

Activities

Activity 5

Creating Unity from Diversity: The Competing Ideologies in the Zionist Movement

Preparation:

Estimated Time: 1 class period • **Materials:** Internet access and *Israel 101*

Background: The Zionist movement included people from a wide range of backgrounds. They came from multiple countries and had different ideologies, from Socialism to Liberalism, from religious to secular. Creating unity out of this diversity was a challenge. To understand the ideals of Zionism and the political and economic system that Israel set up, it is helpful for students to know the different ideologies that inspired Israel's founders and to learn how they overcame these differences. In addition, students will learn about the differing ideas and ideals that prevailed in the western world in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

Activity

1. Divide students into groups, and have them choose which of the “Zionisms” they would like to research. (Good brief summaries of these Zionist philosophies are available at www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Centenary+of+Zionism/Zionist+Philosophies.htm. A more thorough, sophisticated account is available at www.zionism-israel.com/zionism_history.htm.

Practical Zionism

Political Zionism

Socialist Zionism

Synthetic Zionism

Revisionist Zionism

Religious Zionism

General Zionism

Spiritual Zionism

2. Have students report their findings, and then raise some general questions:
 - What were the differences between these views?
 - How did events that occurred at the time affect the rise or fall of these different views?
 - What were the common beliefs of all these different Zionisms; how did each philosophy help the founding of modern Israel; and how did the Zionists unite?

Wrap up: Early Zionists represented a wide range of ideologies, yet managed to unite on their common goals and create a state that combined many of these ideologies.