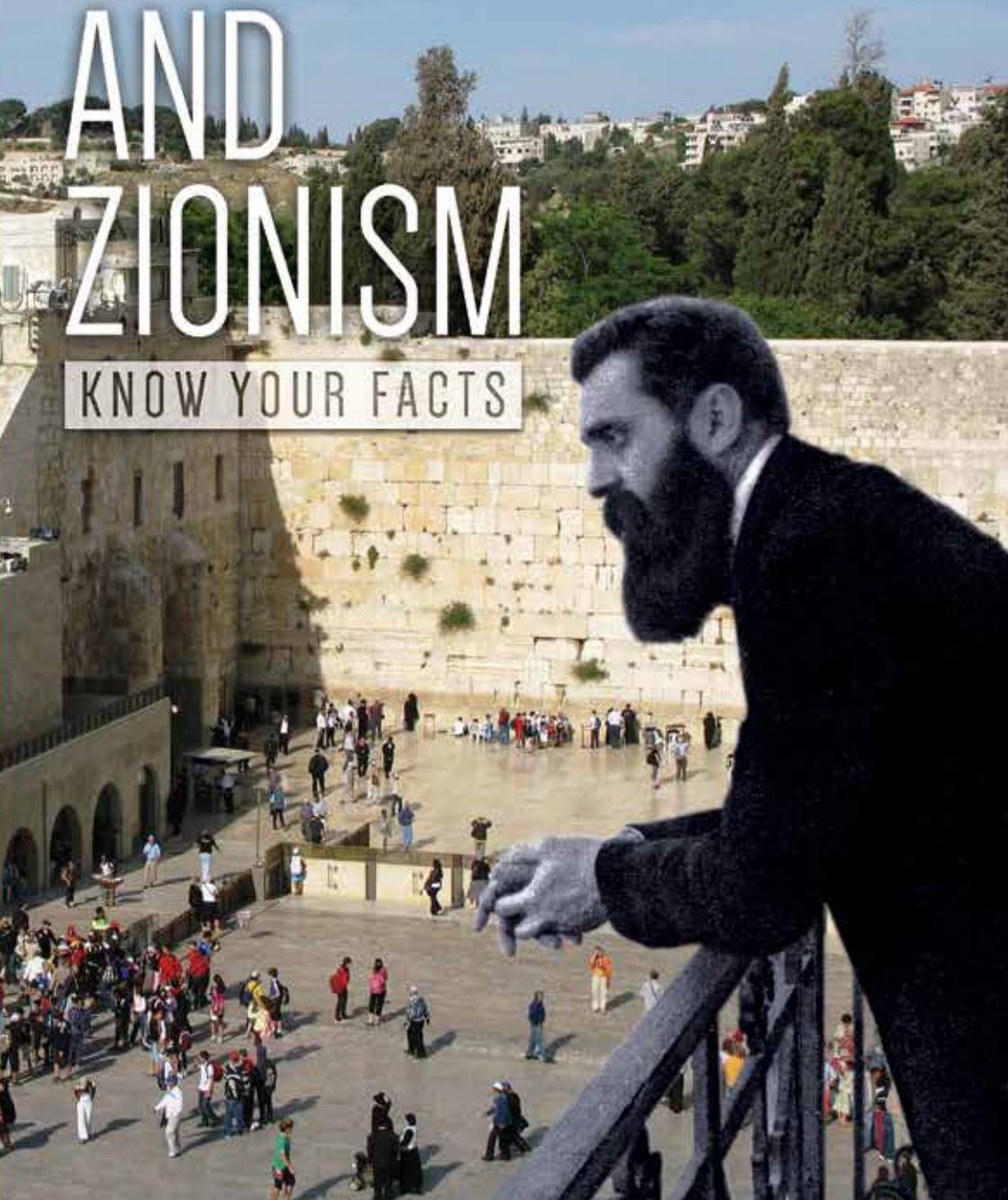


# ISRAEL AND ZIONISM

KNOW YOUR FACTS



# INTRODUCTION

At just 70 years young, Israel has survived all attempts to destroy it whilst creating a modern, thriving country; an economic powerhouse with innovation, humanitarianism and a yearning for peace at its very core.

But despite all this, no other country on earth is more misunderstood, misrepresented or maligned than the nation state of the Jewish people. Whether from its immediate neighbours or its opponents further afield, Israel's very existence continues to be questioned and threatened, and so, in order for its case to be made, Israel's supporters need to speak up and speak out wherever and whenever we can, so that the distortions and myths are expelled and the facts exposed.

From Israel's founding ethos of Zionism to its religious, ethnic and demographic make-up, this booklet was created to bring the most salient facts about Israel into one concise publication, so that those who wish to engage in the global debate about Israel can do so more confidently.



# FACTS

Israel has **declared its independence** on

**MAY 14TH, 1948**

Israel's **Capital** is

**JERUSALEM**

Israel's **currency** is NIS-

**NEW ISRAELI SHEKELS**

Israel's **Population** (2018) is

**8,876,680** people

In the nearly 9 million people that live in Israel, there are different **Ethnic groups** that divide into:

**74.5%** Jewish,

**20.9%** Arab, **4.6%** other

There are also all kinds of different **Religions** in Israel that split into

**74.7%** Jewish,

**17.7%** Muslim,

**2%** Christian,

**1.6%** Druze, **4%** other

The **total Area** of Israel is

**20,770-22,072 KM<sup>2</sup>** (It can fit 11 times into the UK!)

# THE JEWISH HOMELAND

For over 3000 years the Jewish people sustained an unbroken continuous presence in the Land of Israel, a presence maintained through countless attacks, defeats and exiles. We are able to witness many examples of evidence supporting this continuous presence of the Jewish people in the land of Israel, from the Western Wall and the hilltop fortress of Masada to archaeological findings too numerous to list here.



# ZIONISM

In the late 1800's, Theodor Herzl founded the modern Zionist movement whose aim was to end the longstanding oppression of the Jewish people around the world by returning to their ancient homeland, the Land of Israel.

In 1897, The First Zionist Congress was convened in Basel, whereby the Zionist movement agreed upon and set their aims and means to re-establish Jewish sovereignty in their ancestral homeland.

In the years after 1897, Zionism's proponents went to great lengths to achieve their goals including raising money from all across the world, buying land in Palestine and fostering diplomatic negotiations and relationships to lay the foundations of the future state.



# INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMACY

Through unrelenting effort, Herzl and the Zionist movement gained international legitimacy over the years for a Jewish state in their ancestral homeland. Throughout the 20th century, significant declarations and resolutions regarding the Jewish people's right to a homeland resulted in the historic Declaration of Independence for the State of Israel in 1948.

LISTED HERE ARE THE MOST INFLUENTIAL DECISIONS MADE PRIOR TO 1948:

**1917** The Balfour Declaration - Great Britain declares its support for the renewal of a Jewish national home in Palestine.

**1920** The San Remo Resolution -The San Remo conference was an international meeting of the post-World War 1 Allied Supreme Council, a resolution

which ratified the Balfour Declaration into international law.

**1922** The League of Nations Mandate for Palestine - this incorporated the Balfour Declaration and gave Great Britain the Mandate over Palestine. "The Mandatory shall be responsible for placing the country under such political, administrative and economic conditions as will secure the establishment of the Jewish national home"

**1924** The Anglo-American Treaty - The American administration signed a treaty in 1924,

ratifying the previous commitments of the Mandate for Palestine into treaty law for both the British and the Americans.

**1947** The UN Partition Plan - United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 called for the partition of the British-ruled Palestine Mandate into a Jewish state and an Arab state. The resolution passed with 33 votes for and 13 against with 10 abstentions.

**1948** David Ben Gurion declares an independent Jewish state, and calls it Israel.



## LAW IN ISRAEL

Israeli law is based mostly on a common law legal system, though it also reflects the diverse history of the territory of the State of Israel throughout the last hundred years, as well as the legal systems of its major religious communities.

Israel does not have a constitution but instead (until a constitution is formed) the Basic Laws of Israel function as the country's constitutional laws. The Basic Laws deal with the formation and role of the principal institutions of the state,



and with the relations between the state's authorities.

The unicameral national legislature of Israel is The Knesset. The Knesset is formed from 120 members that

are elected every four years in a nationwide election. The Knesset passes all laws, elects the president, approves the cabinet, and supervises the work of the government through its committees.

# MINORITIES IN ISRAEL

In the State of Israel, alongside its Jewish majority there are citizens/residents belonging to different ethnic, religious and national groups who enjoy equal rights and freedoms.



In the Declaration of Independence, it is stated that "it (Israel) will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective

etc. live peacefully in Israel where they, their freedoms and rights are protected and respected. The minorities living in Israel are entitled to their own

education, educational institutions, working/ rest days and religious holidays, all enshrined in law. Israel also recognizes the special status of the Arabic language which is used throughout Israel, for example on street signs.

The Arab minority in Israel also has representation in the Knesset, comprising 13 members of their party (2018).



of religion, race or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture"

Based on the Declaration, groups like Christian and Muslim Arabs, Druze, Bedouin



# INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

In 1949, Israel was accepted into the United Nations as a result of immense diplomatic efforts and this marked its formal entry into the family of nations.

it has consistently sought peace with its neighbours. To date, Israel has achieved two peace treaties with two of its neighbours. The

first was in 1979 when Israel and Egypt signed a peace treaty and the second in 1994, when Israel and Jordan signed a peace treaty.

Israel maintains positive relationships with the majority of countries around the world, with more than 100 diplomatic missions globally, including embassies and consulates.

Since Israel's reestablishment,





## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD

In just 70 years, Israel has quite literally saved lives with its innovation and inventions, its humanitarian outreach and international aid, Israel has developed a wide range of innovations in almost every field possible to help us in our day to day lives. In technology, we have the USB flash drive. In medicine, we have ReWalk which allows paralysed people to walk again. In mobile apps we have Waze and in environmental innovations we have



drip irrigation! These are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to Israel's inventions. Not only is the start-up nation (a name often used to describe Israel) contributing in inventions and innovation, but also in humanitarian aid.

Israel has sent dozens of international aid delegations over the years to help people all around the world. More than that, Israel is helping Syrian refugees on a daily basis by providing them with medical care in special field hospitals.

## ISRAEL'S SECURITY

Israel is a country under constant threat from all kinds of terror groups (like Hamas and Hezbollah) and country's (like Iran). Because of these issues and the determination to keep Israeli civilians safe, it is important to have a strong and moral army to defend the whole country.

The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) is Israel's army and needs to deal with continuous security issues in order to defend the country. Since Israel's early years, it was decided that there would be a mandatory conscription to the army for all Israeli citizens (with exceptions) including women.



From its beginning, the IDF's objective was ,and remains, to keep Israel and its civilians safe whilst adhering to "The Spirit of the IDF", the IDF's code of ethics and mission. The leading values stated there are Integrity, purity of arms, human lives and adhering to the mission. Every move and decision the IDF makes is carefully considered and guided by the "Spirit".



# YOUR HEBREW GUIDE TO GET BY IN ISRAEL

SHALOM	Hello
MA NISHMA?	How are you?
SABABA	OK, cool
PUTZATZ	“Exploded” used to describe something that is no longer relevant
TEROOF	Craziness (in a good way)
ACHI	Bro
ZOREM	Flow (go with the flow)
YALLA	Come on
BALAGAN	Big mess
CAPARA	Literally means redemption, is used as a term of endearment
BASSA	Bummer
TACHLES	To the point
MAH HALOOZ	“What’s the schedule?” a cool way to ask – what’s going on?

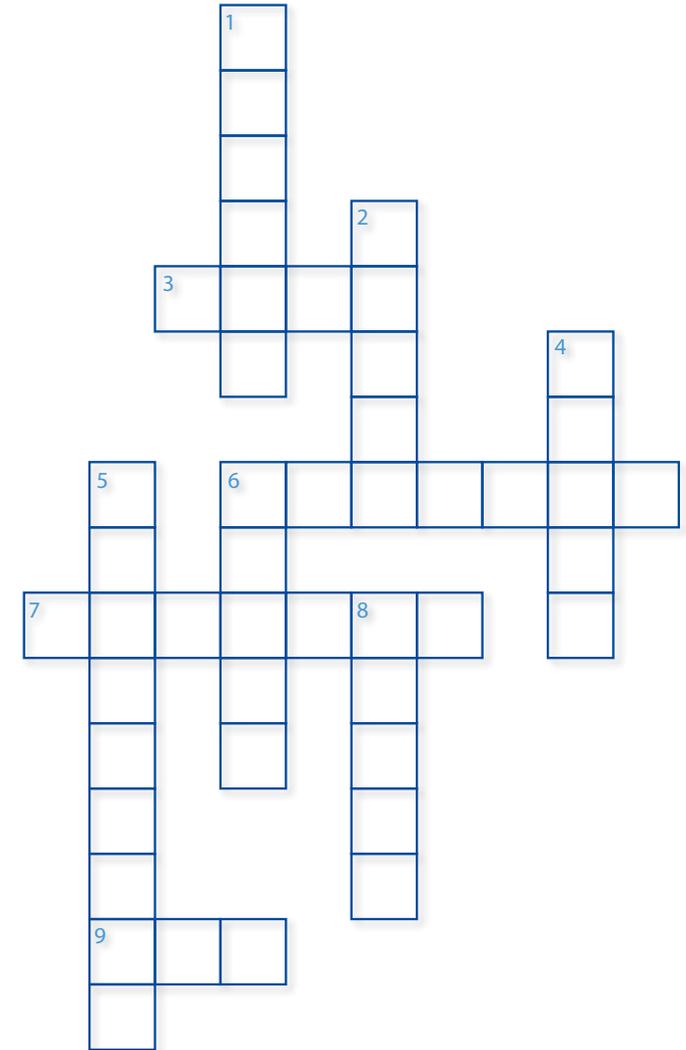
# LET’S SEE HOW MUCH YOU’VE LEARNED?

## DOWN

1. Israel signed a peace treaty with this country in 1994
2. The founder of Zionism
4. A unique religious group living in Israel
5. Israel’s first prime minister
6. Bummer in Hebrew
8. The most southernmost city in Israel

## ACROSS

3. A highly successful Israeli app
6. A British minister that made a defining declaration in 1917
7. The national legislature of Israel
9. How many Jewish countries are there in the world?





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