

Ten Things
You Need To Know About
Israel

Produced by
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The Jewish people are indigenous to Israel—the birthplace of their language, culture, religion, and identity. Jews have had an unbroken presence in the land for over 3,000 years.

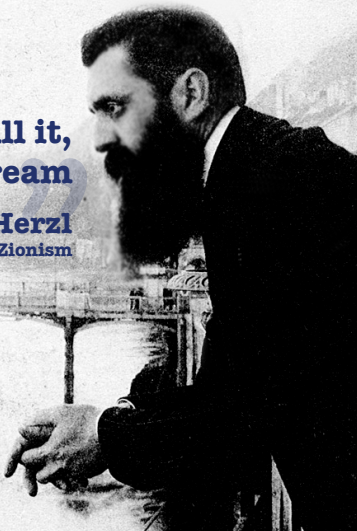
Although they flourished at times, for 1,900 years Jews lived as an oppressed minority across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Despite many obstacles, those living in the diaspora maintained their unique identity and connection to their ancestral homeland and to the Jews who remained there.




In the late 19th century Jews started a movement called Zionism to liberate themselves from oppression and rebuild a thriving nation in the land of Israel.

**“If you will it,
it is no dream**

—Theodor Herzl
Founder of Modern Zionism





League of Nations

4
In 1920, after the Balfour Declaration and the San Remo conference, the League of Nations recognized the Jewish people's historic connection to Israel as well as their right to a homeland there under international law.

For decades, beginning in the late 1800s, waves of Jews returned to the land of Israel to rejoin those who were already there and rebuild their nation. They drained swamps, built cities and farms, revived Hebrew as a spoken language, and created the institutions necessary for a state.



Founding of Tel Aviv, 1909



Tel Aviv, 1946

Israel declares
independence,
May 14, 1948



In 1948, Israel declared statehood in the midst of a brutal war launched by Arab forces to prevent its establishment. Its Declaration of Independence enshrined the values of justice, democracy, equal rights, and peace. Initially, most of its population consisted of Jewish refugees who survived the Holocaust or fled rising violence and persecution in Arab countries.

Negev Desert, Israel



"Sunset in the Negev Desert near Yeruham, Israel"
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Israel is about the same size as New Jersey and can fit into California 22 times. It has very limited natural resources, and most of its land is desert.

Israel is a world leader in innovation and humanitarian aid. Israelis are helping people all over the world overcome hunger, disease, water scarcity, war, terrorism, natural disasters, environmental degradation, cyber threats, and much more.



IsraeAID worker helps Syrian refugees get to shore.



Israelis empower people across Africa to overcome food and water scarcity.



**Israel-Egypt
Peace Treaty**



**Israel-Jordan
Peace Treaty**



**Israeli and Palestinian negotiators
meet at the White House.**

Israel made peace with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994. Israelis have agreed to or offered at least four major proposals to end the conflict with the Palestinians and help create a Palestinian state. Palestinian leaders have said no each time, to the detriment of both peoples.

Israel is one of the world's most diverse nations, and the only consistently free country in the Middle East according to Freedom House. Israelis have successfully fought for progress on human rights issues like equality for minorities (especially for the 1.8 million Arab citizens of Israel), women's rights, LGBTQ rights, peace with Israel's neighbors, and much more.



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