



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, and as documented in the Bible and evidenced by numerous archaeological findings, the Jews first settled there ~4,000 years ago and are the most ancient ethno-religious group still living on the land. Jewish presence in Israel has been continuous since ~4,000 years ago, despite persecutions, displacements and attacks from foreign conquerors and empires. It is the only country that has ever existed on that land and 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's now home to ~7 million Jews, and serves as safe haven to Jews, following centuries of living as minorities under oppressive rule and suffering from violent persecutions, mainly in Europe and the Muslim world. Most of Israel's Jewish population are Jews who were expelled from the Muslim world. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and houses also ~2 million Arabs – mostly Muslim, but also Christian and Druze – all as citizens enjoying full rights.

The Muslim world, consists of ~2 billion Muslims across over 50 countries, most of which do not recognize Israel, and rather consider it a Muslim land, which they call Palestine. Israel was first occupied by the Muslim Arabs around ~630 CE, and they have kept continuous presence in it for the past 800 years.



Ancient Israel

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 holy temple.

The Ancient Jewish Temple in Jerusalem (Illustration)



Biblical Israel stretched across major parts of present-day Jordan, Lebanon and Syria, and small parts of Egypt



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The Roman Empire later conquered the kingdom and exiled the Jews around 70 CE, resulting in the Jewish **Diaspora**, during which the majority of Jews were expelled from Israel and scattered throughout North Africa, Asia and Europe. In addition to this, the Romans tried to disassociate the link between the Jews and the land, by renaming the region "Syria-Palestina".

The Wailing Wall - the remains of the ruins of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem



Nonetheless, following this dispersal and no matter where Jews have lived in their history, they always maintained a deep relationship with the Land of Israel, and with the Jewish community there, while keeping this connection part of their rituals, prayers and observances. For instance, when Jews pray, they always face the direction of Jerusalem.

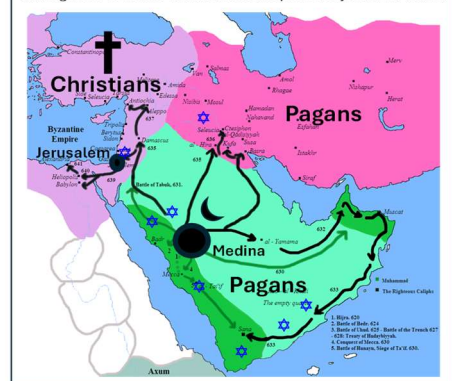
Emergence of Christianity

Around a century prior to the Romans exile of the Jews, Jesus was born to a Jewish family in Bethlehem, a town located in Judea / Israel, not far from Jerusalem. Jesus practiced Judaism during all of his lifetime, yet preached several additional important ideas. His followers were called disciples and called him the "Messiah," a term that means savior in Hebrew. The Romans, who were pagans (believers in multiple Gods), saw Jesus (promoter of a belief in only one God) as a threat to their authority and to the Roman Empire. As a result, Jesus was sentenced to death by crucifixion, which was a common form of execution in the Roman Empire at that time. His followers spread his ideas, while calling him "Christ", the Greek word for Messiah. His ideas became the basis for Christianity and the "New Testament," which starts with the teachings of Christ. Nonetheless, Christianity shares its roots with Judaism - the Christian "Old Testament" is the Jewish Bible. Christianity eventually spread across Israel and the region, and later on to Europe - the heart of the Roman Empire. The Romans, being pagan, persecuted Jews and Christians, until they decided to legalize Christianity in 313 CE, and adopt it as the official religion of their empire in 380 CE.

Emergence of Islam and the Arab / Muslim Conquest

Islam emerged as a religion by the Arabs around 620 CE in present-day Saudi Arabia. At that time, the region was inhabited by Christians, Jews and pagans. The Arabs, led by their prophet Mohammed, conquered very rapidly major parts of Asia and Africa, including Israel, while spreading the Islamic religion there by force. They built the Al-Aqsa Mosque on top of the ruins of the Jewish temple in Jerusalem. They called non-Muslims, such as Jews and Christians, "Dhimmis", while limiting their rights, including freedom of religion, and imposing a special tax on

Emergence of Islam from Medina in presently Saudi-Arabia



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them, known as the “Jizya” tax. This eventually led to the Christian Crusader invasion and a short rule in the region between ~1100-1200 CE, which ended with further Muslim invasions - the Mamluks and then the Ottoman Turks, which ruled until 1917, when the British gained control towards the end of World War I.

Zionism and the Diaspora

Although Jews expelled from Israel by the Romans were productive and loyal to their new countries and tried to assimilate, they faced **Antisemitism** - hatred and discrimination against Jews, including many persecutions, pogroms and massacres of entire Jewish communities throughout history. These events were often preceded by various blood libels – false accusations against Jews, alleging that they killed non-Jews and used their blood in religious rituals. These baseless claims were intended to incite hatred against Jews and thereby catalyzed the pogroms and mass massacres against them which followed. Antisemitism had such a critical impact on the Jewish population, as evidenced by the fact that although they have been in existence for the past ~4,000 years, there are only 15 million of them globally. Because of the deep connection Jews maintained with their homeland, they routinely embarked on pilgrimages to Israel and sought to return permanently to the land and to the Jewish communities that remained there. In light of growing Antisemitism in the 19th century, Jews began to organize a liberation movement called Zionism (after the word “Zion”, which is another name for Biblical Israel). The movement, led mostly by European Jews, called for Jewish self-determination and a formal re-establishment of a state in the Jewish ancient homeland of Israel. By the late 1800s, European Jews started the physical movement back to the Land of Israel, also under the hypothesis that if the Jews had their own state, Antisemitism would subside.

At this time, the land was ruled by the Ottoman Empire and was very sparsely populated, mostly by Jews and Muslim Arabs. The land was neglected, suffering from very low level of personal safety and health. Part of it was an arid desert and another was Malaria-infested swamps. Early Zionists that moved to this region developed the land – dried up swamps and devised arid agriculture. Nonetheless, increased Jewish immigration and land purchases intensified the fears among the

Arab Muslims, that Zionism was an extension of European colonialism in the region and might threaten their land and rights. Arabs in the region resisted Jewish immigration and violent clashes took place periodically. At the same time, Muslims, mainly Arabs, started immigrating to the land, due to political reasons – to counter Jewish immigration, as well as due to the economic development of the land created by the Zionists.

Zionists, called the Pioneers, drying Malaria-infested swamps in Israel



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British Mandate and the Holocaust

After winning World War I, the two dominant powers in the League of Nations, Britain and France, split rule over regions of the Middle East, and established the mandate system. Britain received current day Iraq, Jordan and Israel. The latter was named by the British in Hebrew “Palestine-land-of-Israel”, or shorter in English - mandatory “Palestine” (the name Palestine was after the name “Syria-Palestina” which was given by the Romans to the region upon expelling most Jews from it). The standalone term “Palestinian” did not exist as a designation for any specific people who originated from the land of Palestine. Rather, the people who lived on the land were then called either Palestinian Arabs, or Palestinian Jews. Just before receiving the mandate over Palestine, the British made the Balfour Declaration in 1917, a statement of British support for “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”, although this statement was seen as contradictory to the Hussein-McMahon correspondence from 1915-1916, which conveyed support for an Arab state in large parts of the Middle-East.

The Flag used by Jews in mandatory Palestine during the British mandate



The ancient synagogue in Hebron, Judea (later called West Bank) after the massacre committed by the Muslim Arabs against the Jewish population in 1929. Following the massacre, the Jewish community in Hebron, which existed since thousands of years, was eradicated



sales to them. Between 1939 - 1945 World War II took place, and the Jews started being persecuted and mass massacred by Hitler's Nazi party mainly in Europe, in what is known as the **Holocaust**. In addition, 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

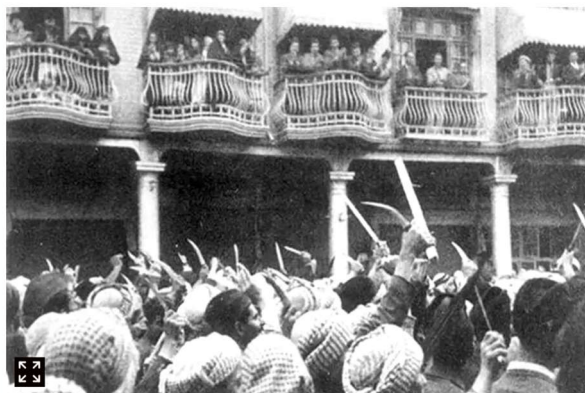
Increasing Jewish immigration and strategic land purchases resulted in a series of Arab riots and violence against Jews, also leading to the eradication of ancient Jewish communities, such as those of Hebron (in Judea – later called West Bank) and Gaza. The British, who were charged with maintaining peace between the Arabs and the Jews, reacted by limiting Jewish immigration and restricting land

A group of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto during the Holocaust



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"the Farhud" - Muslim Arab mob in Iraq in an organized massacre against the Jews in 1941 during the British rule



1941 - Haj Amin Al-Husseini, a renowned Muslim Arab leader from Palestine, discussing with Adolf Hitler how to collaborate on the annihilation of Jews in mandatory Palestine



Palestine, which they saw as their rightful home since Biblical times. However, Jewish immigration to mandatory Palestine, together with influence from the Nazis, erupted in 1936 in a 3-year violent conflict known as the Arab Revolt. The revolt was a continuation of the 1929 pogroms, which included the massacre of Jews and the eradication of Jewish communities since Biblical times, in addition to an uprising against the British. To appease the Arabs, the British issued a white paper that completely closed the borders to the Jews who tried to escape the Holocaust, while still enabling mass immigration of Arabs to Israel. Jews were therefore not able to use their historic homeland as a safe haven, and **6 million Jews, over a third of the world's entire Jewish population at that time, were massacred in the Holocaust.**

UN Partition Plan (Resolution 181)

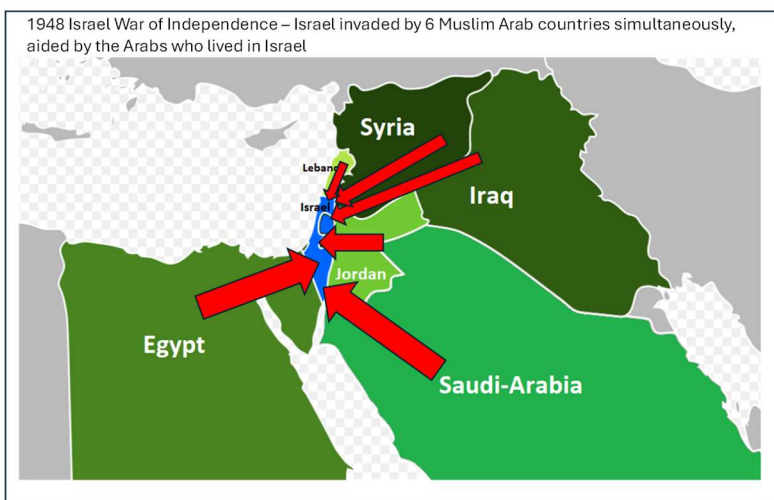
Tired of policing Arab-Jewish violence and recovering from WWII, the British turned mandatory Palestine over to the United Nations (U.N.) in 1947. While recognizing the need for the Jews to have their own state following the Holocaust, the U.N. intended to solve the Arab-Israeli conflict by partitioning mandatory Palestine into two states, one Jewish and one Arab. Jewish leaders accepted this plan, despite being offered mostly non-habitable desert, as they saw the urgent need for a safe haven for both European Jews and for Jews escaping the Muslim lands, following centuries of persecutions there. Arab leaders however were strongly against the partition and opposed giving any part of the land to the Jews.

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Israel Independence & More War

Israel declared its independence in May 1948. In its Declaration of Independence, it invited the Arabs to take part in state development and offered them “full and equal citizenship and the representation in all its bodies and institutions”, while upholding “full social and political equality of all its citizens, without distinction of race, creed, or sex; will guarantee full freedom of conscience, worship, education, and culture.”

Nonetheless, the day after independence was declared, the Muslim Arabs in Israel, together with 6 Muslim Arab countries with trained armies invaded Israel, and the tiny new country had to fight for its life.



Israel survived the war and prevented yet another Holocaust. The war resulted though in regions taken by the Arabs, which then became parts of Egypt, which took the Gaza strip, and Jordan, which took Judea & Samaria – the cradle of the Jewish people, an area which started being called “the West Bank”, standing for the part of Jordan on the west bank of the Jordan river. The war also resulted in a partial exchange of populations between Israel and the Muslim world, whereby: (1) Some Muslim Arabs who lived in the areas taken by Israel ended up in the neighboring Arab countries as refugees; (2)

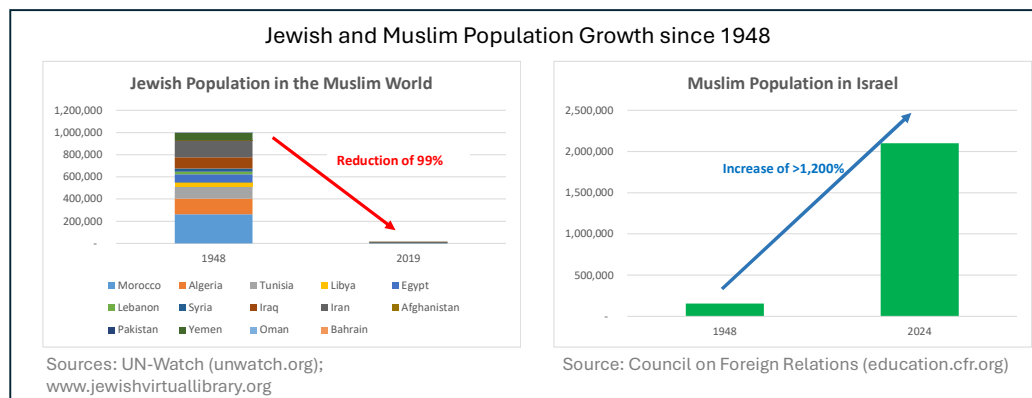
All the Jews who lived in the areas of mandatory Palestine taken by the Muslim Arabs (inc. Temple Mount – the holiest site for Jews), and virtually all the Jews who lived in the Muslim countries themselves were forced to flee, most of which moved to Israel.



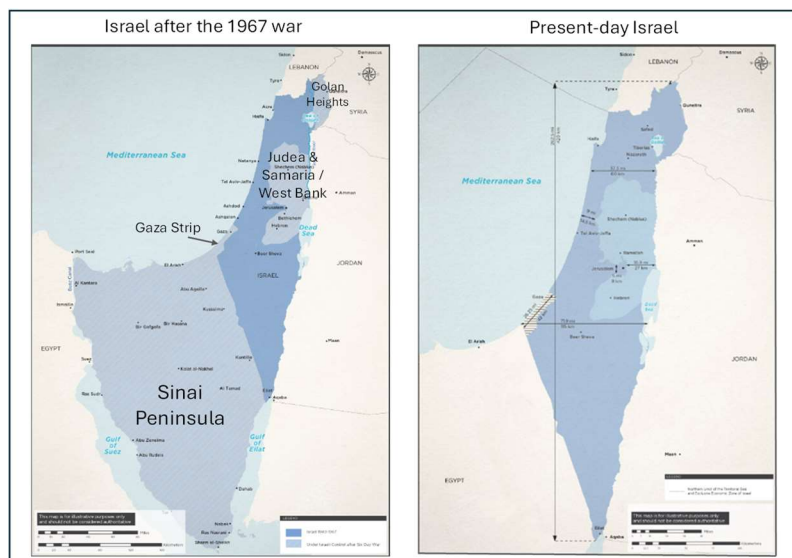
During the war many Muslim Arabs who lived in the areas taken by Israel left their homes, primarily due to the fact that the land became a warzone and following the direction from some of their leaders to do so temporarily for their own safety until the Arabs were able to win the war. Those Arabs who left their homes became refugees in the neighboring Muslim Arab countries. Despite the fact that many of them originated from those Muslim Arab countries, those countries did not grant them full citizenship and rights, thereby leaving them and their descendants as stateless refugees to this very day and perpetuating the Palestinian refugee problem. Those Arabs who stayed in Israel have enjoyed full rights as citizens, including serving in the government and

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sitting on Israel's supreme court, while also enjoying Israel naming Arabic one of its two official languages, together with Hebrew. In contrast, no Jews remained in the areas of mandatory Palestine conquered by the Muslim Arabs. In addition, virtually all Jews who lived in the Muslim countries themselves were expelled and constitute most of current Israeli Jewish population.



The war, also called the War of Independence, ended in 1949 with an armistice agreement, yet Israel kept on being attacked by its Muslim neighbors, with key wars that took place in 1956, 1967, 1973, and 1982. In 1967 Israel was sieged by 5 of its Muslim Arab neighboring countries and was forced into war, yet managed to win it and take the areas that it lost in the War of Independence - Judea & Samaria / West Bank from Jordan, and Gaza Strip from Egypt. In addition, Israel took control of the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt and the Golan Heights from Syria. Despite constituting half of its total size, Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in exchange for a peace agreement in 1979, and gave some areas to Jordan for a peace agreement in 1994.



In addition to Israel's neighboring Muslim countries which have attacked it, and even before Israel gained control over Judea and Samaria / West Bank and Gaza Strip, the PLO - Palestine Liberation Organization, was founded in 1964 by a group of Muslim Arab countries, and was led as of 1968 by the Egyptian, Yasser Arafat. The PLO aimed at establishing an independent identity for the Arabs living in Israel and coined them as "Palestinians", and at creating an Arab Muslim country, in place of Israel - "from the (Jordan) River to the (Mediterranean) Sea". The PLO terrorized Israelis and Jews worldwide for many years, culminating in an armed uprising ("Intifada") in the 1980s. Israel engaged in peace talks with the PLO, while giving the Palestinian Arabs living in Judea & Samaria / West Bank autonomy, and pulling out completely from the Gaza Strip in 2005, while giving full sovereignty to the local Arab population. Although the PLO

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formally recognized Israel in 1993, the Palestinian Arabs were unable to organize effectively and factions intensified terrorism against Israel, while killing thousands of Israelis, and not abandoning their aspiration to establish a Muslim Arab country in place of Israel.

In 2006 the PLO lost the Palestinian elections to Hamas, an even more radical Muslim Palestinian group, whose proclaimed aim is the annihilation of all Jewish people worldwide. Hamas took formal control over Gaza Strip, which was already free of any Israeli presence since a year before. Since they took over, and together with another radical Palestinian organization, the Islamic Jihad, they have continuously launched hundreds of thousands of rockets over Israeli villages and towns. This terror culminated in their invasion to Israel in Oct '23, while carrying out the largest massacre against Jews since the Holocaust, which included murdering over 1,200 people and taking over 250 hostages to Gaza, including babies, women and the elderly. This forced Israel into war in order to save the hostages, stop the rocket attacks, and regain military presence in Gaza. The above Muslim Palestinian terror groups have been part of a larger group of Islamic terror organizations, such as Hezbollah and the Houthis, backed by Iran, and whose aim is also the annihilation of the Jewish people worldwide.



Israel Today

Israel serves as a safe haven for Jews globally, yet has a very varied ethnic makeup. Over 20% of its population is non-Jewish, mainly Muslim Arabs, who enjoy full citizenship and rights. Israel is home to other persecuted minorities in the Middle East, such as Christian and Druze Arabs. Israel's Jewish population consists mainly of Jews who were forced out of the Muslim countries.

Being so drastically outnumbered in its constant fight for survival, Israel has had to develop technological supremacy and a culture of creativity and innovation. It is called "the Startup Nation", and is a world leader in high-tech, defense, medical technology and irrigation solutions. Israel is also the only democracy in the Middle East.

Despite diplomatic relations that Israel has with a few Muslim countries, Israel's greatest challenge is the lack of peace between it and most of the Muslim world, most of which doesn't recognize Israel's right to exist, including some radical organizations, Palestinian and other, whose objective is the annihilation of all Jews globally. This lack of peace includes Israel's relations with the Arab Palestinian population in the Gaza Strip, and in Judea & Samaria / West Bank. Various peace initiatives failed, mainly due to the lack of a stable Palestinian leadership willing to recognize Israel's right to exist and accept a two-state solution – an Arab Palestinian state living in peace side by side Israel, rather than instead of it. Israel and the Jews still need to be 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

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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
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
 - D. The British

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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, in addition to employment reasons following the development of the land by the Zionists and the British
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 Romans 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

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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 and enjoyed full rights 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