

A Brief History of Modern Israel

I. Anti-Semitism and the Establishment of the Israeli State

- Anti-Semitism prevailed in the history of Europe and the Middle East down to the 20th century.
- There were numerous incidences of forcible conversions of Jews to Christianity and persecutions of Jews in Europe. Some of these events are listed below:
 - During the Roman Empire period, there were anti-Jewish riots and laws restricting Jewish worship. After the conversion to Christianity from 312 AD of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine, the Jews were discriminated as the people who rejected and crucified Christ.
 - During the Nation-state period in Europe (from the 11th century onwards), there were numerous episodes of persecution of the Jews:
 - Persecutions during the Crusades (12 to 13th century).
 - Jews were held responsible for the Black Death (a plague which killed 50% of the population in Europe) and were persecuted.
 - In the 13th to 19th century, Jews were forced to live in ghettos established by various states in Europe.
 - During the 19th century, anti-Jewish riots and persecutions against the Jews occurred in many parts of Europe, notably in Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Russian Empire (known as pogroms, especially during the period 1871-1906) and the Balkans.
 - The 20th century Holocaust
Adolf Hitler and his Nazi party came into power in 1933 and subsequently anti-Jewish laws were enacted and systematic extermination of Jews were carried out during the Second World War. More than 6 million European Jews were murdered at the concentration camps by the Nazi genocide.

II. The Rise of Zionism (The Movement to Establish the State of Israel)

In the 19th century, nationalism swept across Europe. The Jewish people were awakened to the prospects of re-establishing their own Nation in the Holy Land. Moses Hess, from an orthodox Jewish family of Bonn, advocated the founding of a state in Palestine. Without a homeland, he made it clear: "We shall always remain strangers among the nations." Furthermore, the harsh measures against his Jewish subjects, known as pogroms, imposed by the Russian Emperor Alexander III, strengthened the will of the Jewish people to establish their own country. Zionism, the movement to establish a Jewish country in the land of Israel (Palestine), gained support among the Jewish inhabitants and the more influential communities in the West.

- After the First World War (1914-1918), Britain and France were given the Mandate by the League of Nations to rule the Middle East. Britain was responsible for the rule in Palestine (1922-1948), France for Syria (1920-1943) and Lebanon (1920-1944).
- Meanwhile, there was a movement to establish a Jewish state as the Jews were always threatened by persecutions and anti-Semitism sentiments in Europe.
- In August 1897, the first Zionist Congress was convened in Basle by Jewish leader Theodor Herzl (1860-1904), with the objective of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine.
- In 2 November 1917, the Balfour Declaration was announced. The Zionist movement gained sympathy from the British authority. Arthur Balfour, the British Foreign Minister, declared that "His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this objective." Balfour was strongly influenced by his mother, an enthusiastic evangelical, teaching her children daily Bible lessons.
- In 1922, Britain was given the Mandate to rule Palestine (including Jerusalem, the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee) by the League of Nations. One of the Mandate terms was the ultimate establishment of the Jewish national home.
- Jewish immigrants to Palestine reached new heights and Britain decided to impose polices to limit the number of immigrants. Tensions between the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine ran high and conflicts between the two peoples turned violent.
- After Hitler came into power in 1933, there were more Jews fleeing from Germany to Palestine and America.
- After the end of the Second World War in 1945, the British Mandate in Palestine could not continue indefinitely and the future of the State of Palestine was high on the agenda among the Super Powers.
- Britain announced in 1947 that it would return the Mandate to the United Nations (UN, successor to the League of Nations). On 29 November, 1947, the UN Special Committee on Palestine recommended creation of an Arab state and a Jewish state in Palestine and this was accepted by a vote (33 countries voted in favour of the proposal, 13 against and 10 abstained) in the General Assembly that just manage to (miraculously) make the 2/3 majority required. The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, based on different political considerations, supported the creation of a Jewish state.
- Britain ended the Mandate on 14 May 1948. The Jews under the leadership of Chaim Weizmann, a renowned scientist, and David Ben Gurion, declared the founding of the State of Israel.
- Immediately after the founding of Israel, the United States government, under President Truman, though initially had a lukewarm attitude towards the imminent establishment of a Israeli State, took steps to recognize Israel. The Soviet Union, at this time, intending

to gain good will from the Jews, also declared its recognition of Israel. In 1949, France and Britain followed suit and endorsed the new State of Israel. The birth of the new State of Israel thus had the support from the major powers in the world.

- From May 1948 to January 1949, armies from the Arab countries, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Iraq, attacked Israel but were defeated. Eventually Jerusalem was divided into the old walled city including the Holy sites under the rule of Jordan and the West Jerusalem under the Jews. The state of Israel was formed, which was geographically surrounded by the Arab countries in the north, east and south.
- For the first time since the time of Maccabeus (about 165 BC) the Jews established an independent state of their own.
- Massive Jewish immigrants to the Holy Land ensued. Many Palestinians, residents of the Holy Land from time immemorial, either fled or were evacuated to make room for the Jews. About 700,000 Palestinians were displaced from their home. Before the May 1948 war, Arab nations implored Israel's Arab residents to flee temporarily, as they "wipe the Jews and drive them to the sea", so they were not caught in harm's way. Upon the promised victory, the Arabs were promised they would be able to return to their homes. The Arab armies were defeated, and those who fled were not allowed back by Israel, they are "the Palestinian refugees" until today.
- Many Palestinian Arabs went to Gaza, the West Bank, Jordan and other regions. They became refugees. They prayed for the establishment of a Palestinian State and the eviction of the Jews from Palestine.

III. The Arab-Israel Relations after the Establishment of the Israeli state up to 2000

Tensions and Conflicts grew between the Jews and the Arabs never subsided. Major conflicts include:

- The July 1956 Suez Canal crisis: In July 1956, President Nasser of Egypt declared the nationalization of the Suez Canal. This provoked Britain and France to send troops to occupy the Canal to protect their strategic interest. Israel, irked by Egypt's obtaining military aid from the Soviet Union, joined Britain and France in this military venture. Eventually under the pressure from the US Eisenhower administration, which have wanted to avoid conflict with the Soviet Union, Britain and France as well as Israel withdrew from the Canal. Superpower rivalries became an enduring feature behind the conflicts between the Arabs and the Jews.
- 1963, the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was founded by Yasser Arafat with the aim to establish a Palestinian state and evicted the Jews from Palestine.
- In June 1967, the famous Six Day War broke out between Israel and the Arab countries: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Kuwait, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. (Israeli strength: 40,000 troops versus Egypt: 160,000 troops, Syrian 75,000 troops, Jordanian: 75,000 troops, Iraqi 100 tanks*). The modest Israeli forces 'miraculously' defeated the Arab allies. Israel

exerted annexation of the Gaza strip, the Sinai Peninsula, East Jerusalem, the West Bank region and the Golan Heights. (* Wikipedia)

Some key questions to ponder

1. What exactly is the Zionism Movement that leads to the establishment of the nation of the Jews in Israel?

The Zionism movement was at first a political movement in the late 19th century with the aim to establish a secular state in the Holy Land, as the Jews were facing discriminations and persecutions in Europe. It gradually culminated into waves of Jewish immigration to the Holy Land. Britain, which was given the Mandate to rule Palestine by the League of Nations, at different times had to limit or stop the influx of the Jews into Palestine. Eventually, after the Holocaust (Nazis' mass killings of the Jews) and the Second World War, to give the Jews a homeland in the Holy Land received support from major countries.

2. What was declared the Nation of Israel in 1948 and who runs Jerusalem at that time? What exactly is the "West Bank"?

Before the creation of the State of Israel, the newly formed United Nations had, in 1947, voted on a partition plan to divide what was then British-Mandate Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. Whereas the original partition had allocated 55 percent of the territory to a Jewish state and 45 percent of it to a Palestinian Arab state, the war of 1948 put Israel in control of 78 percent of the territory.

At the time when Israel was founded on 14 May 1948, west Jerusalem was taken over by the Jews. The "West Bank", a region west of the Jordan River, was annexed by the Arab country, Jordan (In fact, there was a secret deal clinched between the Jordan King Abdullah and the future Israeli Foreign Minister and Prime Minister, Golda Meir, in November 1947. The deal stipulated that Jordan would not oppose the establishment of the Israeli state, and Israel would not object to the annexation of West Bank by Jordan). The "West Bank" not only encompasses a region west of the Jordan River but also includes east Jerusalem (the Old City with the Temple Mount and the Dome of the Rock).

Israel has cited several reasons for retaining the West Bank within its territory, a claim based on the notion of historic rights to this as a homeland as affirmed in the Balfour Declaration; security grounds, internal and external; and the deep symbolic value for Jews of the area occupied.

The West Bank comprised of Judea and Samaria, and is the heart of Israel's biblical homeland. Today, the Jewish people have returned to this land and built cities, towns, and communities. According to Israel's Population Registry, as of January 2018 some 435,000 Jews live in Judea and Samaria. (In Judea and Samaria, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob walked the land and tended their flocks, as chronicled in the book of Genesis. Joshua fought the Canaanites and drove them out of the land. For centuries, this was also home to the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant after the Israelites settled in Canaan, and is where

Ruth married Boaz. Judea and Samaria is also revered upon as the birthplace of King David and the burial place of Joseph.

3. What leads to the Jews taking Jerusalem in 1967 and is Jerusalem Israel's capital today?

Israel and Palestine's dueling claims to the city are steeped in decades of conflict, during which Jewish settlers pushed Muslim Arabs out and established the State of Israel on their land in the middle of the 20th century. The claims are also tied to the religions of Judaism and Islam, both of which recognize Jerusalem as a holy place. In around 1,000 BC, King David established Jewish control over Jerusalem. The city fell in and out of other hands during the next 3000 years, particularly during the crusades, when Christian crusaders fought competing Christian and Muslim factions for control of the city. Between 1517 and 1917, the Ottoman Empire — whose official religion was Islam — ruled the city. This was followed by the British Mandate. After the State of Israel was established in 1948, the Nation was under attack from the neighboring Islamic countries. Jerusalem was however miraculously recaptured in 1967 by the Israelis in the historical Six Day War (See above). In 1980 Israel finally declared that Jerusalem to be the eternal capital of Israel.

以色列近代簡史

I. 反猶太主義與以色列國的成立

- 直到 20 世紀，反猶太主義在歐洲和中東的歷史中為主導。
- 在歐洲有很多猶太人被迫改信基督教和被迫害的事件。以下列出了其中一些事件：
 - 在羅馬帝國時期，有反猶太人的騷亂和限制猶太人敬拜的法律。統治羅馬帝國的君士坦丁大帝於公元 312 年改信基督教後，猶太人被歧視為拒絕和釘死基督的人。
 - 在歐洲的民族國家時期（從 11 世紀開始），猶太人遭受了許多的迫害：
 - 在十字軍東征期間（12 至 13 世紀）的迫害。
 - 猶太人被認為要對黑死病（這場瘟疫在歐洲殺死了 50% 的人口）負責，並受到迫害。
 - 在 13 至 19 世紀，猶太人被迫生活在歐洲各國設立的貧民窟。
 - 在 19 世紀，歐洲許多地方發生了反猶太人的暴動和對猶太人的迫害，特別是在德國、奧匈帝國、俄羅斯帝國（被稱為大屠殺，尤其是在 1871-1906 年這段時間）和巴爾幹地區。
 - 20 世紀大屠殺
阿道夫·希特勒及其納粹黨在 1933 年上台，隨後制定了反猶太法律，並在第二次世界大戰期間對猶太人進行了有系統的滅絕。有超過 6 百萬歐洲猶太人在集中營被納粹種族滅絕。

II. 猶太錫安主義或猶太復國主義的興起（建立以色列國的運動）

在 19 世紀，民族主義橫掃整個歐洲，猶太人意識到在聖地重建自己國家的可能性。來自波恩正統派猶太家庭的摩西·赫斯提倡在巴勒斯坦建立一個國家。他明確的表示，沒有家園，「我們將永遠在列國中作陌生人。」此外，俄國皇帝亞歷山大三世對他的猶太臣民採取了嚴厲的措施，即大屠殺，這加強了猶太人建立自己國家的意願。錫安主義是一個要在以色列土地（巴勒斯坦）上建立猶太人的國家的運動，它得到了猶太居民和西方較有影響力的社群的支持。

- 第一次世界大戰（1914-1918 年）後，國際聯盟委任英國和法國統治中東。英國負責統治巴勒斯坦（1922-1948 年）、法國負責統治敘利亞（1920-1943 年）和黎巴嫩（1920-1944 年）。
- 與此同時，由於猶太人在歐洲常受到迫害和反猶太主義情緒的威脅，因此有了建立猶太人的國家的運動。
- 1897 年 8 月，猶太領袖西奧多·赫茲爾（1860-1904 年）在巴塞爾召開了第一屆錫安主義者會議，目的是在巴勒斯坦建立一個猶太人的國家。

- 1917年11月2日，宣布了貝爾福宣言。猶太復國主義運動得到了英國當局的同情。英國外交大臣亞瑟·貝爾福宣布：「英皇陛下政府贊成在巴勒斯坦建立一個猶太人的民族之家，並將盡力促成這目標。」貝爾福受到熱心的福音派母親的強烈影響，她每天都跟她的孩子們上聖經課。
- 1922年，國際聯盟委任英國統治巴勒斯坦（包括耶路撒冷、死海、加利利海），授權的條款之一是最終建立猶太人的民族之家。
- 猶太移民到巴勒斯坦達到新的高峰，英國決定實行限制移民人數的政策，巴勒斯坦的阿拉伯人和猶太人之間的關係非常緊張，兩國人民之間的衝突變得暴力。
- 希特拉在1933年執政後，有更多的猶太人從德國逃往巴勒斯坦和美國。
- 在1945年第二次世界大戰結束後，英國在巴勒斯坦的委任統治不能無限期地繼續下去，而在超級大國中，巴勒斯坦國的未來已成為重要議題。
- 1947年，英國宣布歸還委任統治給聯合國（聯合國是國際聯盟的繼任人）。1947年11月29日，聯合國巴勒斯坦特別委員會建議在巴勒斯坦建立一個阿拉伯國家和一個猶太人的國家，這建議在聯合國大會上投票通過（33個國家對此提案投了贊成票、13個反對和10個棄權），它剛好（奇蹟地）達到所需的2/3大多數票的要求。美國和蘇聯這兩個超級大國基於不同的政治考慮，支持建立一個猶太人的國家。
- 英國於1948年5月14日終止了委任統治。在著名科學家哈伊姆·魏茨曼和大衛·本·古里安的領導下，猶太人宣布成立以色列國。
- 以色列成立後，杜魯門總統領導下的美國政府，開始時對剛成立的以色列國持不冷不熱的態度，但仍開始採取行動承認以色列。此時，蘇聯打算從猶太人那裡取得好感，也宣布承認以色列。1949年，法國和英國也仿效並認可新的以色列國。因此，新以色列國的誕生得到了世界各大國的支持。
- 從1948年5月至1949年1月，來自阿拉伯國家、埃及、敘利亞、約旦、黎巴嫩和伊拉克的軍隊攻擊以色列，但遭擊敗。最終，耶路撒冷被劃分為約旦統治的城牆內的舊城，包括聖地和猶太人統治的西耶路撒冷。以色列國成立，它在地理上被東、北和南部的阿拉伯國家包圍。
- 自馬加比家族時代（約公元前165年）以來，猶太人首次建立了自己的獨立國家。- 隨後有大量猶太人移民到聖地。許多巴勒斯坦人是遠古時代的聖地居民，他們或是逃亡，或是被撤離，為猶太人騰出空間。約700,000巴勒斯坦人流離失所。在1948年5月戰爭爆發之前，阿拉伯國家勸說以色列的阿拉伯居民暫時逃離，因為他們要「把猶太人抹掉並將他們驅逐出海」，因此他們沒有受到傷害。這些阿拉伯國家承諾，他們勝利後，阿拉伯居民將能返回自己的家園。阿拉伯軍隊被打敗，以色列不允許逃亡者返回以色列，他們直到今天被稱為「巴勒斯坦難民」。

- 許多巴勒斯坦阿拉伯人前往加沙、西岸、約旦和其他地區。他們成了難民，他們祈禱能建立巴勒斯坦國和從巴勒斯坦趕出猶太人。

III. 以色列建國後至 2000 年間的阿拉伯與以色列關係

猶太人和阿拉伯人之間的緊張和衝突從未消退。主要衝突包括：

- **1956 年 7 月的蘇彝士運河危機**：1956 年 7 月，埃及總統納賽爾宣布國有化蘇彝士運河。這激起英法兩國出兵佔領運河，以維護他們的戰略利益。以色列因埃及從蘇聯獲得軍事援助而惱火，她參與了英國和法國這一軍事冒險行動。最終在美國艾森豪威爾政府的壓力下（希望避免與蘇聯有衝突），英國、法國和以色列從運河撤離。在阿拉伯人和猶太人之間的衝突背後，一個持久的特點是超級大國間的競爭。
- **1963 年**，亞西爾·阿拉法特成立了巴勒斯坦解放組織，旨在建立一個巴勒斯坦國，並將猶太人逐出巴勒斯坦。
- **1967 年 6 月**，以色列與阿拉伯國家（埃及、約旦、敘利亞、黎巴嫩、科威特、伊拉克和沙地阿拉伯）爆發了著名的六日戰爭。（以色列兵力：40,000 人；埃及：160,000 人；敘利亞 75,000 人；約旦：75,000 人；伊拉克 100 輛坦克*）。不強大的以色列部隊「奇蹟般地」擊敗了阿拉伯聯盟。以色列吞併了加沙地帶、西奈半島、東耶路撒冷、西岸地區和戈蘭高地。（*維基百科）

需要思想的關鍵問題

1. 導致猶太人在以色列建國的錫安主義運動到底是什麼？

錫安主義運動最初是 19 世紀後期的政治運動，其目的是在猶太人在歐洲面對歧視和迫害的情況下，在聖地建立世俗國家。它逐漸發展成一波又一波的猶太人移民到聖地。國際聯盟委任英國統治巴勒斯坦，因此英國在不同時期不得限制或停止猶太人湧入巴勒斯坦。最終，在大屠殺（納粹對猶太人的大規模殺害）和第二次世界大戰之後，主要國家支持讓猶太人在聖地建立家園。

2. 在 1948 年被宣佈為以色列國的是甚麼地方？當時誰統治耶路撒冷？「西岸」到底是什麼？

在以色列國成立之前，新成立的聯合國於 1947 年對一個分割方案進行了投票，該計劃將當時委任英國管治的巴勒斯坦分為猶太國和阿拉伯國。最初的分割將 55% 的領土分給猶太國，45% 的領土分割給巴勒斯坦阿拉伯國，但 1948 年的戰爭使以色列控制了 78% 的領土。

以色列於 1948 年 5 月 14 日立國，西耶路撒冷由猶太人接管。約旦河以西的「西岸」被阿拉伯國家約旦吞併。（實際上，約旦國王阿卜杜拉與後來的以色列外交大臣和總理哥達·梅雅於 1947 年 11 月達成了一項秘密協議。該協議規定，約旦不反對建立以色列

列國，以色列也不反對約旦吞併西岸。）「西岸」不僅涵蓋約旦河以西的地區，還包括東耶路撒冷（包括聖殿山和圓頂清真寺的舊城）。

以色列列舉了將西岸保留在其領土內的幾個理由：其一是根據貝爾福宣言所確認的，是基於其作為家園的歷史權利的概念；內部和外部的安全理由；對猶太人來說占領區具有深遠的象徵價值。

西岸由猶太和撒瑪利亞所組成，是以色列聖經故鄉的中心。今天，猶太人已經回到這片土地，並建造了城市、市鎮和社區。根據以色列人口登記局，截至 2018 年 1 月，約有 435,000 猶太人居住在猶太和撒馬利亞。（在猶太和撒馬利亞，亞伯拉罕、以撒和雅各於創世記中在這片土地上行走並看顧他們的羊群。約書亞與迦南人交戰，並將他們趕出這地。有幾個世紀，在以色列人定居迦南之後，這裡還是會幕和約櫃的所在地。它是路得與波阿斯結婚的地方。猶太和撒瑪利亞也被尊為大衛王的出生地和埋葬約瑟之地。）

3. 是什麼導致猶太人於 1967 年佔領耶路撒冷，今天的耶路撒冷是以色列的首都？

以色列和巴勒斯坦都在爭這城的擁有權，他們深陷在這數十年的衝突中。在此期間，猶太定居者將阿拉伯穆斯林驅逐，並在 20 世紀中葉在他們的土地上建立了以色列國。這些擁有權的主張還與猶太教和伊斯蘭教的宗教捆在一起，它們都認同耶路撒冷為聖地。公元前 1000 年左右，大衛王建立了猶太人對耶路撒冷的控制。在接下來的 3,000 年中，這城的控制權數次易手，特別是在十字軍東征期間，基督徒十字軍與競爭的基督徒和穆斯林派別爭奪這城的控制權。在 1517 年至 1917 年之間，鄂圖曼帝國（其官方宗教為伊斯蘭教）統治了這座城市。之後是英國委任統治。以色列國於 1948 年成立後，該國受到鄰近伊斯蘭國家的攻擊。然而，耶路撒冷在 1968 年歷史性的「六日戰爭」中被以色列人奇蹟地奪回（見上文）。以色列終於在 1980 年宣布耶路撒冷為以色列的永恆首都。