



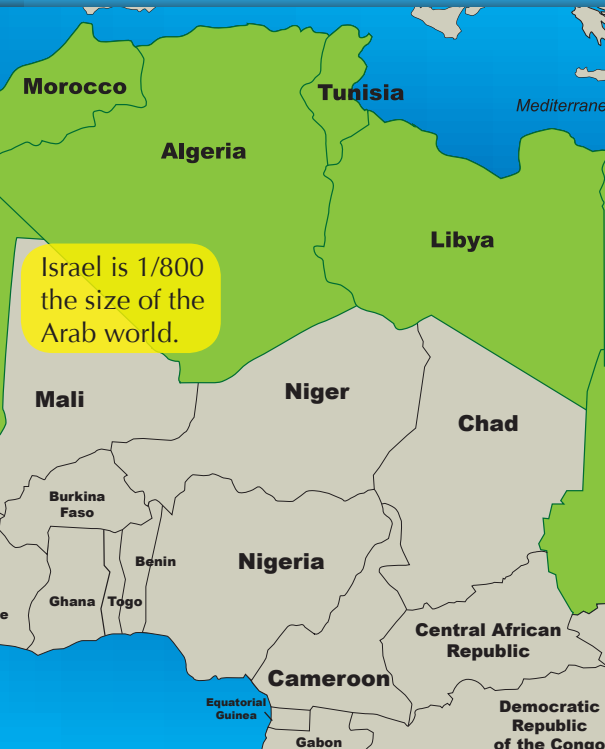
ISRAEL

Pocket Facts

Produced by

StandWithUs

Regional Map





Turkey

Lebanon

Cyprus

Lebanese Sea

Golan Heights

Israel

Gaza

West Bank

Suez Canal

Sinai

Jordan

Gulf of Aqaba

Strait of Tiran

Egypt

Iraq

Iran*

Kuwait

Bahrain

Persian Gulf

Saudi Arabia

Qatar

UAE

Oman

Arabian Sea

Sudan

Eritrea

Yemen

Djibouti

Ethiopia

Somalia

South Sudan

*Iran is not an Arab country, but its regime is deeply involved in the politics and conflicts of the region.

Comoros



Israel's Size

Israel's territory is 20,770 square kilometres.

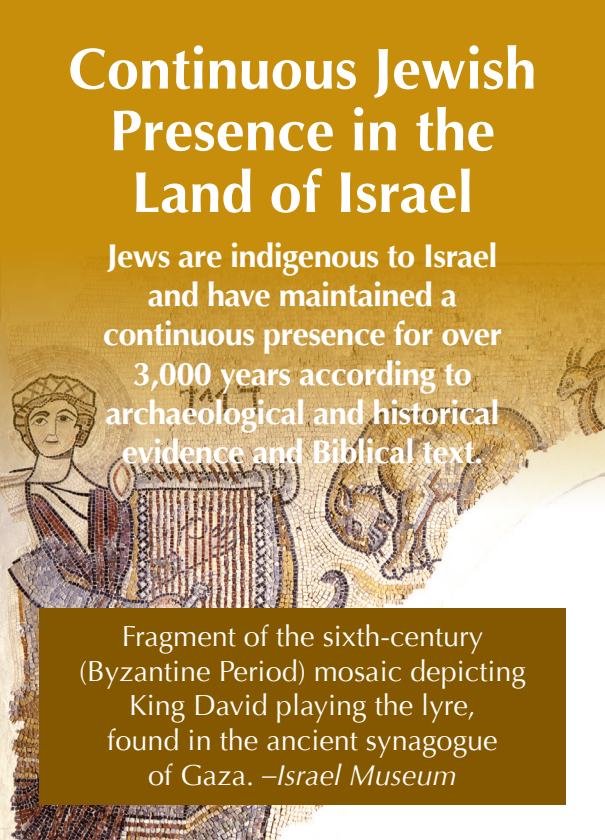


Australia's is 7,682,300 square kilometres.

Israel can fit into Australia
369 times.

Continuous Jewish Presence in the Land of Israel

Jews are indigenous to Israel and have maintained a continuous presence for over 3,000 years according to archaeological and historical evidence and Biblical text.

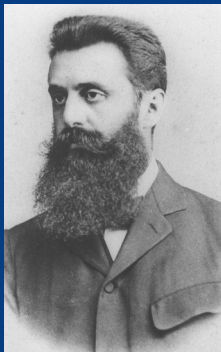


Fragment of the sixth-century (Byzantine Period) mosaic depicting King David playing the lyre, found in the ancient synagogue of Gaza. –*Israel Museum*

Zionism:

The Rebirth of a Nation

Zion is an age-old name for Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people who sought to restore their freedom and independence in their ancestral homeland.



Theodore Herzl founded the modern Zionist movement in 1897, but the dream of restoration and return had always been at the core of Judaism and Jewish identity. Jews always returned when they could and once again became—and remained—the majority in Jerusalem in the mid-1800s.¹

¹ Sir Martin Gilbert, "Jerusalem: A Tale of One City," *The New Republic*, Nov. 14, 1994 www.mefacts.com/cache/html/wall-ruling_/11362.htm; Dore Gold, *The Fight for Jerusalem*, p. 120



“It is manifestly right that the scattered Jews should have a national centre and a national home and be reunited, and where else but in Palestine, with which for 3,000 years they have been intimately and profoundly associated?”

—Winston Churchill, 1921

“Who can challenge the
rights of the Jews in
Palestine? Good Lord,
historically it is really
your country.”

*–Yusef Diya al-Khalidi,
Mayor of Jerusalem, 1899*



Jews on Mount of Olives, 1893

Number Of Countries By Religious Majority

67	Roman Catholic
49	Islamic
49	Protestant
14	Eastern Orthodox
3	Hindu
1	Jewish

World Religions

Christianity: 2 billion people

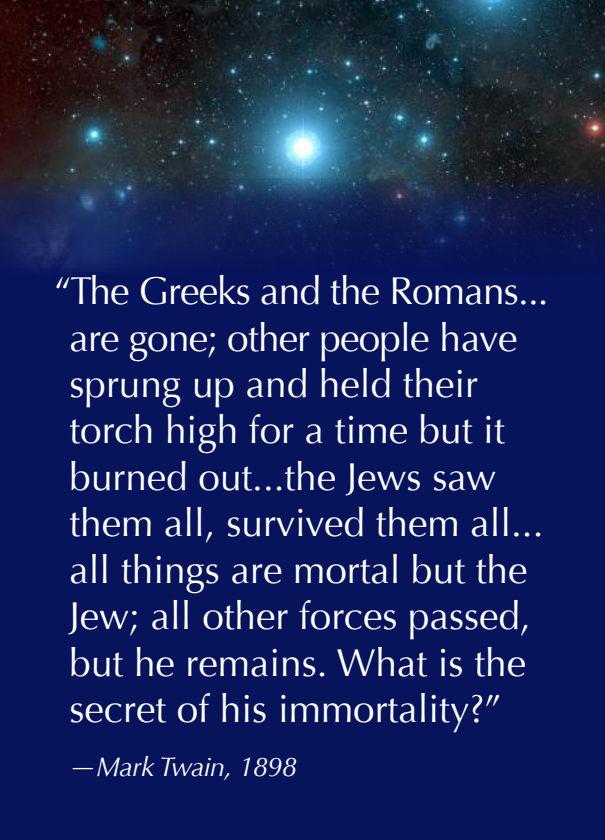
Islam: 1.6 billion people

Hinduism: 1 billion people

Buddhism: 376 million people

Judaism: 14 million people





"The Greeks and the Romans...
are gone; other people have
sprung up and held their
torch high for a time but it
burned out...the Jews saw
them all, survived them all...
all things are mortal but the
Jew; all other forces passed,
but he remains. What is the
secret of his immortality?"

—Mark Twain, 1898

“Jews prefer being prisoners in Jerusalem to enjoying the freedom they could acquire elsewhere. ...The love of the Jews for the Holy Land which they lost...is unbelievable.”

—Jesuit Father Michael Naud on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 1674



Restoring the Jewish Homeland

In the mid-1800s, a new energy seized the Jews living in Israel, then called "Palestine."* With help from philanthropists like Sir Moses Montefiore and donations from ordinary Jews around the world, Jews branched out from their cities and began purchasing land and building farms, villages, and schools.

By 1854, Jews were the largest religious group in Jerusalem; by 1870, they were once again the majority of the city's population.

* Palestine was the name given to the region when the Romans conquered the over 1,000-year-old Jewish nation of Judea in the first century.

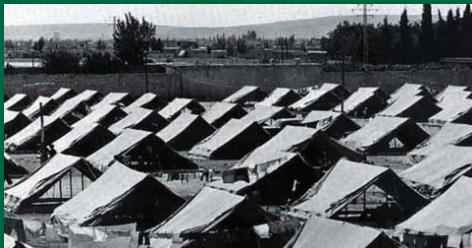
Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv celebrated its
100-year anniversary in 2009.



Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries

After Israel's rebirth in 1948, over 850,000 Jews fled the rising persecution or were expelled from Arab and Muslim lands. They became homeless even though some of their communities were over 2,000 years old. A fledgling country of approximately 650,000 inhabitants, Israel nonetheless began absorbing not only survivors of the Holocaust but also Jews fleeing from Arab countries.



Declining Jewish Population in Middle Eastern Countries

1948

2011

Algeria	140,000	1,500
Egypt	75,000	100
Iran	100,000	10,400
Iraq	150,000	7
Lebanon	20,000	0
Libya	38,000	0
Morocco	265,000	2,700
Syria	30,000	100
Tunisia	105,000	1,000
Yemen	55,000	250

Total	978,000	16,057
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In the wake of the 1948 war, over 850,000 Jews were forced to leave Arab countries where Jews had lived for two millennia.

Sources: Sergio Dellapergola, *World Jewish Population, 2010*, Berman Institute North American Jewish Data Bank at www.jewishdatabank.org/Reports/World_Jewish_Population_2010.pdf and "Fact Sheet: Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries," *Jewish Virtual Library*, September 2012, at www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/talking/jew_refugees.html

Palestinian-Arab Refugees from the Arab War against Israel in 1948

In 1948, 160,000 Arabs who lived within Israel's borders accepted Israel's invitation to choose peace and become Israeli citizens. Between 472,000 and 750,000 Palestinian Arabs (the number is disputed by scholars) left what became Israel for several reasons:

1. To escape the war.¹
2. Because wealthy Arab leaders left, and, without leadership, the Arab communities fell apart.²
3. Because Arab leaders encouraged the masses to get out of the way of the advancing Arab armies, promising that victory would be quick and they could soon return.³
4. Tales of alleged Israeli atrocities caused panic.⁴
5. A small minority of Arab residents were forced from their homes in sensitive, strategic zones vital to the survival of the Jewish state.⁵

¹⁻⁵ Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem: 1947-1949*

Unique Situation of Palestinian Refugees

Tens of millions of refugees from other war-torn areas in the world during this period resettled in other countries, but neighbouring Arab states, with the exception of Jordan, would not resettle the Palestinian Arabs despite their shared history, language, and religion. Instead, Arab governments confined them in refugee neighbourhoods, refused them citizenship, and then used their plight as a propaganda weapon against Israel.

"The Arab states do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it an open sore, as an affront to the UN and as a weapon against Israel."

—Sir Alexander Galloway, former UNRWA official in Jordan, 1952

"Since 1948 Arab leaders...have used the Palestine people for selfish political purposes. This is...criminal." —King Hussein of Jordan, 1960

"All the Arab countries want to keep this problem looking like an open wound." —Ana Liria-Franch, regional representative in Cairo for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2003

The Security Fence

- There was no security fence along the West Bank prior to the violence of the second intifada, when suicide bombers could simply walk into Israel from Palestinian communities.
- Construction of the fence began in 2002. It is 97 per cent fence and 3 per cent wall.
- There are many countries that have security fences and/or walls at their disputed borders, including Northern Ireland, India, Thailand, Kuwait, Cyprus, and South Korea.

Teaching Peace

Unfortunately, Palestinian children are still being taught hatred and violence in mosques and schools and on TV, and Jihad against Israel is still promoted.* For there to be peace in the Middle East, peace must be taught.



***See Palestinian Media Watch at:
www.pmw.org.il and also www.memri.org**

The Hamas Charter* is Violent and Racist

“Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.”

When Israel left Gaza, Hamas was elected the new governing party.

The founding document of Hamas calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews. (You can read the translation of the charter online.)

As long as this remains the guiding document for Hamas or the Palestinian people, the dream of peace remains impossible.

* The Hezbollah and PLO charters are equally violent and racist.

Israel's Security Threats

- Iranian leaders call for Israel to be “wiped off the map” and are racing to build nuclear weapons.
- Iranian-supported proxies Hamas and Hezbollah are building larger military arsenals and threaten Israel on its southern and northern borders.
- The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has been unable or unwilling to eradicate terrorist groups or stop terrorist plots or arms smuggling.



Creating The First Palestinian Arab State In History

Historically, there has never been a Palestinian Arab state or sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza, or Israel.

Israel helped set up the first self-government for the Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority, in the 1993 Oslo Accords. Today the Palestinian Authority governs 95-98 per cent of the Palestinian population in the West Bank.

If Israel agrees to give up parts or most of the West Bank in peaceful negotiations with the Palestinians, it will not be “giving back” land since no sovereign Palestinian government ever existed here. Israel will be helping create, for the first time in history, a sovereign Palestinian nation by giving up parts of the Jewish ancient homeland where Jews have had a continuous presence for three millennia.

West Bank Palestinian Communities:

95-98 per cent of the Palestinian population lives on 40 per cent of the land, leaving 60 per cent virtually unpopulated.



Nablus, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank, is surrounded by undeveloped land.

Most Palestinians in the West Bank live in built-up cities and towns like Nablus and Tulkarm.



Ramallah – the political and economic centre of the Palestinian Authority

Israeli Communities Beyond the Green Line

- After Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan and captured Gaza from Egypt in 1967, Arab states refused Israel's offer to exchange the captured land for peace.
- Israel built settlements to ensure its security, and Israelis resettled lands their families had owned in the West Bank, where Jews had lived for millennia until the 1948 war when they were expelled.
- Built-up areas of Israeli settlements now cover less than 1.7 per cent of West Bank land.¹
- Eighty per cent of Israeli settlers live in communities located close to or adjacent to the Green Line. A peace agreement could incorporate them into Israel with minor border modifications and no impact on Palestinian population centres.

¹ Mahmoud Abbas, June 2009 at www.memri.org/bin/latestnews.cgi?ID=SD244009; B'Tselem reports 1.7% www.btselem.org/english/press_releases/20020513.asp

Human Rights in Israel

- Israel safeguards religious liberty for all faiths.
- The LGBT community is protected against discrimination.
- Education is encouraged equally for both men and women.
- Israel treats honour killings as harshly as other murder crimes.
- Fifty-three per cent of women are in the workforce, similar to the percentage in the U.S.
- Israel is a democratic country that guarantees free speech and assembly as well as fair and open trials.

Arabs Living in Israel

- In 1948, the 160,000 Palestinian Arabs who remained within Israel's borders became citizens of Israel.
- Three Israeli Arabs were elected to the first Knesset, and there were 12 Israeli Arab members of Knesset in 2014.
- Today, 1.6 million Arabs are Israeli citizens.
- Arabic and Hebrew are Israel's two official languages.
- Israel has enacted affirmative action policies to help minorities achieve full social and economic equality.



Israel's Humanitarian Programs

- Israel set up the first advanced field hospital in earthquake-ravaged Haiti and provided assistance to earthquake victims in Turkey, Greece, and Japan.
- Israel's Ethiopian airlifts rescued 90,000 African Jews.
- Israel's Save A Child's Heart (SACH) is the largest program in the world for children from poor nations who need heart surgery.
- Israel was one of the few countries that took in Vietnamese "boat people."
- Israel conducts nearly 300 courses annually for emerging nations and has trained almost 200,000 participants in 130 countries, from Albania to Zimbabwe, in desert agriculture, water management, desertification prevention, emergency and disaster medicine, refugee absorption, and employment programs.

Israel's Innovations– Did you know?

- Israel has the second-highest per capita rate of university degrees, following Canada.
- Israel has the highest ratio of trained scientists and technicians with 135 per 10,000 citizens, compared to 81 in the US, over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany.
- Next to Silicon Valley, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world.
- Israel has the third-largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies in the world, behind the US and China.

Israeli Inventions:

- Most of the Windows NT operating system (Microsoft-Israel)
- AOL Instant Messenger and chat room technologies
- The first PC anti-virus software
- Voice mail technology
- Electro-optic chips and nanotechnology
- Cell phone features (Motorola-Israel)
- The Pentium 4 microprocessor for desktop computers
- The Centrino processor for laptop computers
- Community-driven navigation software (Waze)



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