and its policies have become a model for other democracies that are also committed to upholding humanitarian standards even while they face terrorists who operate among civilians. In responding to the wars and terrorism since 2000, Israel has sought ways to defend its citizens and, at the same time, protect the lives of innocent Palestinians and Lebanese who were also victimized by those who want to destroy Israel.



Self-Defense and

Humanitarian Values



Remains of a crowded Israeli restaurant destroyed by a suicide bomber.



Newly dug graves for murdered victims of suicide bombers.



Fifty tons of illegal weapons seized by Israel from the Palestinian ship *Karine A*.

The guiding principles of Israel's policies are:

Humanitarian

- Save the lives of Israeli citizens
- Protect the lives and well-being of innocent Palestinians
- Uphold civil and human rights with Supreme Court review of contested policies

Defensive

- Stop terrorists and dismantle their infrastructures
- Prevent the success of terrorist missions
- Root out terrorist leaders and their supporters



Palestinian militants frequently use women and children as human shields during attacks.



Terrorists have smuggled bombs and terrorists into Israel using ambulances.



Israeli soldiers have uncovered many tunnels used to smuggle weapons and terrorists.



Rockets are frequently fired from Palestinian areas and from Lebanon into Israel.



Israel has constructed a barrier along the Gaza Strip and West Bank to help keep terrorists out.



Israeli checkpoints are set up to stop terrorists, who dress like ordinary people, from reaching civilians in Israel.

Israel has been under incessant attack since its inception in 1948 and has learned how to preserve its humanitarian values while protecting its citizens.

Intelligence Gathering

Israel's most effective and important weapon is its intelligence operations, which allow it to monitor and preempt attacks against its citizens.

Deterrence And Prevention Measures

Israel chose not to use its full military power to eliminate the terrorists in order to limit the loss of innocent Palestinian lives. One strategy was to try to block the terrorists' ability to access Israeli population centers.

There are no natural barriers between Israel and the West Bank. There were man-made barriers when Jordan occupied the West Bank, but Israel removed them when it gained control of the area in the 1967 war. For the next 33 years, people traveled more freely between the two regions. However, this free movement ended when the terrorist campaign erupted in 2000. Israel had to prevent terrorists from simply walking or driving into Israeli communities to maim and murder men, women, and children.



Only approximately 3 percent of Israel's security barrier is a wall to protect against snipers.



An armed terrorist dressed as a woman is captured by Israeli military.

Israel Employs Several Forms of Prevention:

Checkpoints	Bypass Roads	Security Fence
<p><i>All checkpoints are temporary, legal, and part of the jointly agreed-upon Oslo Accords. They inconvenience Palestinians and Israelis though Israel has progressively introduced improvements to ease the transit for Palestinians.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security checks within pre-'67 Israel: All Israelis and visitors must go through metal detectors and bag and/or potential body checks when they enter public places such as malls, bus stations, museums, clubs, cafes, hotels, and religious sites. • Checkpoints at border crossings: There were 26 checkpoints between Israel and the territories in September 2005.¹ They regulate entry from the West Bank into Israel and resemble the checkpoints other nations put along their borders with neighboring states. • Security checkpoints and road blocks within the West Bank: These checkpoints try to prevent terrorists from moving freely within the West Bank and were built around cities known to be terrorist centers, such as Nablus. In 2005, as construction of the fence progressed, Israel reduced the number of checkpoints and roadblocks. When PA security efforts improved in 2009, the number of manned Israeli roadblocks dropped to 10 and the number of checkpoints dropped to 14.² • Emergency checkpoints and seam zone checkpoints: By September 2005, as construction of the fence progressed, Israel was able to reduce the number of West Bank checkpoints and roadblocks. These are erected during high alerts and then quickly dismantled.³ As terrorism declined Israel reduced the number of checkpoints. By 2012 only 10 remained.⁴ 	<p><i>Bypass roads were agreed on in the Oslo Accords.</i></p> <p>Israel built highways in the territories that bypassed crowded population centers, and the Oslo Accords permitted their construction. The roads were used freely by both Palestinians and Israelis until the intifada started in 2000. Then, to reduce the number of casualties from roadside attacks and drive-by shootings, Israel reserved certain roads for only Israeli citizens of all religions, including Muslims, Christians, Jews, Druze, and others. In September 2005 there were 41 such roads.⁵ At the same time, Israelis were prohibited from driving on roads reserved only for Palestinians, such as the old Bethlehem-Hebron road, to improve their ability to commute and reduce the risk of attacks against Israelis.</p>	<p><i>Israel did not begin building the fence until 2002, when terrorism reached unprecedented levels. Though many have protested against the fence, it is similar to barriers that dozens of other democracies have built on their borders for a variety of reasons, such as those between the U.S. and Mexico, India and Pakistan (Kashmir), Spain and Morocco, and South and North Korea. Israel's security fence is saving lives.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since construction of the fence began in 2002, the number of terrorist attacks has dropped by more than 90 percent. • Ninety-seven percent of the barrier is a chain-link fence; approximately 3 percent (10 miles) is a concrete wall, built to prevent the sniper shootings that were frequent in selected areas. • Only 5 percent to 8 percent of West Bank land and only three-tenths of 1 percent of Palestinians will be on the Israeli side of the fence.⁶ • Palestinians can bring their grievances about the barrier to Israel's Supreme Court, which in several cases has ruled in the favor of the Palestinians, resulting in rerouting of the fence.⁷

SELF-DEFENSE

Special Operations: Precision Attacks

When the PA proved unable or unwilling to dismantle terrorist groups, Israel was forced to take active defensive measures to root out terrorists, their infrastructure, and their arms-smuggling tunnels. Its guiding principle was to target only terrorists and to spare the civilian population, although this has not always been possible.

Air Force Strikes	Land-based Raids	Targeted Strikes	House Demolitions
<p>Israel tries to limit the use of airstrikes because terrorists often surround themselves with civilians. In addition, Israel uses controlled, limited precision air attacks to destroy military targets such as terrorist planning centers, terrorist training bases, and ammunition depots.</p>	<p>In many cases, instead of using its aerial bombing capacity, Israel deploys soldiers to dismantle terrorist bases in order to avoid harm to innocent civilians. In 2002 Israel used ground troops in Jenin, the “terrorist capital,” though aerial bombardment would have prevented Israeli deaths. Instead, 23 Israeli soldiers were killed and 75 were wounded in Jenin’s booby-trapped roads and houses. Despite the many days of fighting, the UN reported that no more than 52 Palestinians died. Seventy-three percent of them were armed combatants, dispelling the huge numbers of casualties initially reported by a variety of media outlets (which even initially referred to the occurrence as a massacre.⁸</p>	<p>In accordance with the rules of war, Israel attempted to prevent future attacks through pinpoint operations against the masterminds and engineers of terrorist groups. Eliminating these leaders destabilizes the terrorist organizations and lowers their morale. After Hamas leaders were cut down by such precision operations, lower-echelon Hamas leaders went into hiding, which dramatically impeded their ability to gather support and mount attacks.⁹ On occasion, these pinpoint attacks cause civilian deaths, even of children, partly because terrorists use civilians as human shields, a practice that Amnesty International denounced in its 2002 reports.</p>	<p>In August 2002, after multiple suicide bombings, the Israeli government approved demolishing terrorists’ houses in extreme cases to deter future attacks and destroy weapon stashes. Nevertheless, in February 2005 the IDF announced it would halt the practice unless there was an “extreme change” in circumstances. When the IDF did demolish terrorists’ homes, it gave advance warning so nobody would be physically hurt. Israel also demolished Gaza houses that concealed arms smuggling tunnels, called “arteries of terror.” Almost 100 such tunnels were uncovered between 2000 and September 2005. Yet even with this emergency measure in place, most demolition orders can be appealed to Israel’s High Court, which halts or compensates for the destruction when it rules for the appellants.¹⁰</p>

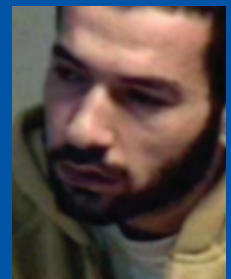
The Battle of Jenin

Endangering Israeli soldiers to protect Palestinian civilians

“Had the Israelis chosen, they could have easily pummeled the camp [Jenin] from afar and starved the terrorists out. Instead, they chose to do things the hard way, house to house—in part to avoid civilian casualties, not to inflict them. Were there civilian casualties? Almost certainly. But there is a world of difference between deliberately targeting civilians and the unintentional and inevitable casualties that were bound to occur in Jenin, where terrorists deliberately hid themselves among civilians.” —Senator Joseph R. Biden (D-Delaware), May 6, 2002¹¹

“In battle, the Israeli army regularly accepted risks to its own men in order to reduce the risks that it posed on the civilian population. The contrast with the way the Russians fought in Grozny, to take the most recent example of large-scale urban warfare, is striking, and the crucial mark of that contrast is the very small number of civilian casualties in the Palestinian cities despite the fierceness of the fighting.” —Professor Michael Walzer, Princeton University, 2002¹²

Seeing Israeli infantry “was like hunting, like being given a prize. I couldn’t believe it when I saw the soldiers. The Israelis knew that any soldier who went into the camp like that was going to get killed. I’ve been waiting for a moment like that for years....It was a very hard fight. We fought at close quarters, sometimes just a matter of a few meters between us, sometimes even in the same house.” —Thabet Mardawi, a senior Islamic Jihad terrorist, captured by Israeli soldiers in Jenin fighting¹³



Thabet Mardawi.

MEASURES

Legal and Punitive Measures: Prison and Exile

Prison and Exile: Israel has no death penalty except in very extreme cases, as with convicted Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann. The strictest penalties are prison and exile, which apply to those directly involved in carrying out, planning, assisting, or supporting terrorists or terrorist activities.

Civil Defense in Israel

Israel requires that all homes and factories have bomb shelters. Bus stop shelters are made of reinforced concrete. Security guards are on all buses and at the entrances of public venues. Sirens warn of incoming rockets; and citizens have gas masks. Special agencies are trained to ensure the supply of necessities and medical treatment during emergencies and conduct national emergency drills.

Protecting children: When Palestinian terrorists seized a school in Maalot in 1974, murdering 25 teachers and students and wounding 66, Israel passed new laws to increase the protection of all school children, including requiring a perimeter security fence with alarm systems around all schools. When Gaza terrorists launched thousands of rockets into southern Israel between 2005 and 2009, Israel upgraded its warning system, periodically closed schools, and built bomb shelters on playgrounds and schools to protect the targeted victims, who ranged from preschoolers to college students.

Measuring the Success of Israel's Combined Defensive Operations¹⁴

- Suicide bombings dropped from a high of 60 in 2002 to zero in 2009.
- Thwarted suicide bombing attempts rose from 36 percent in 2001 to 95 percent in 2006.
- Total Israeli fatalities dropped 98 percent, from a high of 451 in 2002 to 11 in 2010.
- Total Israelis wounded dropped from a high of 2,309 in 2002 to 28 in 2010.
- Total attacks dropped from a high of 5,301 in 2002 to 798 in 2010.
- The number of terrorist warnings dropped from 40 a day in 2002 to less than five a day in 2005.
- The number of Palestinians killed by Israeli military operations dropped 77 percent and the number of injuries dropped 75 percent between 2004 and 2005. Total casualties dropped 92 percent from a high of 989 in 2002 to 80 in 2010.



Aboveground bomb shelter on a school playground in Sderot to protect children from the constant rocket attacks from Gaza.



Israeli policeman in the Old City.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
MAY 07, 2006

Israel foils (Palestinian) plot to kill Palestinian president¹⁵

Israeli intelligence uncovered a Hamas plot to assassinate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, reported in the *Sunday Times* of London.

The Future

Wars cause hardship and suffering. Every Israeli and Palestinian has been personally affected by the terrorist campaign. Israel's security concerns have forced Israel to employ counterterrorism initiatives that have impacted innocent Palestinians and Israelis. Both peoples dream of a time when incitement, terrorism, and military operations are a thing of the past.

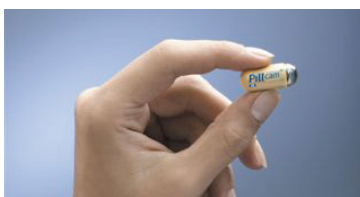
¹B'Tselem, "Statistics on checkpoints and roadblocks," September 25, 2006. B'Tselem website. ²Efraim Karsh, "European Misreading of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict," *Jerusalem Issue Brief*, July 12, 2005; Amos Harel and Avi Issacharoff, "Israel removes roadblocks across the West Bank," *Haaretz*, June 24, 2009. ³Don Morris, "Understanding Israeli Checkpoints," January 23, 2005. ⁴Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Economic situation in the West Bank and Gaza and positive Israeli measures towards the PA," August 14, 2012. ⁵B'Tselem, op. cit. ⁶David Makovsky and Anna Hartman, "Israel's Newly Approved Security Fence Route: Geography and Demography," The Washington Institute, March 3, 2005. ⁷Summary of High Court of Justice Ruling on the Fence Surrounding Alfei Menashe," Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), September 15, 2005. ⁸Martin Sieff, "Documenting the Myth—Jenin—Part I," *UPI*, May 20, 2002; "Why Europeans Bought the Myth—Jenin—Part II," *UPI*, May 21, 2002; "How Europe's Media Lost Out—Jenin—Part III," *UPI*, May 22, 2002. ⁹Henry Chu, " Hamas Leaders Keep Low Profile," *Los Angeles Times*, October 9, 2003; Brett Stephens, "The Fear Factor," *Wall Street Journal*, March 23, 2004. ¹⁰MFA, "Weapon Smuggling Tunnels in Rafah—Operation Rainbow," May 14 2004; Israel Defense Forces (IDF), "Decision of Defense Minister and Chief of Staff to Change Policy of demolition of terrorists' houses," IDF Website News, February 17, 2005. ¹¹Senator Joseph R. Biden, "Floor Statement: The Jenin Investigation," May 1, 2002. ¹²Michael Walzer, "The Four Wars of Israel/Palestine," *Dissent*, Fall 2002. ¹³Quoted in "Palestinian fighter describes 'hard fight' in Jenin," *CNN*, April 23, 2002. ¹⁴"Four Years of Conflict: Israel's War against Terrorism," October 3, 2004; "Summary of Terrorist Activity 2004"; IDF website statistics; Israel Security Agency, "2010 Summary: Data and Trends in Palestinian Terrorism"; "B'Tselem's 2011 Annual Report on Human Rights in the Occupied Territories," March 21, 2012. ¹⁵Uzi Mahnaimi, "Israel foils plot to kill Palestinian president," *The Sunday Times*, May 07, 2006.

Though Israel faced ongoing terrorism and wars for survival, it concentrated on life and hope, on building a good society, and on making contributions to humanity.

“Do not forget what part they [Jews] have played in the intellectual, the artistic, the philosophic and scientific development of the world....They rowed all their weight in the boat of scientific, intellectual and artistic progress, and they are doing so to this day. You will find them...in every centre of learning; and at the very moment when they were being persecuted... their philosophers were developing thoughts which the great doctors of the Church embodied in their religious system. As it was in the Middle Ages, as it was in earlier times, so it is now.” —Lord Alfred Balfour, 1922²



Research laboratory in Israel.



Pill-Cam™, the camera in a pill for diagnosing intestinal disease, invented by Israel's Given Imaging.



Desert agriculture in the arid Negev.



Experimental solar collectors at the Weizman Institute of Science.

Israel is at the forefront of biomedical innovation and has developed:

- Advanced techniques for helping the paralyzed, from motorized robotic arms and legs that respond to brain commands to procedures for regenerating the spinal cord.
- A vaccine to treat anthrax.
- Preliminary research for generating molecules that will kill cancer cells but not affect normal cells.
- Groundbreaking research for treatments or cures for type I diabetes, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and emphysema.
- Safer methods for diagnosing diseases, from a mini-video camera that fits into an ingestible pill and can be used for diagnosing intestinal diseases to safer imaging techniques for diagnosing breast cancer.
- A device that causes acne bacteria to self-destruct without damaging surrounding skin.
- The world's largest generic drug company, Teva Pharmaceuticals.

Israel is at the forefront of environmentally friendly innovations

- Israel is the world's only country that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees.
- An Israeli scientist pioneered the use of bacteria to clean up oil pollution in oil tankers, in pipelines, and on beaches.
- Israelis developed a new technology that eliminates the need for chemicals, pesticides, and fungicides in hydroponic agriculture.
- The Israeli company Evogene introduced technology that genetically modifies foods naturally through “evolution accelerator technology,” which develops genes from the same plant.
- Israelis developed drip irrigation systems that revolutionized agriculture.
- An Israeli developed the sun-heated water tank, which converts solar energy into thermal energy.
- Israeli, American, and Canadian researchers formed the Nanotechnology Clean Water Initiative to work on a nanotech-based solution to the water shortages in the Middle East and the rest of the world.



Turkey, 1999: Following a major earthquake, an Israeli rescue team saved this nine-year-old girl who was trapped under rubble for 98 hours.



India: Israeli medical team helped communities devastated by the 2004 South Asian tsunami.

Since its founding Israel has been at the forefront of humanitarian programs around the world

- Israel conducts nearly 300 courses annually for emerging nations and has trained almost 200,000 participants in 130 countries, from Albania to Zimbabwe, in desert agriculture, water management, desertification prevention, emergency and disaster medicine, refugee absorption, and employment programs.³
- Israel's missions included the Ethiopian airlifts that rescued 28,000 African Jews, assistance to Turkey and Greece after their devastating earthquakes, and setting up first-class, complete field hospitals in wartorn Rwanda and flood-devastated Djibouti.⁴
- Israel's Save a Child's Heart (SACH) is the largest program in the world for children from poor nations who need heart surgery. At no charge to its patients, SACH has treated over 700 children from the Congo, China, the Palestinian Authority, Nigeria, and other countries.
- In the year 2000 alone, Israel helped build hospitals in areas as diverse as Mauritania, Gaza, Ukraine, and Turkey.

¹Information compiled from Steve Bunstein, “Fascinating Facts about Israel,” Auerbach Central Agency for Jewish Education, 2006; Invest in Israel website at www.investinIsrael.gov.il; Israel21c website at www.israel21c.org. ²Lord Alfred Balfour, “Defense of the Palestine Mandate,” 1922. ³“Israel Foreign Relations: Israel among the Nations,” Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs. ⁴“Rescue Operation in Turkey” and “IDF Involvement in Major Humanitarian Operations,” on IDF website; “Magen David Adom During the Years,” IsraAID website.

ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT:

Though forced to be in a constant state of self-defense, Israel has created a flourishing, pluralistic democracy with equal human and civil rights for all, including women and minorities.

“ISRAEL...will be based on freedom, justice and peace...ensure complete equality of social and political rights...irrespective of religion, race or sex...guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture...[and] safeguard the Holy Places of all religions.”

—Israel's Declaration of Statehood, May 14, 1948

Just as Japan, France, Sweden and other democracies publicly acknowledge their national identities and cultures, so Israel's democracy publicly identifies with the Jewish people and their culture. Democracies like Israel uphold the principles of justice, tolerance, and human rights.



David Ben-Gurion declares Israel's statehood in Tel Aviv, May 14, 1948.

PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN ACTION HOW THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT WORKS

Israel's government has features similar to those of the governments of Britain and the U.S. Like Britain, it does not yet have a constitution. Instead, its basic laws serve as its constitution. The government is a parliamentary democracy with separation of powers between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.¹

Israeli
Parliament
(Knesset) in
Jerusalem.



The President

The president is elected by the Knesset, serves for seven years and cannot serve a second term. He appoints diplomats, justices, and judges based on Knesset recommendations.

Legislative Branch: The Knesset

Israel has a one-house Parliament, the Knesset, made up of 120 members from a variety of political parties who serve four-year terms, unless there is a call for earlier elections.

Executive Branch: Prime Minister

The leader of the party with the most Knesset members is given the opportunity to become prime minister and recommends his or her cabinet of ministers who must be approved by the Knesset. The cabinet is usually composed of a coalition of political parties. The Knesset can bring down the government with a no-confidence vote that requires new, early elections.

Judicial Branch: The Courts

The judiciary is independent and serves as a watchdog for civil and human rights. Unlike most democracies, Israel's Supreme Court also has jurisdiction to review military actions.

Marriage and divorce are not regulated by civil law. Instead, each religious group has its own "religious court," which adjudicates these issues.

Many Jewish Israelis call for reforms that would make marriage regulated by civil law instead.

Democracy in Action

VOTING RIGHTS FOR ALL



- Every Israeli citizen has the right to vote.
- Israel's non-Jewish minority was assured equal civil and political rights in its declaration of statehood, which included the right to vote.
- Election day is a national holiday.
- Voter turnout is regularly higher than in the U.S., often reaching above 80 percent.

The Party System: Every Voice is Heard...

Some have quipped that Israel has “too much democracy” because it is a multiparty, not a two-party, system. Though Likud and Labor have traditionally been the largest parties, there are many that promote a broad range of opinions, including Communist, religious, Arab, and secular views.

Israelis vote for a party rather than for an individual. Each party elects its own list of Knesset candidates. Knesset seats are then allotted according to the percentage of the popular vote that the party receives. For example, if a party wins five seats, the first five candidates on its list will become Members of the Knesset (MK).

A party needs only 2 percent of the vote to win a seat, the lowest percentage of any other multi-party democracy, which makes for Israel's boisterous and sometimes confusing political system. As many as 19 different parties have been in the Knesset at one time.

Even the smallest parties have a voice because one party never gets a Knesset majority, and the governing group has to form coalitions to function.



CIVIL LIBERTIES

Freedom of religion: Though Israel was established as a state for the Jewish people, it formally recognizes 15 religions, including Islam, the Bahá'í and Druze faiths, as well as Chaldaic and many other Christian denominations, and others. Each religious community freely exercises its faith, observes its own holy days and weekly day of rest, and administers its own internal affairs. Israel protects the holy sites of all religions.

- The Bahá'ís, a religious group persecuted in Muslim countries, built its world center in Haifa, Israel.
- Israel is the only region in the Middle East, including the region governed by the PA, where the Christian population is thriving instead of disappearing. Between 1948 and 2011 Israel's Christian community grew more than fourfold, from 34,000 to 154,000.²

Freedom of assembly, speech, press, and dissent: Israel is known for its freewheeling, self-critical, often blistering debates where differing opinions are aired widely and loudly. For example, Israeli-Arab Knesset members on occasion have vehemently criticized the Jewish state, even from the floor of the Knesset. Only hate speech and incitement to violence are illegal. Israel has nine Hebrew daily newspapers; several dailies in Russian, Arabic, French and English; over 1,000 periodicals; multiple radio and TV stations; and easy access to the foreign press.

Civil Rights: Israel's progressive laws protect the rights of women, gays, and other minorities.

MULTICULTURALISM

- Israel is a pluralistic society. Eighty percent of Israelis are Jews of different ethnicities and races. Many emigrated from the Middle East, Ethiopia, India, Russia, the U.S., and Europe. Refugees from Arab and Muslim Middle Eastern and North African countries and their descendants make up over half the Jewish population.³
- Israel's non-Jewish minority forms 20 percent of the population and is made up of Arab Muslims, Arab Christians, non-Arab Christians, Druze, Bedouins, Circassians, Asians, and others.⁴

ACCESS TO COURTS

Though Palestinians in the territories are not Israeli citizens, they have ready access to petition Israel's highest courts. The court judges by the merits of a case, and it frequently decides in favor of the Palestinians, as it did, for example, when Palestinians petitioned that the security fence be rerouted around Beit Sourik (June 30, 2004) and around Alfei Menashe (September 15, 2005).⁵

“One of the most unusual aspects of Israeli law is the rapid access that petitioners, including Palestinians, can gain to Israel's highest court. In April 2002, during the fiercest fighting of the current conflict...the high court was receiving and ruling on petitions almost daily.”—New York Times, May 5, 2003⁶

ISRAEL'S GOVERNMENT: Democracy in Action

FACTS ABOUT ISRAELI ARABS

- There are 1.7 million Israeli Arabs living in Israel (including Druze, Christian, and Bedouin Arabs), making up 24 percent of the total population. Many are the descendents of Palestinian Arabs who chose to remain in Israel in 1948.
- Hebrew and Arabic are Israel's two official languages.
- Just as the U.S. strives to better integrate its minorities, Israel works to do the same for its Arab population through programs similar to affirmative action.
- There are five official Arab political parties.
- Israeli Arabs were elected to the first Knesset in 1949 and have continued to play an active role in political life. They have won as many as 12 of the 120 Knesset seats in a single election.⁷
- Twenty percent of Haifa University's student body and 10 percent of its faculty are Israeli Arabs.⁸
- All Arab municipalities receive government funding for education and infrastructure.
- Many Israeli Arabs hold high-level positions, including:
 - Salim Jurban, permanent member of Israel's Supreme Court
 - Nawaf Massalha, deputy foreign minister
 - Ali Yahya, Walid Mansour, and Mohammed Masarwa, ambassadors
 - Major General Hussain Fares, commander of Israel's border police
 - Major General Yosef Mishlav, head of homeland security as Israel's Home Front commander
 - Bedouin Ismail Khaldi, Israeli consul to San Francisco in 2006
 - Raleb Majadele, deputy speaker of the Knesset in 2012
 - Jamal Hakroush, deputy inspector general for Israeli police in 2012

"We...call upon the [Palestinian] Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to return to the ways of peace and play their part in the development of the State, with full and equal citizenship and due representation in its bodies and institutions." —Israel Declaration of Statehood, 1948



"Israel has proved that for fifty years its real power is in its democracy, guarding the rights of its citizens, applying laws [equally] to the rich and poor, the big and small...and in the participation of the nation in the development of institutions according to ability and efficiency and not according to closeness to [the ruler]."

—Columnist Dr. Talal Al-Shareef, Palestinian newspaper *Al-Quds*, May 27, 1999⁹

Since polls were first taken in 1996, Palestinians have consistently rated Israel's democracy as the one they most admire in the world.

"Every year Israel has been the top performer, at times receiving 80 percent approval. The American system has been the next best [67 percent in 1999], followed by the French." —Center for Palestine Research and Studies¹⁰

¹Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), "The State: The Political Structure," MFA website. ²Mitchell Bard, "Myth: Israel is persecuting Christians," Jewish Virtual Library; "130,000 Christians in Israel," MFA, March 20, 2000; *Statistical Abstract of Israel 2008*, chart 2.2. ³Loolwa Khazoom, "Jews of the Middle East," MyJewishLearning.com; Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel*, 2000, pp. 515-517. ⁴MFA, "Minority Communities," MFA website. ⁵Heideman Lezell Nudelman & Kalik, P.C., "Background Briefing and Analysis of the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion...", July 23, 2004. ⁶Greg Myre, "Trial of Palestinian Leader Focuses Attention on Israeli Courts," *New York Times*, May 5, 2003. ⁷Information from Knesset website, at www.knesset.gov.il. ⁸"Israel and Apartheid: The Big Lie," Anti-Defamation League, August 29, 2005. ⁹MEMRI, "Palestinians Comment on Israeli Democracy," Special Dispatch Series No. 34, June 4 1999. ¹⁰"The Peace Process..." Public Opinion Poll #38, CPRS Polls, January 7-9, 1999; Quote taken from James Bennet, "Letter from the Middle East," *New York Times*, April 2, 2003.

The Many Faces Of Israel

Despite the hardships the young state faced, Israelis have created a rich, diverse, and vibrant multicultural society.



HOT TOPICS: Things You Should Know

Continuous Jewish Presence in the Land of Israel

Jews are indigenous to the land and maintained a continuous presence for over 3,000 years according to archeological and historical evidence.

Jewish civilization in Israel was already over 1,000 years old when Rome destroyed the Holy Temple and conquered the Jewish nation in the first century.

Rome exiled only a portion of the population. The remaining Jews, banned from Jerusalem, flourished for centuries in other Jewish towns, such as Yavne, Rafah, Gaza, Ashkelon, Jaffa, and Caesarea.

The Jewish population was decimated by the crusaders in the 12th century AD, but it rebounded in the next centuries and grew as Jews returned in waves of immigration and settled in Safed, Jerusalem, Tiberius, and Hebron.

After 1850 the Jewish population grew further. By the 1870s Jews once again were the majority religious group in Jerusalem. Early modern Zionists began purchasing land and establishing thriving communities like Tel Aviv (1909), even while the land was still ruled by the Ottoman Empire.

Israeli Arabs

- In 1948 almost all of the 160,000 Palestinian-Arabs who remained within Israel's borders became citizens. Today, Israeli Arab citizens have civil and human rights equal to those of other Israeli citizens.
- There are 1.3 million Israeli-Arabs now living in Israel, making up almost 20 percent of the population.
- Hebrew and Arabic are Israel's two official languages.
- There are five official Israeli Arab political parties.
- Three Israeli Arabs were elected to the first Knesset. Israeli Arabs have held as many as 12 of the 120 seats in the Israeli Parliament at one time.
- All Arab municipalities receive government funding for education and infrastructure.
- Many Israeli Arabs hold high-level positions, such as
 - Salim Jurban, a permanent member of Israel's Supreme Court
 - Nawaf Massalha, deputy foreign minister
 - Ali Yahya, Walid Mansour and Mohammed Masarwa, ambassadors
 - Major General Hussain Fares, commander of Israel's border police
 - Major General Yosef Mishlav, head of homeland security as Israel's Home Front commander
- Israel has enacted affirmative action policies to help its minority citizens achieve full social and economic equality.

Civil Liberties and Human Rights in Israel

Israelis enjoy the same civil liberties and human rights as citizens of America and other advanced, Western-style democracies. The right to vote is universal. Israel has more political parties—there were 19 in 2004—than most other parliamentary democracies. They range from extreme left to extreme right and from religious to secular. Israel also has one of the freest media in the world and is famous for its self-criticism and blistering debates. Israeli women and minorities are protected by laws that in some cases are more progressive than those of other democracies. There is legal protection against religious persecution. Gays are protected against discrimination and hate crimes. Professor Uzi Even, an openly gay man, became a Knesset member in 2002. Education is encouraged equally for both men and women. Forty-five percent of women are in the workforce, the same percentage as in the U.S. Women have reproductive rights. Israel is the only Middle Eastern country that has never required a woman to have a male guardian's permission to travel. Israel treats honor killings as harshly as other murder crimes.

War Crime: Using Human Shields

Hamas' strategy of hiding among civilians, launching attacks from civilian centers such as schools and mosques, and deliberately endangering noncombatants violates the Fourth Geneva Convention and is a war crime according to international law.

*"The presence of a protected person may not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations."*¹ (Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, August 12, 1949, art. 28)

*"The Parties to the conflict shall not direct the movement of the civilian population or individual civilians in order to attempt to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield military operations."*² (Protocol Additional to the Geneva Convention, Article 51 (7))

¹Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, August 12, 1949. ²Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions, Article 51 (7), June 8, 1977.

A Pluralistic Society

- Israel formally recognizes 15 religions, including Islam, the Bahá'í and Druze faiths, as well as Chaldaic and many other Christian denominations, and others. Each religious community freely exercises its faith, observes its own holy days and weekly day of rest, and administers its own internal affairs. Israel protects the holy sites of all religions.
- Israel is the only Middle Eastern country where the Christian population is thriving instead of disappearing. Between 1948 and 2011 Israel's Christians grew over fourfold, from 34,000 to 154,000.
- The Báha'ís, a religious group persecuted in Muslim countries, built its world center in Haifa, Israel.
- Israel's non-Jewish minority forms about 20 percent of the population and is made up of Arab Muslims, Arab Christians, non-Arab Christians, Druze, Bedouins, Circassians, Asians, and others.
- Eighty percent of Israelis are Jews of different ethnicities and races from Arab countries, Ethiopia, India, Russia, the former Soviet Union republics, Latin America, the U.S. and Europe. Refugees from Arab and Muslim Middle Eastern and North African countries and their descendants make up over half the Jewish population.

Apartheid

Apartheid was a system in South Africa under which a small minority of whites ruled over the larger black majority population. Apartheid subjected blacks to severe political, economic, and social discrimination and segregation. They could not be citizens, vote, participate in the government, or fraternize with whites.

Israel, a democracy like the U.S., gives equal rights, liberties, and protections to all its citizens. Israeli Arabs participate as full and equal members in Israeli society. While Israel, like all multiethnic democracies, struggles with the disadvantages that its minorities experience, its laws try to eradicate—not endorse—discrimination.

Israel never formally annexed the West Bank or Gaza, and the Palestinians are not Israeli citizens and wish to have their own state. Today, Palestinians have their own governments: Hamas rules Gaza, and the Palestinian Authority rules the West Bank.

International Financial Support for Palestinians

The international community has provided welfare for Palestinian refugees and their descendants since 1949 through the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

- The U.S., the largest single donor, contributed \$2.87 billion between 1950 and 2002.
- In UNRWA's first 20 years, Israel contributed more than most Arab states to the program.
- Two percent of the UN's total budget goes to UNRWA, while 3 percent of the total goes to all other refugees in the world.

The Palestinians have received "the highest per capita aid transfer in the history of foreign aid anywhere," reported World Bank official Nigel Roberts in February 2004.¹

Between 1993 (in the Oslo Accords) and 2004, the international community donated approximately \$7 billion to the PA treasury. At least half of that money is unaccounted for.

The PLO was "the richest of all terrorist organizations," with \$8 billion to \$10 billion in assets and an annual income of \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion, according to a 1993 British National Criminal Intelligence Service report. In 1999 England's *Daily Telegraph* reported the PLO had \$50 billion in secret investments around the world.²

¹Ross Dunn, "End sleaze or lose aid, Arafat told," *Scotsman*, February 29, 2004. ²Rachel Ehrenfeld, "Intifada Gives Cover to Arafat Graft and Fraud," *Insight Magazine*, June 22, 2001.

U.S. Aid to Israel and Arab States

U.S. policy has been to assist both Israel and Arab states. Between 1947 and 1971 U.S. annual aid to Israel was \$60 million, while the Arab states received \$170 million. After 1970 the U.S. regarded Israel as a valuable strategic ally and increased its aid. It also continued to aid and/or sell arms to Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Yemen, and the Gulf states.

The U.S. committed \$2 billion per year to Egypt and \$3 billion per year to Israel after the Israel-Egypt peace treaty of 1979.

The U.S. spends vastly more to protect the security of its other allies than it spends on Israel. This aid is in the U.S. defense budget, not in the foreign aid budget, because U.S. troops are deployed in or near those countries. The U.S. spends billions of dollars a year to keep troops in Europe and East Asia. It grants roughly the same amount of money to Israel each year as it spends for troops to protect South Korea.

Israel uses much of its grant money to purchase military equipment and other items from the U.S., creating jobs in America.

The U.S. has never had to commit its own troops or risk American lives to protect Israel.

As its economy developed Israel reduced its requests for U.S. economic aid by \$120 million a year. They dropped from \$1.2 billion (1998) to \$360 million (2005).

U.S. aid and grants to Israel comprise only 2 percent of Israel's \$140 billion-a-year economy.

U.S.-Israel partnerships have produced breakthroughs in technology and in biomedical, environmental, and agricultural research, saving the U.S. substantial funds in research and development.

Israel's Checkpoints and the Security Fence

No natural barriers separate Israel and the West Bank. After 1967 Palestinians and Israelis traveled freely between the two areas. But when the terrorist campaign erupted in 2000, Israel had to prevent terrorists from easily entering Israeli communities. Just as the U.S. and other countries worldwide increased airport security procedures after 9/11, Israel instituted strict counterterrorism measures after the intifada began.

Though they inconvenience Israelis and Palestinians, the purpose of the checkpoints and the security fence is to save lives.

Security Fence: Israel did not begin building the fence until 2003, when terrorism reached unprecedented levels.

- The fence is similar to barriers that dozens of other democracies have built to keep out terrorists or illegal immigrants, such as the barriers between the U.S. and Mexico, India and Kashmir, Spain and Morocco, and North and South Korea, as well as the walls within Belfast that separate Protestant and Catholic neighborhoods.
- Since construction of the fence began in 2003, the number of completed terrorist attacks has dropped by more than 90 percent.
- Ninety-seven percent of the barrier is only a chain-link fence; about 3 percent (10 miles) is a concrete wall, built to prevent sniper shooting prevalent in certain areas.
- Only 5 percent to 8 percent of the disputed West Bank land and less than 1 percent of Palestinians will end up on the Israeli side of the fence.¹

Palestinians can bring their specific grievances about the barrier to Israel's Supreme Court, which in several cases has ruled in favor of the Palestinian claimants, and the fence was rerouted.²

¹David Makovsky and Anna Hartman, "Israel's Newly Approved Security Fence Route: Geography and Demography," *The Washington Institute*, March 3, 2005. ²Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs, "Summary of High Court of Justice Ruling on the Fence Surrounding Alfei Menashe," September 15, 2005.

Anti-Semitism and Anti-Zionism

It is perfectly legitimate to criticize Israel's policies. Israelis do it all the time in blistering debates. But criticism crosses the line into classic anti-Semitism when it exhibits what Natan Sharansky called the "Three Ds."

Delegitimization: The Jewish state has no right to exist. Israelis do not belong in the Middle East.

Double Standards: Israel is condemned harshly for self-defense measures and social problems that are seen as acceptable or inevitable for other nations.

Demonization: Through distortions and lies Israel is depicted as the world's most evil and dangerous country, and the claim is made that if the Jewish state ceased to exist, the Middle East's—and the world's—main problems would be solved.

The Link: Anti-Semitism is hatred for Jews, their communities, and their way of life. It includes demonizing and dehumanizing Jews as a group. Anti-Zionism is hatred for Israel, the modern center of Jewish life and continuity. This is why many people claim that Anti-Zionism, or hatred for Israel, is a modern variation of classical anti-Semitism. "*Anti-Semitic bigotry is no less morally deplorable when camouflaged as anti-Israelism or anti-Zionism,*" according to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.¹ People of goodwill must try to see through anti-Israel propaganda in order to foster reasonable dialogue.

¹"Findings and Recommendations of the United States Commission on Civil Rights Regarding Campus Anti-Semitism," U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, April 3, 2006.

Divestment and Boycotts

In response to anti-Israel propaganda, some college campus and church groups have recently called for divestment—withdrawing investments from companies that do business with Israel and boycotting their products—to cripple Israel's economy. These campaigns are one-sided and serve to demonize Israel by omitting context.

Boycotts and divestment resolutions:

- Make false accusations to blame Israel for the ongoing conflict. They don't acknowledge incitement, terrorism, or the need for Israel to use counterterrorism measures.
- Distort facts and spread misinformation about Israel's history, counterterrorism actions, and policies.
- Deny or ignore the steps that Israel has repeatedly taken to promote compromise and peace.
- Rarely condemn the Palestinian role in the continuing conflict.

Imagine Peace



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Imagine peace in the middle east where Israel and her neighbours join forces to become a major player on the global stage. With shared technology and resources, the possibilities are endless. But more important is a future filled with peace and prosperity for our children and for generations to come.



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