



# Creation of Israel

## The only Jewish state

With multiple choice Q&A

- First Jews in the land 4,000 years ago
- Emergence of Christianity
- Diaspora
- Islamic conquest of Asia-Africa
- Zionism
- 1948 - re-establishment of the state of Israel
- Expulsion of the Jews from the Muslim world
- Israel's constant battle of defense

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## Overview

Israel is the homeland of the Jewish people, who have lived in it consecutively for the past ~4,000 years, despite persecutions, displacements and are the most ancient ethno-religious group still living on the land. Israel is documented in the Bible as the Promised Land that was given to the Jews by God. Although currently only the size of New Jersey and much smaller than its biblical size, it has served as safe haven to Jews following numerous persecutions. It's now home to ~7 million Jews – most of which were expelled from the Muslim countries. It is a democracy and houses also 2 million Arabs – Muslims, Christians and Druze, all as citizens enjoying full rights.

The Muslim world, consists of ~2 billion Muslims across over 50 countries, most of which consider Israel a Muslim land, which they call Palestine. The Muslim Arabs first occupied it in 630 CE and maintained continuous presence in it for the past 800 years.

## Ancient Israel, the Diaspora and Christianity

Several hundreds of years after the Jews first settled in Israel, they established their kingdom, first ruled by King David, residing in its capital Jerusalem, where they also built their temple. The Roman Empire later conquered the kingdom and exiled them around 70 CE, resulting in the **Diaspora**, during which the majority of Jews were expelled from Israel and scattered throughout North Africa, Asia and Europe.

Christianity, which was derived from Judaism and spread later on to Europe and beyond, was initiated around that time by Jesus Christ, a Jew from Judea, Israel, who spread it in the region.

## The Arab / Muslim Conquest and Colonization

Islam emerged as a religion by the Arabs around 620 CE in present day Saudi Arabia. The Arabs, led by their prophet Mohammed, occupied very

rapidly major parts of Asia and Africa, including Israel, while colonizing the region and spreading the Islamic religion there. They limited rights of Jews and Christians, leading to the Christian Crusaders invasion and rule in ~1100-1200 CE, later replaced following other Muslim invasions.

## Zionism

Although Jews expelled from Israel by the Romans were productive and loyal to their new countries, they faced **antisemitism** – hatred and discrimination against Jews, including vast massacres of Jews throughout history. This was devastating on Jewish population – although they existed since ~4,000 years ago, there are now only 15 million Jews globally.

Jews have then continuously migrated back to their homeland, Israel, to join the communities which have always remained

there. As of the late 1800s, this movement grew and was called **Zionism**. Jews, mainly European, began organizing political movements aimed at returning to Israel and formally re-establishing the Jewish state, also under the hypothesis that if the Jews had their own state, antisemitism would subside.

At this time, the region was ruled by the Ottoman Empire and was very sparsely populated, mostly by Jews and Muslim Arabs. The land was neglected, suffering from low level of personal safety and health. Part of it was an arid desert and another was Malaria-infested swamps. The Zionist movement developed the land – dried up swamps and devised arid agriculture. This also attracted Muslims to the land from all over the Muslim world, looking for new employment opportunities. Nonetheless, increased Jewish immigration and land purchases intensified the fears among the Muslim Arabs, that Zionism was an extension of European colonialism in the region and might take their land and rights.



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## British Mandate

After winning WWI, Britain took control of now-a-days Israel in 1917 under the mandate system, while naming it “Palestine-land-of-Israel”, or in short - mandatory “Palestine” (the name Palestine was after the name “Syria-Palestina”, invented by the Romans in 70 CE for the region after they expelled the Jews from it). During the 1930’s and 1940’s World War II took place, and the Jewish community started being persecuted by Hitler’s Nazi party in the **Holocaust**, which took place mainly in Europe. Some Arab countries, inspired by Nazi ideology, initiated massacres against their Jewish populations, as well. Looking to save their lives, Jews tried to immigrate to mandatory Palestine, which they saw as their rightful and ancestral home. However, Jewish immigration, together with influence from the Nazis, erupted in 1936 in a 3-year violent conflict known as the Arab Revolt. The revolt included intensification of prior massacre of Jews and their displacement from their homes since Biblical times (e.g. - Gaza, Hebron), in addition to a revolt against the British. To appease the Arabs, the British drastically restricted immigration of Jews who tried to escape from the Holocaust and later banned it completely, while enabling mass immigration of Muslims, who wanted to ensure Arab Muslim majority and preempt any foundation of a Jewish state in the region. Jews were then not able to use their historic homeland as safe haven, and 6 million Jews, almost half of the world’s Jewish population, were murdered in the **Holocaust**.

## UN Partition Plan

In 1947, with British soldiers tired of policing Arab-Jewish violence, the British turned mandatory Palestine over to the United Nations (U.N.). While recognizing the need for the Jews to have their own state, the U.N. intended to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict by partitioning mandatory Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Jewish leaders accepted this plan, as they saw the urgent need for safe haven for both European Jews and for Jews in the Muslim countries who were persecuted there. Muslim

Arab leaders however were strongly against giving any part to the Jews.

## Israeli Independence & More War

Israel declared its independence in 1948 and defined in its Declaration of Independence full equality of rights, regardless of race, religion or gender. Nonetheless, the day thereafter, the Muslim Arabs in Israel, together with 6 Muslim Arab countries with trained armies invaded it and the tiny new country had to fight for its life. The new country survived the war and prevented yet another Holocaust. The war resulted though in key regions that were taken over by the Arabs, which then became parts of Egypt and Jordan.

Being a warzone, and also following their leaders’ directions to temporarily leave the land, some of the Muslim Arabs left and became refugees in the neighboring Muslim Arab countries, which did not give them full rights, thereby perpetuating the Palestinian refugee crisis. The Muslim Arabs who stayed enjoyed full rights as Israeli citizens to this very day, including serving in the government and supreme court. In contrast, no Jews remained in the areas of mandatory Palestine conquered by the Muslim Arabs. Also, in their own lands, the Muslims persecuted minorities, such as Jews and Christians, although both lived there many years before the Islamic conquest. Virtually all Jews who lived in the Muslim countries were expelled and now constitute most of Israeli Jewish population.

The war ended in 1949 with cease fire agreements, yet Israel kept on being attacked by its neighbors until this very day. In addition, in 1964, the PLO - Palestine Liberation Organization, was founded by the Arab countries. The PLO aimed at establishing an independent identity for the Arabs living in Israel by coining them as “Palestinians” and creating an Arab Muslim country, instead of Israel. Various peace initiatives took place between Israel and the PLO, yet the PLO has never fully recognized Israel’s right to exist. The PLO was later succeeded and joined by radical Muslim groups, such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, whose goal is the annihilation of all Jews globally. Israel and the Jews are still on the defense.

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### Questions

1. Who were first to inhabit Israel?
  - A. The Arabs
  - B. The Jews
  - C. The Palestinians
  - D. The Muslims
2. For how long did Jews live in Israel consecutively until today?
  - A. Almost 4,000 years
  - B. Since 1948
  - C. Since the crusaders left the country, about 800 years ago
  - D. For the past 1,000 years
3. For how long did the Arab Muslims live in Israel consecutively until today?
  - A. Almost 4,000 years
  - B. Since 1948
  - C. Since they drove the Crusaders out, about 800 years ago
  - D. For the past 1,600 years
4. What is the origin of the Palestinians?
  - A. They are Muslim Arabs, who came from now-a-days Saudi-Arabia around 630 CE. Most of them migrated to the land of Israel in later periods, as of the late 1800s from all over the Muslim world, following Jewish immigration there and the British rule
  - B. From Palestine
  - C. They are British
  - D. From Europe
5. What did the Zionist movement do?
  - A. Destroyed houses
  - B. Sold land to the Arabs
  - C. Supported the British
  - D. Developed the land, dried up swamps and devised arid agriculture
6. Where does the majority of the current Jewish population of Israel come from?
  - A. From Europe
  - B. From the Holocaust
  - C. They were expelled from the Muslim countries
  - D. From Africa
7. When was the term “Palestinians” first used to describe the Arabs living in Israel
  - A. In 630 CE
  - B. In 1964
  - C. In 1947
  - D. About 800 years ago
8. What was the objective of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)?
  - A. To found an Arab Muslim country, instead of Israel
  - B. To found an Arab Muslim country, in addition to Israel
  - C. To support the Arab Muslim population in the region
  - D. To support the Jews
9. How many Muslim countries exist?
  - A. 1
  - B. Over 20
  - C. Over 50
  - D. Over 100
10. How many Jewish countries exist?
  - A. 1
  - B. Over 20
  - C. Over 50
  - D. Over 100
11. Why did Zionist leaders accept the UN proposal in 1947 to split mandatory Palestine into a Jewish state and an Arab state?
  - A. They wanted to have another Jewish country
  - B. They wanted to guarantee safe haven for Jews in the Muslim countries who were persecuted there, as well as for Jews who survived the Holocaust in Europe
  - C. They wanted to continue having the British in the land
  - D. They wanted to prevent the Holocaust



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12. Who fought the Jews after they declared independence in 1948?
  - A. The British
  - B. The Muslim Arabs in Israel, together with 6 additional Muslim Arab countries
  - C. The Palestinians
  - D. The United Nations
13. What was the background of the emergence of the Zionist movement in the 1800s?
  - A. The Holocaust
  - B. Wanting another Jewish country
  - C. Anti-Semitism, which resulted in massacre of entire Jewish communities throughout history
14. Why did Muslims immigrate to mandatory Palestine around the time of the Holocaust?
  - A. They wanted better life abroad
  - B. They wanted to support the British
  - C. They wanted to support the Jewish population in the country
  - D. They wanted to ensure Arab Muslim majority and preempt any foundation of a Jewish state in the region,
15. Israel is the Jewish state, which the UN resolved to establish in mandatory Palestine. What populations live there?
  - A. 7 million Jews
  - B. Palestinians
  - C. 7 million Jews, and 2 million Arabs, as citizens enjoying full rights.
  - D. Jews and British
16. What is the source of the name Palestine?
  - A. An Arab country which existed in the past where Israel currently resides
  - B. The name the Romans invented for land of Israel after they exiled most Jews, and which later on was adopted by the British in 1917
  - C. That's another biblical name for Israel
  - D. The name the U.N. chose in 1947 for the Arab country which was supposed to be founded in Palestine-Israel
17. When did Palestine exist as a country?
  - A. Following the war in 1948 in the areas taken by the Muslim Arabs in Palestine-Israel
  - B. Never. It was the name the Romas invented for the region ("Syria-Palestina") which is now Israel, a name which the British adopted, as well ("Palestine-land-of-Israel").
  - C. In 630 AD
  - D. In 1200 AD after the Crusaders rule
18. What other country existed where Israel is currently located?
  - A. None
  - B. The United Kingdom
  - C. Palestine
  - D. The United Nations
19. How did the British call Israel under their mandate system?
  - A. Israel
  - B. Palestine
  - C. Palestine-land-of-Israel, or in short: mandatory Palestine
  - D. Judea
20. What happened to the Jews in the areas of Palestine-land-of-Israel which were occupied by the Muslim Arabs?
  - A. They remained there to this very day
  - B. Like the Jews in the Muslim countries themselves, who were persecuted out of there, they all fled to the areas secured by the Jews, which then became the state of Israel
  - C. They received asylum by the British.
  - D. They were defined as refugees by the United Nations.

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### Answers

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. B
8. A
9. C
10. A
11. B
12. B
13. C
14. D
15. C
16. B
17. B
18. A
19. C
20. B