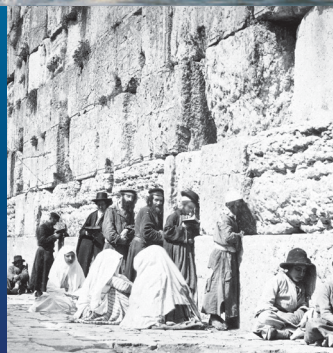


# Ten Things You Need To Know About Israel

# 1

Israel is the ancestral home of the Jewish people—the birthplace of their language, culture, religion, and identity. Jews have had an unbroken presence in the land for over 3,000 years.



# 2

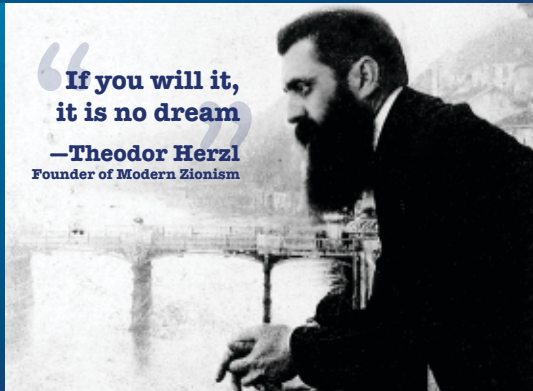
Although they flourished at times, for 1,900 years, Jews lived as an oppressed minority across Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East. Despite many obstacles, those living in the diaspora maintained their unique identity, as well as their connection to Israel and the Jews who remained there.

# 3

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



# 4

Beginning in the 1800s, waves of Jews returned to the Land of Israel, joining those who were already there. They drained swamps, built cities and farms, revived Hebrew as a spoken language, and built the foundations of an independent state.

Founding of Tel Aviv, 1909



Tel Aviv, 1946



# 5

In 1920, after the Balfour Declaration and the San Remo conference, the League of Nations recognized the Jewish people's historic connection and rights in Israel under international law. They created the British Mandate for Palestine to help build a Jewish national home while protecting the rights of non-Jews in the land.



# 6

In 1947, the UN proposed dividing the land into a Jewish and Arab state. Jewish leaders said yes, but Arab leaders said no. Israel declared independence in 1948, despite a brutal war launched by Arab forces to end its existence. The state was founded on the values of justice, democracy, equal rights, and peace. At first, most Israelis were Jewish refugees who survived the Holocaust or fled rising violence and persecution in Arab states.



Israel declares independence, May 14, 1948

Negev Desert, Israel



# 7

Israel is about the same size as New Jersey and can fit into California 22 times. It has limited natural resources, and most of its land is desert. Israelis have had to overcome these and many other challenges.

# 8

Israel is a 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.



Israelis empower people across Africa to overcome food and water scarcity



IsraAID workers help Syrian refugees get to shore



Israel's President visits the United Arab Emirates

Credit: Amos Ben Gershom / Government Press Office (Israel)

# 9

Israel made peace with Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994, followed by the UAE, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco in 2020.

Israelis have agreed to 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, harming both peoples.

# 10

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 1.9 million Arab citizens of Israel), women's rights, LGBTQ rights, peace with Israel's neighbors, and much more.



# Over 3,000 Years Ago:


The Jewish people developed a thriving civilization and culture in Israel, their ancestral homeland.

Over time, they were conquered by a series of aggressive foreign empires. While some Jews stayed in their cities and communities, most scattered across Europe and the Middle East.

Although they flourished at times, for 1,900 years, Jews lived as an oppressed minority, suffering expulsions, massacres, and ultimately genocide.

They barely survived but never lost hope.  
**They overcame.**

They started a liberation movement, returned home to join those already there, and built one of the most vibrant, diverse nations the world has ever seen.

A person is seen from behind, riding a bicycle on a paved path along a beach. They are wearing a dark hoodie and pants. A large surfboard is mounted on the back of the bicycle. The beach is sandy and has some people in the distance. The ocean is visible with waves breaking. The sky is blue with some clouds.

*Israel's story is proof  
that if you will it,  
it is no dream!*

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