



HATIKVAH

הַתִּקְוָה



Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah—The Hope is adapted from a poem titled *Tikvatenu*—Our Hope, written in 1877 by Naftali Herz Imber, a Polish Jew. Hatikvah recounts the Jews' undying connection to Zion and dreams of return. After reciting the poem for Zionist pioneers in pre-State Israel, it was embraced as an unofficial anthem for the movement, becoming official at the First Zionist Congress in 1897. Concerns from religious Jews that the anthem lacked overtly religious themes have been raised from time to time, but bigger concerns focus on non-Jewish Israelis, who feel little connection to an anthem that celebrates Jewish hopes and dreams. Non-Jewish state officials have sometimes declined to sing the anthem, though discussions about altering the words, or choosing a different anthem, have not gained traction.