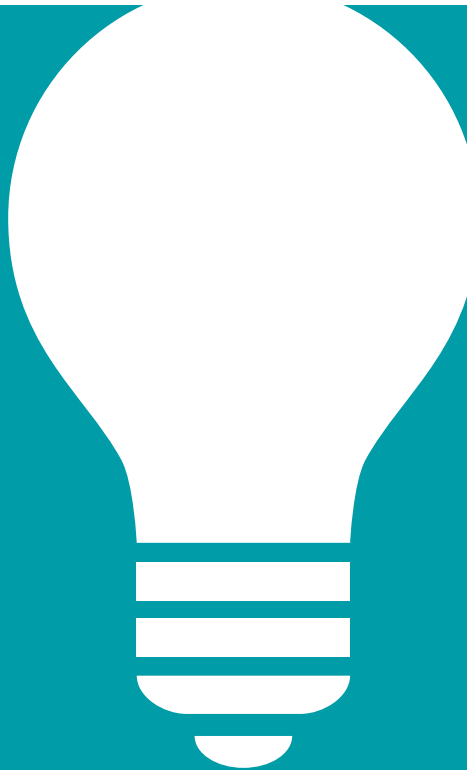


ISRAEL RESOURCE CARDS

פְּרָטִיסִי הַשְּׂרָאָה



SITES AND INSIGHTS

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WESTERN WALL

הַכּוֹתֵל הַמַּעֲרָבִי



The Western Wall, known as the Kotel, is revered as the holiest site for the Jewish people. A part of the outer retaining wall of the Second Temple that was destroyed by the Romans in 70 CE, it is the place closest to the ancient Holy of Holies, where only the Kohanim—כֹּהֲנִים—Jewish priests were allowed access. When Israel gained independence in 1948, Jordan controlled the Western Wall and all of the Old City of Jerusalem; the city was reunified in the 1967 Six-Day War. The Western Wall is considered an Orthodox synagogue by Israeli authorities, with separate prayer spaces for men and women. A mixed egalitarian prayer area operates along a nearby section of the Temple's retaining wall, raising to the forefront contemporary ideas of religious expression—a prime example of how Israel navigates between past and present.



Every Israeli city has an open-air market, or shuk, where vendors sell everything from fresh fruits and vegetables to clothing, appliances, and souvenirs. There's no other place that feels more authentically Israeli than a shuk on Friday afternoon, as seemingly everyone shops for Shabbat. Drawn by the freshness and variety of produce, Israelis and tourists alike flock to the shuk, turning it into a microcosm of the country. Shuks in smaller cities and towns operate just one day per week, while larger markets often play a key role in the city's cultural life. At night, after the vendors go home, Machaneh Yehuda—מַחֲנֵה יְהוּדָה—Jerusalem's shuk, turns into the city's nightlife hub. Artists have painted the shutters of shops with portraits of heroes of Israel and the Jewish people, turning the alleyways into an outdoor after-hours museum.



SECURITY BARRIER

גִּזְרֵי הַבְּטָחוֹן



In 2002, in response to terror attacks from the West Bank, Israel built a barrier separating Israeli and Palestinian populations, dramatically decreasing the number of attacks. About 95% of the barrier is barbed-wire fencing with a dirt path on each side; in highly populated areas, the barrier is a solid concrete wall. Many Palestinians say the barrier causes great hardship, cutting people off from school, work, or family. In response to multiple petitions, Israel's High Court ordered the government to alter the route of the barrier in many locations to ease the burden on the Palestinians. The Security Barrier encapsulates one of the ever-present tensions that exist in Israel.



MOUNT HERZL

הַר הַרְצֵל



Mount Herzl provides a moving example of how a young country creates national monuments. Established in 1951, Mt. Herzl is Israel's national cemetery and the final resting place of many of the country's leaders, heroes, and fallen soldiers. Here you'll find the graves of Golda Meir, Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and others including Theodor Herzl, the father of Modern Zionism. Other monuments and memorials pay tribute to victims of terror, and to all who gave their lives for the State. Also known as Har HaZikaron—הַר הַזִּכְרוֹן—Mount of Memory, Mt. Herzl is adjacent to Yad Vashem, the National Holocaust Memorial, at the western edge of Jerusalem, and a footpath connects the two sites. Mt. Herzl is one of many military cemeteries that exist throughout the country, reflecting a reality unique to Israel and an integral part of the Israeli experience.



YAD VASHEM

יָד וָשֵׁם



Yad Vashem, Israel's National Holocaust Memorial, derives its name from the Book of Isaiah, that vows not to forget the dead. Renowned for its research and ongoing effort to compile the names of victims of the Holocaust, Yad Vashem tells an unabashedly Jewish story of the collective tragedy that befell the Jewish people. Established in 1953 and rebuilt in 2005, the museum overlooks the Jerusalem Hills, which play a central role in preserving Jewish memory. Yad Vashem places an emphasis on sharing the stories of aging survivors and provides a narrative that is filled with hope for the future, signifying the will of the Jews to survive and thrive.



MASADA

מצדה



Masada offers a compelling place to consider notions of Jewish sovereignty, self determination, and the sanctity of human life. A large fortress overlooking the Dead Sea in Southern Israel, Masada was built by King Herod in the 30s BCE. Approximately 100 years later, Jewish zealots fled to Masada after the Romans destroyed the Second Temple. They lived there until the Roman siege in 73 CE, when, according to the account of Josephus Flavius, their lives ended in a mass suicide. Today, Masada is the third most visited site in Israel, and it has been designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. You can hike up the Snake Path or the Roman Path, or ride a cable car to the top to watch the sunrise and view the remains of the ancient fortress, complete with a bathhouse—remarkable when you consider its location atop a mountain in the middle of the desert!



KNESSET

תּוֹכְנֵן



Israel's parliament, the Knesset, has 120 members and is located in Jerusalem. Modeled on the ancient governing body, HaKnesset HaGedolah, the modern Knesset operates as a parliamentary democracy similar to those found in many European countries. Knesset debates tackle the issues and ideas that matter most to the public, often reflecting the tension involved in finding the balance between being a Jewish and a democratic state. Knesset members are chosen through democratic elections open to all citizens of Israel over the age of 18. Any party that passes a minimum threshold of votes gains representation in the Knesset. No party has ever won a majority 61 seats out of 120, so multiple parties must form a coalition to create a majority government. This system gives disproportionate power to small parties.



THE OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

הָעִיר הָעִתִּיקָה



Measuring just a third of a square mile, the area inside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem is divided into four quarters: Jewish, Muslim, Christian, and Armenian. The Old City is also home to some of the most sacred sites in the world for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, including the Western Wall, the Temple Mount/Haram el Sharif, Al Aksa Mosque, Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Stations of the Cross, and more. The majority of the nearly 40,000 people who live in the Old City are Muslims, followed by about 7,000 Christians, 4,500 Jews, and less than 1,000 Armenians. Living in—and often beyond—their quarters, replete with so much history on constant display, the intertwined lives of the residents seem to embody the layers of history on which today's neighborhoods are built.



ISRAEL NATIONAL TRAIL

שְׁבִיל יִשְׂרָאֵל



The Israel National Trail, which winds 600 miles from Kibbutz Dan in the north to the southernmost city of Eilat, offers a challenging and refreshing way to encounter Biblical sites, modern scenes, and nature in all its glory. The trail traverses mountains, plains, and multiple climatic zones, and many Israelis set out to hike its entirety over a period of weeks, months, or even years. From the earliest days of building the State, Israelis have loved the land and strived to engage with it in tangible ways. The chalutzim—חֲלוּצִים—pioneers stressed the importance of farming the land, and today, hundreds of thousands of people take advantage of holidays and long weekends to hike and sightsee in nature.



THE MANY FACES OF ISRAEL

פְּנִיִּים רַבּוֹת לְיִשְׂרָאֵל

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ARAB CITIZENS OF ISRAEL

עֲרָבִים אֲזְרָחֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל



Israel's Declaration of Independence guarantees all citizens equal rights, but many Arab citizens struggle to see these values actualized in their lives. Arabs, including Druse and Bedouin, comprise more than one-fifth of the country's citizens, and while the official term used most often to refer to this population group is Arab Israelis, many prefer 1948 Arabs or Palestinian Israelis. They have full voting rights, and in 2021 the Muslim Ra'am party became the first Arab-majority party to join a governing coalition. Arabs attend all of the country's universities and can be found in every profession—from doctors and TV personalities to Supreme Court judges—and every sector of society. Most Arabs are exempt from IDF service, though Druse men serve, and many Bedouin men volunteer for military duty. Many Arab citizens have relatives in the West Bank or Gaza—whose residents are not citizens of Israel.



THE INGATHERING

קבוצת נְלִיּוֹת



From the earliest waves of Jewish immigrants to pre-State Israel—beginning in 1882—through the latest planeload of newcomers, some four million Jews have “made aliyah” (immigrated, literally “ascended”) to Israel since the rise of Modern Zionism. Nearly half hailed from the countries of the Former Soviet Union; but Morocco, Romania, Poland, Iraq, Ethiopia, the US, and dozens more countries also are well represented. Each wave of immigrants helps to shape Israeli society, as newcomers bring traditions, languages, foods, and perspectives that contribute to Israel’s multifaceted social makeup (to say nothing of the incredible fusion cuisine and rich cultural life). Each immigrant experience is unique. In the 1950s, many newcomers lived in tents or tin shacks, while more recent arrivals received quality housing and ample stipends. Regardless of when they arrived, people from all backgrounds can be found in every part of Israeli life.



GEOGRAPHY

גאוגרפיה

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BE'ER SHEVA AND THE NEGEV

בְּאֵר שֶׁבַע וְהַנֶּגֶב



Be'er Sheva is Israel's ninth largest city, with more than 200,000 residents. It is the capital of the Negev desert, which comprises more than half of Israel's territory and is home to less than 10% of its population. The city is host to Ben-Gurion University, named for Israel's first Prime Minister who believed that settling the desert was the key to Israel's success. In recent years, the economic base of Be'er Sheva and the Negev has grown in large part due to the technology boom that is impacting all of Israel, as well as the IDF's decision to relocate many large military bases to the Negev. Like many places in Israel, Be'er Sheva is the scene of multiple stories from the Bible: it is written in the Book of Genesis that Abraham dug a well, or be'er—בְּאֵר—here, and Jacob had his famous dream about a ladder rising up to heaven after he left Be'er Sheva.



Gaza is a densely populated 141-square-mile enclave on the Mediterranean coast, just north of Egypt. Israel captured the territory from Egypt in the 1967 Six-Day War, and handed autonomous control to the Palestinian Authority (PA) following the signing of the Oslo Accord in 1993. In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, removing all Israeli civilian and military presence. The PA assumed full control of the area, although Israel and Egypt continue to control land, air, and sea crossing points. In 2007, Hamas, which Israel, the US, and the EU recognize as a terror organization, seized control of Gaza and has ruled ever since. Gaza is home to more than two million Palestinian Arabs, nearly all of whom are Muslims, and has an annual population growth rate of about 3%, one of the highest in the world. On October 7, 2023, Hamas, which remains committed to the destruction of Israel, sent thousands of terrorists across the border into Israel, where they massacred 1,200 people, raped and injured many more, and took more than 240 hostages to Gaza.



Also known by the Biblical names of Yehudah VeShomron, Judea and Samaria, this territory was captured by Israel from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War but never annexed. Named for its location west of the Jordan River, the West Bank is home to nearly three million Palestinians and 500,000 Israeli Jews. The 1993 Oslo Accord sought to separate Israeli and Palestinian populations to reduce tensions. It established three zones that afforded the Palestinian Authority varying levels of self-rule while negotiations for a final-status deal were held. In the absence of an agreement, the status quo remains, and the Israeli Jewish population of the territory has risen sharply in recent years. The area's rich Biblical history makes it holy to Jews, Muslims, and Christians, complicating prospects for a negotiated settlement.



JERUSALEM

ירושלים



Tradition holds that King David declared Jerusalem his capital city 3,000 years ago. Today, at the city's entrance, there is a harp-shaped bridge, referencing his musical talents. In addition to being Judaism's holiest city, it also plays a central role in both Islam and Christianity. Built of golden Jerusalem stone, the city has both a modern and ancient feel. Jerusalem today has nearly 1,000,000 residents, including secular and Modern Orthodox Jews; ultra-Orthodox Jews; and Arabs. While media and political figures focus on the city as a symbol of the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, residents are more concerned with daily quality of life issues. In recent years, a vibrant arts scene has flourished, and many exciting efforts to bridge religious-secular divides are underway.



TEL AVIV-JAFFA

תֵּל אָבִיב-יָפוֹ



Founded by 66 Jewish pioneers in 1909 as the first modern Jewish city, Tel Aviv was designed as an answer to overcrowding in the nearby ancient port city of Jaffa. As one of the oldest cities in Israel and once the main point of entry into pre-State Israel, Jaffa remains an important part of the combined city. It has become an entertainment hub, and the flea market is a wonderful place to scout out treasures from bygone eras. Today, Tel Aviv, which merged with Jaffa to form one municipality, is the country's cultural and financial center. Its vibrant economy, culinary scene, nightlife, and startup culture make it an exciting place to visit around the clock. The downside: the cost of living is among the highest in the world. The preserved Bauhaus buildings earned the city status as a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Built on Mt. Carmel in the north of the country, this port city is known for peaceful co-existence between its Jewish and Arab residents. The Baha'i Gardens and World Center create a beautiful landscape in the city center, but locals have been working hard to draw attention to the city's other attractions. The downtown area has become a hipster magnet and the nightlife scene is booming. Haifa is the country's third-largest city, but its fans love that it maintains a small-town feel. Thousands of visitors arrive via cruise ships that dock in Haifa's port, making Haifa their first impression of Israel. Home to two of the country's major universities, Haifa University and the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the early 21st century saw a major technology hub develop in the city and its surroundings.



Mentioned in the Bible as a port city during King Solomon's time, Eilat is a tropical city at Israel's southern tip. Today, it is a popular vacation spot for Israelis and tourists alike, known for its resorts, beaches, diving, hiking trails, and Red Sea coral reef. Eilat is adjacent to Egypt and Jordan, the two neighbors with which Israel has peace treaties, so one can cross into them via overland border crossings just outside the city. Eilat is also within view of Saudi Arabia. Recognizing that the port here would play an important role in connecting Israel to the world, providing access to the Far East and Africa, Israel's first PM David Ben-Gurion was adamant that the city be included in the state. In 1949, late in the War of Independence, the IDF waged the Uvda Campaign, ultimately linking the small, backwater fishing town of Eilat to the rest of the country and laying the groundwork for its growth.



Tzfat is known as the city of Kabbalah—קַבָּלָה—Jewish mysticism, and as a center of art. An ancient, spiritual city in the north of Israel, it is nestled high in the Upper Galilee hills. At nearly 3,000 feet above sea level, it's the highest city in Israel. Tzfat is considered one of four cities in Israel that are holy to Jews. The tradition of Kabbalat Shabbat began here in the 16th century, and an annual klezmer festival is a summer highlight. Visitors love to wander in the winding alleyways of the old part of town, browsing in art galleries and synagogues, and admiring the beautiful views of the Galilee. A bit off the typical beaten track pursued by tourists—but no less important—are the newer sections of town that serve as a regional center for kibbutzim and smaller communities in the surrounding area.



A mountainous region in Northern Israel, the Galilee is home to Jews, Arabs, Druze, and other diverse populations. In many parts of the Galilee, the Arab population is greater than the Jewish one, the only part of the country where this is the case. The Galilee boasts many nature preserves, hiking trails, Christian religious sites, and ancient synagogues. It borders with Lebanon to the north and Syria to the east, and is home to many small villages that have been established in recent years, reflecting the Israeli public's passion for pioneering even long after the country gained independence. On weekends and holidays, huge crowds travel from the center of the country to "get away from it all" in the Galilee.



GOLAN HEIGHTS

רמת הגולן



This mountainous region in Northern Israel supplies one-third of Israel's water. Located on the border of Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon, Israel captured the territory from Syria in the 1967 Six-Day War and annexed it in 1981. In 2019, the U.S. recognized Israel's claim of sovereignty, the only country to do so. Indirect negotiations in the 1990s sought to resolve the region's status, but they did not bear fruit. In light of the devastating Syrian civil war and other recent developments, the military has been on high alert in the Golan, though civilian life continues normally. The Golan includes Israel's highest peak, הר הַרְמוֹן—Mt. Hermon. At over 7,000 ft, it turns into a ski resort during the winter months.



LEADERSHIP

מְנֵהִיגוּת

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BENJAMIN (BENNY) GANTZ

בֶּנְיָמִין (בֶּנִי) גַּנְצֵץ



Born in Moshav Kfar Ahim in 1960, Benny Gantz drafted into the IDF as a paratrooper in 1977. Soon thereafter, he was assigned to the security detail for Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during his historic visit to Israel. Rising through the ranks of the military, he served as Chief of Staff from 2011 until his discharge in 2015. Gantz entered politics in 2018, forming a centrist party that went through several iterations before landing on its current name, National Unity. Gantz and his No. 2, Gadi Eisenkot (also a former IDF Chief of Staff), joined Benjamin Netanyahu's government immediately after the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack on southern Israel. Opposed to many of Netanyahu's policies and coalition partners, Gantz maintained that unity was needed as long as the war continued. During the war, polls showed Gantz surpassing his boss as the most popular choice to lead the country.



BENJAMIN (BIBI) NETANYAHU

בְּנִימִין נֶתַנְיָהוּ



Born in Tel Aviv in 1949, Benjamin Netanyahu spent many of his early years living in the United States. His late father was a respected historian, and his older brother, Yoni, was killed during Operation Entebbe in 1976. During his stint as Israel's ambassador to the UN in the 1980s, Netanyahu gained prominence as an eloquent, effective spokesman for Israel. He later joined the Likud party and rose to the role of Prime Minister. He has served in that capacity longer than any other Israeli leader, from 1996-1999 and again since 2009, with a short break in 2021-2022. In late 2022, he assembled the most right-wing government Israel had ever seen, and his reputation suffered from some of the government's policy moves as well as multiple corruption charges.



YITZHAK RABIN

יצחק רבין

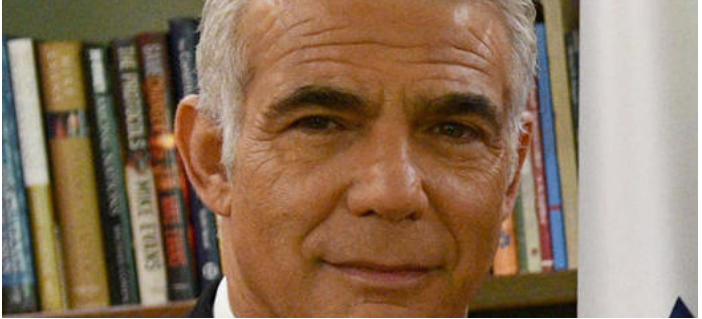


Born in Jerusalem in 1922, Yitzhak Rabin was the first sabra, or native-born, Israeli Prime Minister. As a child, he dreamt of becoming a farmer and studied at the Kadourie Agricultural School, but he answered the call of duty and served in the pre-State military effort. As chief of staff of the IDF during the 1967 Six-Day War, he spoke eloquently about the need to balance the joy of victory with the reality of the heavy human toll of the war. He served as PM twice, from 1974-1977 and from 1992-1995, earning a Nobel Peace Prize together with Shimon Peres and Yasser Arafat for the Oslo process. Rabin, who called himself a “soldier for peace,” was assassinated in 1995 by a Jewish Israeli law student at a peace rally in Tel Aviv. The Rabin Center, in Ramat Aviv, documents his life and carries on his legacy.



YAIR LAPID

יאיר לפיד



Formerly a popular television host and newspaper columnist, Yair Lapid entered politics in 2012, forming a new centrist party, Yesh Atid (There is a Future). His Holocaust-survivor father, Tommy, had made a similar transition from journalism to politics years earlier when he also formed a short-lived centrist political party. After joining a coalition government led by Benjamin Netanyahu in 2013, Lapid broke with the Likud leader two years later. He served in the opposition until 2021, when he engineered the formation of an eight-party coalition that spanned from right to left and included an Islamist party. That so-called “government of change” collapsed when the diverse partners could not agree on key decisions about how to run the country. After the 2022 elections, Lapid became the opposition leader in the Knesset. Born in 1963, he dropped out of high school and dabbled in amateur boxing when he was younger.



MENACHEM BEGIN

מְנַחֵם בֶּגִין

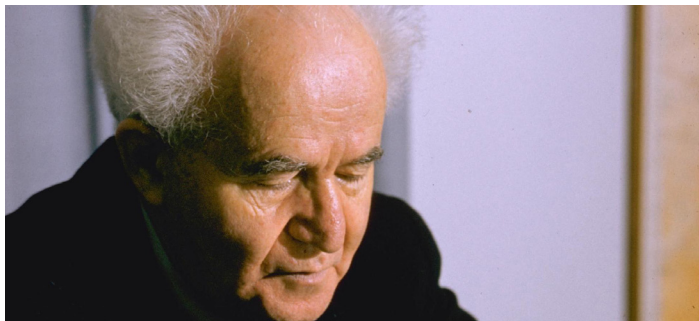


Born in 1913 in Belarus, Menachem Begin was an aide to Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of Revisionist Zionism. Arriving in pre-State Israel, he led the Etzel underground military organization, working in opposition to the more mainstream Haganah. After 1948, he was elected to the Knesset and led the parliamentary opposition until he became Prime Minister in 1977. Begin was a fiery orator who opposed accepting financial reparations from Germany. He believed in the right of the Jewish People to all of the Land of Israel. He surprised many by negotiating a peace treaty with Egypt, Israel's largest and most powerful neighbor. His first official act as PM was to welcome 77 Vietnamese refugees, saying that Israel would never forget when the world refused to help Jews in need during the Holocaust. Heartbroken after the death of his wife, Aliza, in 1982, Begin resigned from office in 1983 and died in 1992.



DAVID BEN-GURION

דָּוִד בֶּן-גּוּרִיּוֹן



“In Israel, in order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.” David Ben-Gurion declared independence for the Jewish State and became Israel’s first Prime Minister in 1948. One of his early achievements as PM was to create the Israel Defense Forces by merging several pre-State fighting forces into one unified army. He immigrated from Poland in 1906, and later met his future wife, Paula, in New York. He believed that all Jews should participate in building and strengthening the new country, and worked with world Jewry to forge understandings about different kinds of support. While Ben-Gurion was not a religious man, his reverence for Jewish sources and tradition led him to establish Israel’s annual Bible Quiz. He urged Israelis to settle the Negev and make the desert bloom. After retiring from public life, he lived at Kibbutz Sde Boker, where he and his wife are buried.



SHIMON PERES

שמעון פרס



Shimon Peres, originally from Poland, began his career in public service as an aide to Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion. Although he never served in the army, he was the first person in charge of Israel's military industry and oversaw the nuclear development program. He served as Prime Minister from 1984-1986 and 2005-2006, and as President from 2007-2014. For much of his career, Peres was viewed as a divisive figure in Israeli society, though his optimism and vision for a bright future never wavered. In his later years as President, Peres was widely respected and came to be viewed as a national grandfather figure. In 1994, he received the Nobel Peace Prize with Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat for his efforts to bring Israeli-Palestinian peace. When he died in 2016, he chose to donate his corneas to science—so that someone would get his sight and, hopefully, his vision.



GOLDA MEIR

גולדה מאיר

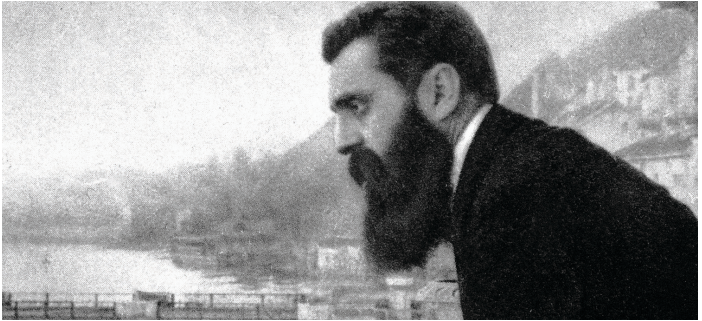


Born in 1898, Golda Meir's family fled from anti-Semitism in Ukraine and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She moved to pre-State Israel in 1921, becoming one of two women to sign the Declaration of Independence, and to date the only woman to serve as Prime Minister of Israel. In early 1948, she was sent to the US to raise funds for the nascent State, returning home with \$50 million, making it possible to achieve statehood. She addressed audiences with her ever-present cigarette in hand—but no notes—and urged American Jews to open their wallets and “not be too late”. She served as ambassador to the Soviet Union and Foreign Minister before becoming PM during a period that included the 1972 Munich Olympic Massacre and the 1973 Yom Kippur War. She died in 1978 and is remembered for how she gathered advisors and ministers around her green formica kitchen table, which came to be known as Golda's Kitchen Cabinet.



THEODORE HERZL

תֵּיאוֹדוֹר הֶרְצֵל



Born to an assimilated Jewish family in Budapest in 1860, Theodor Herzl went on to become the father of the Modern Zionist movement that later led to the establishment of the State of Israel. As a reporter in Paris, he witnessed the Dreyfus Affair—in which a French Jewish army officer was wrongly convicted of treason—and concluded that the Jews needed a national home so that an event like this would never happen again. In 1897, after convening a Zionist Congress, he wrote in his journal that a Jewish state would be founded within 50 years—and exactly 50 years later, the UN voted to establish a Jewish state. He died at the age of 44 and never saw his greatest dream come to fruition, but his contributions played a crucial role in the effort. He was reburied in Jerusalem, atop Mt. Herzl, which was named in his honor.



RABBI ABRAHAM ISAAC KOOK

הַרְבֵּי קוֹק



Born in Latvia in 1865, Abraham Isaac Kook became the first Chief Rabbi of pre-State Israel, serving in that post from 1921 until his death in 1935. He immigrated to Jaffa in 1904 and became the area rabbi, where his responsibilities included serving the mostly secular farmers of the surrounding agricultural communities. He became convinced that the pioneering efforts of religious and secular alike were playing a key role in heralding messianic times—a view that put him at odds with some other Orthodox figures. His openness to a wide range of ideas did not change the fact that he was a strict adherent to Jewish law. Around the same time that he became Chief Rabbi, he established Merkaz HaRav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, which remains a respected center of Jewish learning to this day.



HANNAH SENESH

חַנָּה סֵנֶשׁ



Hannah Senesh is revered in Israel as a hero. Born in Budapest in 1921, she moved to pre-State Israel at 17 to pursue her dream of building the Jewish State. She studied agriculture, joining the Haganah and Kibbutz Sdot Yam before enlisting in the British Jewish Brigade to fight in World War II. In 1944, she parachuted into Yugoslavia to help rescue Hungarian Jews who were being deported to Auschwitz. She was captured by the Germans, tortured, tried, and put to death by firing squad. Her diary was published in Hebrew in 1946 and her poetry continues to be read and sung to this day. One of her most inspirational songs is Halicha L'Caesarea—הַלִּיכָה לְקֵיסָרְיָה—*A Walk to Caesarea*, commonly known as *Eli, Eli*—אֵלֵי, אֵלֵי—*Oh Lord, My God*. Her remains were reburied on Mt. Herzl in Jerusalem in 1950.



ARTS AND CULTURE | Literature

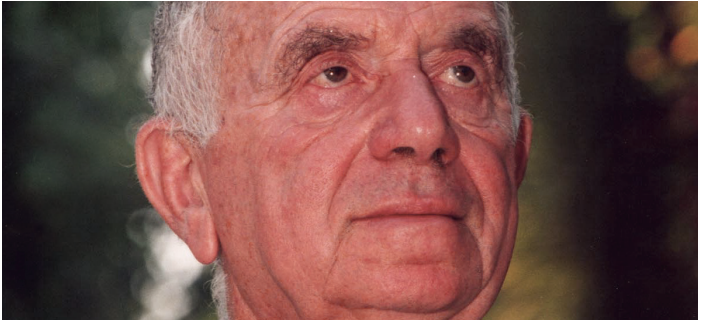
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YEHUDA AMICHAH

יְהוּדָה עֲמִיחַי



Yehuda Amichai has been called the greatest Hebrew poet since King David. Born in Germany in 1924, Amichai immigrated to pre-State Israel with his family and grew up speaking and writing in Hebrew. During his lifetime, he published more than a dozen volumes of poetry, many of which have been translated into 40 languages around the world. Some of his best-known poems include *Memorial Day for the War Dead*, *Tourists*, and *Ecology of Jerusalem*. He was awarded the prestigious Israel Prize in 1982, as well as many other Israeli and international awards. His poems address every aspect of life; though he said that all of them were in some way political: “real poems deal with a human response to reality...and politics is part of reality, history in the making.” Amichai died in 2000.



RACHEL THE POET

רַחֵל הַמְּשׁוֹרֶרֶת



Rachel the Poet's Hebrew works are legendary in Israel, and they reflect her deep love of the country and the Zionist ideal. Born Rachel Bluwstein in 1890 in Russia, she and her sister planned to study painting in Italy but decided to visit pre-State Israel on the way. Moved by what they saw in the land, they decided to stay. Rachel learned Hebrew by listening to small children speak and dreamed of becoming a teacher. During a visit to Europe, she contracted tuberculosis, for which no cure existed. Unable to work with children any longer, she spent the rest of her life living in Tel Aviv, writing about the landscapes of her beloved land. She died in 1931 and is buried in the Kinneret Cemetery near many of the early leaders of the Zionist movement. When the Bank of Israel introduced new banknotes depicting poets, Rachel's likeness was selected for the 20 shekel note.



Etgar Keret writes offbeat, quirky short stories in Hebrew that have enjoyed wide appeal around the world. Looking at the titles of some of his stories—*The Bus Driver Who Wanted to Be God*, *Missing Kissinger*, and *Crazy Glue*—you begin to get a sense of his intriguing world. Born in 1967, Keret cites as his inspirations Kurt Vonnegut, William Faulkner, and the Coen Brothers. His essays and social commentaries appear in the Israeli media and foreign outlets including the *New York Times*. He and his wife, Shira Geffen, have collaborated on films, and he also writes plays, graphic novels, and children's books. In the aftermath of the 2014 Gaza War, Keret and his friend, Arab-Israeli writer Sayed Kashua, wrote a series of anguished letters that appeared in the *New Yorker* and explored different perspectives on the stalemate between Arabs and Jews in the region.



ARTS AND CULTURE | Music

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ISHAY RIBO

ישׁי ריבו



Born in Marseilles, France, in 1989, Ishay Ribo's Sephardic Jewish parents brought him to live in Israel eight years later. Ribo studied in ultra-Orthodox schools but loved to listen to secular music on the bus ride to and from school each day. At age 11, he began to compose and sing his own songs that merged lyrics praising God with tunes that might be likened to Coldplay and other secular rock acts. His music has become wildly popular among religious and secular Israelis, and he has a global following. In 2023, he became the first Israeli singer to headline at Madison Square Garden in New York. After the Hamas-Israel war began, he continued the longstanding tradition of Israeli performers who entertain troops and the public during wartime. In one instance, Ribo gave an impromptu performance at a backyard wedding that had been hastily arranged after the groom was granted 24 hours of leave from his army unit near the Gaza border.



ARIK EINSTEIN

אַרִּיק אֵיִןשְׁטֵיִן



More than any other single musical artist, Arik Einstein chronicled decades of Israeli history through more than 500 songs and 34 albums. One of Israel's leading music critics, Yoav Kutner, said "Einstein is more than the greatest Israeli artist of all time. Einstein is the real Israel himself." Some of the most popular songs by the Tel Aviv-born Einstein, including *Ani VeAta*—אֲנִי וְאַתָּה and *Oof Gozal*—עוֹף גּוֹזַל, are still played and sung in Israel and around the world. He collaborated with countless other musicians and singers, and is universally regarded as the greatest Israeli musician of all time. It wasn't always clear that he would pursue a musical career; as a youth, he was Israel's high jump champion. When he died in 2013 in Tel Aviv, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called his music "the soundtrack of the country."



NAOMI SHEMER

נעמי שמר



Naomi Shemer is best known for her song *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*—ירושלים של זהב—Jerusalem of Gold, which she wrote just before the 1967 Six-Day War. It became an unofficial anthem after the reunification of Jerusalem, and some proposed that it replace Hatikvah as Israel's national anthem. Her works read like a history of the state. Born in 1930 in Kvutzat Kinneret in the Galilee, a kibbutz her parents helped found, she studied at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem, performed in an IDF entertainment troupe, and launched a long, successful career, eventually winning the prestigious Israel Prize in 1983. When she died in 2004, she was buried in the Kinneret Cemetery, just a few meters away from the grave of Rachel the Poet, whose poetry Shemer featured in many of her songs.



MOMENTS IN MODERN ISRAELI HISTORY

רגעים משמעותיים בהיסטוריה של ישראל



OCTOBER 7 ATTACKS AND AFTERMATH

מִתְקַפֵּת הַשְּׁבִיעִי בְּאוֹקְטוֹבֵר וְתוֹצְאוֹתֶיהָ



On October 7, 2023, thousands of Gazan terrorists stormed the fence separating Gaza and Israel, infiltrating the Western Negev and carrying out a prolonged massacre that left about 1,200 people dead and thousands more injured or traumatized. In addition to raping, vandalizing, and looting homes, they took more than 240 hostages to Gaza. The rampage was planned and celebrated by the Hamas terror organization that controls the Gaza Strip. Israel promptly declared war and set twin goals of removing Hamas from power and securing the safe return of the hostages. Israelis, shocked that the country was so unprepared for the attack, came together in unity, though over time many societal rifts re-emerged. In the first half-year of the war, tens of thousands of Gazans were killed, including thousands of civilians. International sympathy for Israel, which was widespread immediately after October 7, chilled, and many cities in the US and Europe experienced unprecedented waves of antisemitism.



2023 JUDICIAL OVERHAUL

הַמְּהִיפָה הַמְשֻׁפְּטִית 2023



Israel's judiciary enjoys broad authority exceeding that of many other democracies. Critics have contended for years that the Supreme Court wields excessive power that diminishes the will of the people as expressed through elections. During much of 2023, the government sought to advance legislation to limit the power of the courts and enable the Knesset and government to legislate laws with less oversight. Opponents contended that judicial oversight is needed in order to guarantee all citizens' rights, and hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets to protest throughout the country. The sides could not even agree what to call the proposed changes: "reforms", "overhaul", or "revolution". The Hamas attacks of October 7, 2023, brought the efforts to change the balance of power to an end, but the issue is likely to arise again in the future.



LEBANON WARS

מלחמות לבנון



In response to relentless attacks and infiltrations staged by Palestinian terrorists from southern Lebanon in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Israel launched a military operation in June 1982. Called Operation Peace for Galilee, Israel's declared intention was to push Palestinian fighters 25 miles north of the border. The operation—meant to last only a few days—turned into a protracted war effort with many civilian casualties. Referred to as Israel's first “war of choice,” the First Lebanon War (as it's commonly called) led to an 18-year IDF presence in Lebanon. In 2006, the IDF launched a second major military effort, following the kidnapping of IDF reservists from the Israeli side of the border. This time the stated intent was to destroy the Hezbollah militia, which controls the area. The military campaign ended when the bodies of the captured soldiers were returned. Hezbollah was not destroyed, and the security threat remained high. Following Hamas' attack from Gaza in October 2023, Hezbollah accelerated its targeting of Israelis in the North, leading to the evacuation of close to 100,000 civilians from their homes.



GAZA DISENGAGEMENT AND AFTERMATH

הַתְּנַקּוּת מֵעֵזָה וְתוֹצְאוֹתֶיהָ



In 2005, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon oversaw the unilateral withdrawal of thousands of Israeli civilians and all IDF troops from the Gaza Strip, giving the Palestinian Authority a chance to run affairs with no Israeli interference. Soon thereafter, Hamas wrested control of Gaza and imposed an Islamic regime on the Strip. In the years since, Israel and Egypt have placed strict controls on Gaza, while Hamas has used the territory as a launching ground for rocket and missile attacks, and has dug hundreds of miles of tunnels under Gaza and across the border fence. Between 2008 and 2021, Israel and Hamas engaged in multiple cross-border battles until, on October 7, 2023, Hamas sent thousands of terrorists into Israel, where they massacred 1,200, raped and injured many more, and took more than 240 hostages to Gaza. The ensuing war has been devastating for Gazan civilians, who have long been used as human shields by Hamas, and has placed sharp strains on Israel's international standing.



INTIFADAS

אינתיפאדות



In December 1987, an Israeli truck driver crashed into a vehicle in Gaza that was carrying Palestinian workers, killing four and injuring others. Convinced that the crash was deliberate, Palestinians erupted in angry protests across the Gaza Strip, which soon spread to the West Bank. Termed “Intifada,” Arabic for “shaking off”, the protest was a spontaneous, violent outcry against Israeli rule over territories conquered in the 1967 Six-Day War. Many credit the First Intifada with prodding the sides toward negotiations that would begin in the early 1990s. After those talks collapsed in 2000, the Palestinian Authority encouraged Palestinians to take their protests to the streets. The so-called Second Intifada differed from the first in that it was not spontaneous; it was coordinated by Palestinian officials and included suicide bombings that killed hundreds of Israelis.



UN PARTITION PLAN

פ"ט בְּנוֹבֵמְבֵר



On November 29th, 1947, as the British Mandate for Palestine was drawing to a close, the United Nations voted to partition the territory of Palestine into two states: one for Jews and one for Arabs. While the Zionists had hoped for more of the territory, it was, as David Ben-Gurion noted, the best offer the Jews had received in nearly 2,000 years, and they accepted the plan. The Arabs, however, summarily rejected the plan, saying they would never accept a sovereign Jewish presence in the heart of the Arab Middle East. The day after the vote, all-out civil war erupted between Jews and Arabs in Palestine, beginning Israel's War of Independence. The plan had called for Jerusalem to be internationalized, but by the time the war ended in 1949, the western half was in Israeli hands and the eastern half was controlled by Jordan.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL

הַקְמַת הַמְדִינָה



On May 14th, 1948—ה' בְּאֵיֶר תַּש"ח in Tel Aviv, before an audience of 400 people, David Ben-Gurion read the Declaration of Independence announcing the establishment of the State of Israel. Thousands of people cheered and danced in the streets outside, and Jews around the world celebrated the first sovereign Jewish state in nearly 2,000 years. Fleeing horrific memories of the Holocaust and persecution in the Arab world, hundreds of thousands of Jews began to arrive in the country immediately. The declaration was met with sharp opposition by the Arabs of the region, and the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq attacked the new state in an effort to change the course of history. Palestinians refer to the events of 1948, in which 700,000 Arab residents of the land became refugees, as the Nakba, Arabic for catastrophe.



ESTABLISHMENT OF THE IDF

הַקְּמַת צֶה"ל



Although Israel declared independence on May 14th, 1948, and immediately faced invading Arab armies, it only established the Israel Defense Force—**צְבָא הַהֲגָנָה לְיִשְׂרָאֵל**—on May 31st, more than two weeks later. During that time, the new government negotiated to incorporate fighters of each of the pre-State fighting forces into a unified chain of command: the Haganah and Palmach, which answered to the mainstream Zionist leadership, and the Etzel and Lehi, which pursued independent, more aggressive policies. The government insisted that, with the establishment of the State, there was no place for multiple forces. The four independent forces dissolved, and their fighters enlisted in the IDF, marking the establishment of the first official Jewish army in nearly 2,000 years.



SIX-DAY WAR

מלחמת ששת הימים



As tensions rose between Israel and its neighbors in May 1967, Egyptian President Gamel Abdel Nasser threatened to destroy Israel. The IDF went on high alert and called up all reserve soldiers. On June 5th, the Israel Air Force staged a preemptive strike, destroying the Egyptian Air Force. Over the next six days, Israel captured the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt, the Golan Heights from Syria, and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, reunifying Jerusalem and enabling Jews to visit the Western Wall for the first time in nearly 20 years. Many viewed the outcome of the war as nothing short of a miracle, replacing the vulnerability Israel felt before the war with a sense of confidence. At the same time, few thought about the longer-term implications of controlling large populations of Palestinian Arabs, which today is at the forefront of Israel's geopolitical reality.



YOM KIPPUR WAR

מלחמת יום כיפור



On Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, Israel was taken by surprise in 1973 when Egyptian and Syrian armies attacked the thinly-manned Israeli front lines. As the IDF quickly mobilized hundreds of thousands of soldiers, the situation was so bleak that Defense Minister Moshe Dayan reportedly told Prime Minister Golda Meir that he was not certain Israel would survive the war. US President Nixon authorized sending military supplies to Israel, helping turn the tide of events as the IDF encircled the Egyptian army. By the time a ceasefire took effect, 2,688 Israeli soldiers had died, and more than 9,000 were wounded.



OPERATION ENTEBBE

מבצע אנטבה



In late June 1976, terrorists hijacked an Air France plane flying from Tel Aviv to Paris and diverted it to Entebbe, Uganda. There, they released the non-Jewish passengers, keeping all Jewish and Israeli passengers hostage while demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli jails. While Israel engaged in negotiations, it also planned a secret military operation. A week later, on July 4th, the IDF staged a daring rescue operation, sending 100 commandos to storm the airport and free the hostages. The commander of the mission, Col. Yonatan Netanyahu, was the only commando killed during the raid; the mission was subsequently renamed in his honor.



PEACE WITH EGYPT

הַסָּכֵם הַשְּׁלוֹם בֵּין יִשְׂרָאֵל לְמִצְרַיִם



Shocking the world, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat announced in Cairo in November 1977 that he was willing to travel to Israel to negotiate. Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin responded with an official invitation; soon after, Sadat's entourage arrived in Israel to huge crowds of Israelis lining the streets waving Egyptian flags. In March 1979, the two former enemies signed a peace treaty; Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula, captured in the 1967 Six-Day War, and the two countries established full diplomatic ties. They also agreed on a plan for Palestinian autonomy, but the Palestinians, who had not been consulted, rejected the plan and it was never implemented. Angered by the deal, the Arab League expelled Egypt. In 1981, Sadat was assassinated by Egyptians who hoped to void the treaty. More than 40 years later, while relations are chilly, the peace treaty has endured.



RABIN-ARAFAT HANDSHAKE

לְחִיצַת יָד בֵּין רַבִּין לְעַרְפָּאֵת



In September 1993, US President Bill Clinton presided over a scene that few people believed they would ever see: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres shaking hands with the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, as they signed an agreement aimed at bringing about a resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Called the Oslo Accord—because talks began secretly in the Norwegian capital—the agreement laid out a plan designed to bring about a final-status agreement between the sides within five years. Under the terms of the agreement, the two sides recognized each other, the PLO rejected terrorism, and Israel agreed to grant autonomy to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Polls showed that a majority of Israelis were more optimistic than ever that peace was possible. In 1994, Rabin, Peres, and Arafat received the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts.



RABIN ASSASSINATION

רצח רבין



Under the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli government pursued negotiations with the Palestinian Authority in the early 1990s. Tensions and discord rose among the Israeli public, with many supporting these efforts and others believing they would lead to disaster. On the night of November 4th, 1995, at the end of a giant peace rally in Tel Aviv, a Jewish Israeli law student shot and killed Rabin, hoping to derail the peace effort. The shock waves that rippled throughout the country—forever changing Israeli society—led to outpourings of grief, recrimination, and a realization that angry rhetoric can have disastrous results. Subsequent leaders continued to pursue negotiations aimed at achieving a final-status agreement with the Palestinians, but these efforts have stalled since the 2010s.



FIRST PRIDE PARADE

מִצֵּד הַנְּאֻה הָרֵאשׁוֹן



Israel's LGBTQ community organized the first Pride Parade in Tel Aviv in 1993, and it has grown into an annual weeklong series of events that draw more than 200,000 people. In addition to being the largest Pride event in the Middle East, the parade ranks among the biggest in the world, and draws thousands of tourists each year. Smaller parades take place in other Israeli cities—including Jerusalem, where it brings to the forefront the tension between religion and state. Members of the LGBTQ community serve openly in the IDF and have served in the Knesset and in local government. Israel has been a world leader in striving to protect the rights of members of the LGBTQ community, recognizing civil unions that enjoy the same benefits afforded to married couples. Israel's acceptance of the LGBTQ community has made the country a beacon in the region.

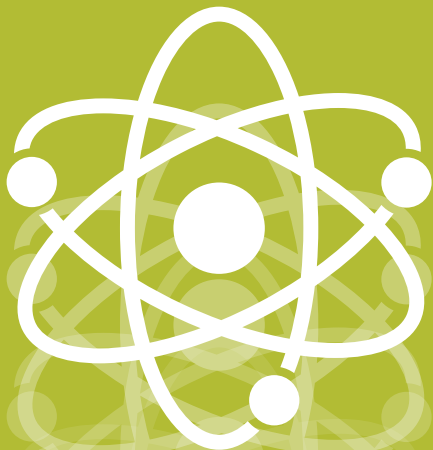


WINNING EUROVISION

זְכִיחַהּ בְּאִירוֹוִיזִיּוֹן



Israel has competed in the annual Eurovision song competition since 1973, selecting catchy pop tunes designed to capture the imagination of voters across the European continent and beyond. In 1978, Izhar Cohen represented Israel with his playful song *A-Ba-Ni-Bi*—אֶבְיָ-בְיָ-בְיָ, and brought home the top prize for the first time. Cohen's victory earned Israel the right to host Eurovision the following year, where Gali Atari sang *Hallelujah* and won first prize for the second year in a row. In 1998, the transgender singer Dana International took first prize with her song *Diva*; the high-energy performance wowed audiences and intrigued people many years before LGBTQ issues had entered the mainstream. Pop sensation Netta Barzilai brought the country its fourth first-place finish in 2018 with her catchy tune *Toy*, a song that resonated with the global #MeToo movement.



INNOVATION

חדשנות

theicenter.org



KIBBUTZIM

קִבּוּצִים



Some say the kibbutz is the original Israeli innovation. The first of this uniquely Israeli experiment in collective living, Degania, was established in 1909. Its founders immigrated from Eastern Europe filled with dreams of working the land, becoming farmers, and sharing in all the work and the rewards. Other kibbutzim were established in rapid succession, until there were hundreds, all living by the motto, “from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs.” Kibbutz members, or “kibbutznikim,” were viewed as the cream of Israeli society due to their deep pioneering spirit. Today, nearly all kibbutzim have undergone a process of privatization, and few focus solely on farming, but they continue to thrive throughout the country. There have even been experiments in “urban kibbutzim,” that seek to bring the unified sense of mission to city locations.



ISRAAID

יִשְׂרָאֵיִד



IsraAID, established in 2001, brings together 35 Israeli and Jewish humanitarian aid groups to send relief missions to every corner of the earth. From setting up field hospitals in Haiti and Nepal after earthquakes, to tornado relief in Oklahoma City, IsraAID is quick to respond to any natural and humanitarian disaster around the world. IsraAID has dispatched Arabic- and English-speaking social workers to Germany where they provide support to many of the more than one million asylum seekers who have sought refuge in recent years. Whenever IsraAID sends aid teams to a community, they work closely with local groups and authorities to ensure a smooth transition after the aid workers conclude their mission. Since the October 7, 2023, attack on Southern Israel, IsraAID has been extending assistance to hard-hit communities in Israel.



IRON DOME

נוֹפֵת בַּרְזֵל



Faced with thousands of rockets and mortars being launched from Lebanon in the north and Gaza in the south since 2006, leaving Israeli citizens vulnerable, Israel set about developing a solution to this life-threatening challenge that no existing missile interception technology could tackle. This state-of-the-art missile defense system can intercept incoming projectiles at a very short range. While the first phases were funded by the Israeli government, the US stepped in to provide major funding to build additional anti-missile batteries and to continue developing the technology. Since becoming operational in 2011, Iron Dome has intercepted the vast majority of missile threats likely to hit populated areas, and the system has played a key role in restoring a sense of normalcy to the lives of millions of Israelis.



CORE TEXTS

מְסָמְכִים עִיקָרִים

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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

מְגִילַת הָעֵצְמָאוֹת



Written in the weeks leading up to the declaration of the State of Israel on May 14th, 1948, the final text of the Declaration of Independence was approved just hours before the ceremony. It recounts the long history of the Jewish people and their connection to the Land of Israel. Delineating aspirational goals for the new country, it appeals to the Arabs of Israel, neighboring countries, world Jewry, and the entire world for cooperation and acceptance. It pledges open immigration for all Jews, “complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race, or sex,” and “freedom of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture.” It was signed by 35 men and two women from across the political and religious spectrum of the Jewish community; three of them went on to the post of Prime Minister, and one became President. The founders expected that a constitution would be adopted; in its absence, the Declaration of Independence has remained a foundational constitutional document of Israel.



IDF CODE OF ETHICS

רוח צה"ל



The IDF Code of Ethics draws from four main sources: the traditions of the Israel Defense Forces, the traditions of the State of Israel, the traditions of the Jewish People, and universal moral values related to the dignity of human life. It calls for the defense of the state, its citizens, and its residents; love of the homeland and loyalty to the country that serves as a democratic home for all its residents; and the protection of human dignity for all, regardless of origin, religion, nationality, gender, status, or position. It addresses “purity of arms,” saying, “the soldier shall make use of his weaponry and power only for the fulfillment of the mission and solely to the extent required; he will maintain his humanity even in combat.” All soldiers—from new recruits to the highest-ranking officers—carry a physical copy of the Code of Ethics with them and are expected to abide by its values at all times.



BASIC LAWS

חוקי יסוד



Though the Declaration of Independence called for adoption of a constitution no later than October 1st, 1948, that deadline proved unrealistic, as the country was embroiled in the War of Independence. By 1950, it became clear that writing a constitution would not be simple due to many factors, including the relationship between Jewish and civil law and the status of non-Jewish citizens of a Jewish state. The Knesset voted to enact a series of Basic Laws in a piecemeal approach which, when complete, would be made into a constitution. To date, Israel has enacted 14 Basic Laws that define the role of each branch of government, codify the status of Jerusalem, and address a wide range of human rights issues. The Basic Laws enjoy constitutional status, and despite multiple efforts to advocate for adopting a full constitution, it seems unlikely that such a document will be adopted anytime soon.



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, and other 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.



LAW OF RETURN

חוק הַשְּׁבוּת



In 1950, the Knesset enacted the Law of Return, codifying the Israeli policy of granting citizenship to any Jew who immigrates to the country. The boundaries of the law are tested regularly, and over the years, the law has undergone modifications aimed at clarifying who is of Jewish ancestry and determining the status of non-Jewish family members of Jews. Religious figures often call for a tightening of the requirements to ensure that only people who are considered Jewish in accordance with Orthodox Jewish law receive citizenship. Others maintain that giving Jews preferential treatment in the path to citizenship is discriminatory. Recently, the Ministry of Interior began granting citizenship to same-sex non-Jewish spouses of Jews.

TANACH

תנ"ך



The Jewish Bible is referred to by an acronym of the first letter of each of its three sections: Torah (the Five Books of Moses), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ktuvim (Writings, including the Book of Psalms and more). From the moment the State was established in 1948, when the Tanach was referenced in the Declaration of Independence, it was clear that Jewish law and tradition would shape life in the new-old country. Unlike other Western democracies, which stress separation of religion and state, Israel celebrates the Tanakh as a foundational part of the country and its laws. All Israeli school children—religious and secular, Jewish, Muslim, and Christian—study the Tanach, which often is referenced as a history book and a guide for exploring the country. Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, established the International Bible Quiz as a way of stressing the continuing relevance of this core text to Israelis and Jews around the world.



YOUR CATEGORY HERE

YOUR TITLE HERE

YOUR STORY HERE