

Timeline of Modern Israeli History (1890-2014)

1890's Theodor Herzl realizes anti-Semitism in Europe runs deep and seeks to raise enthusiasm and funds for a Jewish state.

1897 First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in Basle, Switzerland.

1909 First Kibbutz, Degania, founded on the shores of the Kinneret.

- . Tel Aviv the first Hebrew-speaking city is built.

- . HaShomer the first Jewish defense force is created.*

1917 Britain endorses the Balfour Declaration acknowledging the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Palestine.

1919-1923 Approximately 40,000 Jews arrive from Russia.

1920 Histadrut (Jewish Labor Federation) and Haganah (Jewish defense force) formed.

1922 Britain grants Mandate for Palestine by League of Nations; Trans-Jordan received 3/4 of the territory leaving 1/4 for the Jewish national homeland.

1924-1929 80,000 Jews immigrate to Palestine, mostly from Poland.

1925 Hebrew University of Jerusalem opens on Mt. Scopus.

1929 Jewish settlers attacked by Arab militants in Hebron. *

1933-1939 Nearly 25,000 German Jews escape Hitler's Germany.

1936-1939 Anti-Jewish riots set off by Arab militants who resent the large influx of Jews.*

1941 Palmach, the striking force of the Haganah, formed.

1945 Arab boycott of companies doing business with Israel.*

1948 Ben Gurion declares the birth of the State of Israel.

1948-1949 Israel's War for Independence.*

1948 Formation of the IDF (Israel Defense Force) a citizen army.

1948-1952 Massive immigration of Jews from Arab and European countries .

1949 Armistice agreements signed with Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria.

- . Jerusalem declared capital of Israel; Jerusalem divided between Jordan and Israel.
- . Formation of the first Knesset led by David ben Gurion
- . Israel admitted to UN as 59th member.

1956 Sinai Campaign - fought to put an end to terrorist incursions into Israel and open the Egyptian blockade of Eilat.*

1964 Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) founded .*

1967 Egypt closes the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping and deploys thousands of troops along the border with Israel (Sinai Peninsula).*

- . Six Day War triples Israel's territory, provides defensible borders, and reunites Jerusalem.*
- . UN resolution 242 sets guidelines for future negotiations on Middle East peace.
- . Khartoum Conference of Arab leaders issues the three "no's": No Peace,
- . No Recognition, No Negotiation.*

1967-1970 Egypt wages sporadic attacks on Israeli settlements called the War of Attrition.*

1970 Black September - King Hussein of Jordan banishes the PLO because of power struggles.*

1972 Munich Massacre - Arab terrorists murder 11 Israeli Olympic athletes.*

1973 Yom Kippur War - Surprise attack on holiest day by Syria, Egypt, & Jordan.*
. UN Resolution 338 - Security Council orders ceasefire, implementation of Resolution 242, and direct negotiations for peace.

1975 UN Resolution 3379 equates Zionism with racism.*

1976 Israel mounts heroic rescue of hostages taken by plane to Entebbe, Uganda.*

1977 After 30 years of Labor Party rule, Menachem Begin of Likud becomes Prime Minister.

. Egyptian President, Anwar Sadat, visits Israel and speaks to the Knesset.

1978 Israel invades Lebanon (Operation Litani) to stop PLO terrorism.

. UN Resolution 425 calls for Israel to withdraw troops from Lebanon*

. Camp David Accords - President Carter joins Begin and Sadat to set framework for comprehensive peace in the Middle East & a peace accord between Egypt and Israel.

1979 Peace Treaty signed between Egypt and Israel; Sadat & Begin receive Nobel Peace Prize.

1981 Israel destroys Iraqi nuclear reactor before it becomes active.

- . Egyptian President Anwar Sadat assassinated; Hosni Mubarak becomes President.*

1982 Operation Peace in Galilee - Leads to the Lebanon War as IDF tries to oust the PLO which continues to attack Israel's northern settlements.*

- . Israel effectively routs the PLO from Beirut, Lebanon.
- . Christian Phalange forces kill hundreds in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila.*

1983 Kahan Commission finds Ariel Sharon and others indirectly responsible for tragedy in Sabra & Shatila.

- . Israel begins partial pull out from Lebanon.
- . Hezbollah suicide bomber attacks US marine headquarters killing 140 Americans.*

1987-1991 First Intifada (throwing off) - Palestinians throw stones and riot against Israel; suicide bombings on the rise.

1990-1991 Operation Desert Storm/Gulf War - Iraqi missiles fall on Israel as US pushes Iraqi forces out of Kuwait; Palestinians support Saddam Hussein.*

1991 Madrid Peace Conference calls for peaceful resolution of Middle East conflict.

- . UN rescinds Resolution 3379 equating Zionism with racism.

1992 New Israeli government, led by Yitzhak Rabin of the Labor Party, restarts negotiations for Middle East peace.

- . Attack on Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires kills 29 and injures hundreds.

1993 Oslo Declaration of Principles announced by Israeli and Palestinian leaders.

1994 Israel-Jordan peace treaty signed.

1994 Yitzhak Rabin, Shimon Peres, and Yasser Arafat awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

1995 Yitzhak Rabin assassinated at peace rally in Tel Aviv by right-wing fanatic,
Yigal Amir.

1996 First and only election of the Palestinian Council; Arafat becomes President
with 90% of the vote.

. Violence erupts as a tunnel is opened next to the Temple Mount claiming
70 Israeli and Palestinian lives.*

1998 Israel celebrates 50 years!

2000 Israel withdraws unilaterally from Lebanon.

. Camp David Summit - President Clinton, Shimon Peres, & Yasser Arafat
fail to come up with a peace agreement.

. Beginning of Second Intifada; Palestinians use Ariel Sharon's visit to the
Temple Mount as an excuse to begin rioting and committing acts of
violence.*

2001 Peace talks underway in Taba, Sinai Peninsula, but end when Arafat
accuses Israel of being "fascist".

. Ariel Sharon, a hawk, becomes PM with largest margin in Israeli history.

. Mitchell Commission issues recommendations for restoring peace and
restarting negotiations; Sharon agrees to accept the report in full.

- . September 2001 Islamic terrorists attack US - credited to the fanatic Middle Eastern terrorist group, Al Qaeda.
- . Thousands of Palestinians take to the streets in celebration* while most of the world mourns.
- . US begins war on terror.
- . Israel declares day of national mourning.

2002 Israel captures Karine, a ship laden with 50 tons of illegal arms bound for the Palestinian Authority.*

2003 Israel re-elects Ariel Sharon as PM.

2005 Israel withdraws unilaterally from the Gaza Strip, uprooting thousands of Israeli settlers from their homes.

2006 Members of the military wing of Hamas attack a border crossing from Gaza killing two soldiers and capturing Corporal Gilad Shalit triggering an international call for his release.*

- . Another Iran-sponsored terrorist group, Hezbollah, attacks Israel from the north killing eight soldiers and capturing two others; the attack begins a month-long military conflict in which Hezbollah launches 3,970 missiles at Israeli cities killing 162 Israelis - Arabs and Jews.*
- . Hamas wins by a landslide in Palestinian legislative elections; US, Europe, and Israel cut off aid to Palestinians declaring Hamas a terrorist organization plotting the destruction of Israel.
- . Violence and rivalry erupt between Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

- . Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah tries to prevent civil war; President Abbas advocates a two-state solution; Prime Minister Ismail Haniya and his Islamist party deny Israel's right to exist advocating a pan-Arab caliphate.

2007 Israel transfers \$100 million in tax revenue into Palestinian Authority account to cover humanitarian needs, bolster Abbas, and keep money out of the hands of Hamas.

- . Battle for Gaza begins; Hamas takes Gaza from PA
- . Annapolis Peace Conference calls for a two-state solution.

2008 Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad and other militant organizations in Gaza send barrage of rockets into the Israeli city Ashkelon; hostages of Hezbollah, Goldwasser & Regev found dead.

- . Israel launches Operation Cast Lead against Hamas in Gaza after repeated rocket firing into the south of Israel.*

2009 Operation Cast Lead lasts 22 days; Israel and Hamas offer separate unilateral ceasefires. Number of casualties disputed.*

- . Attacks continue on both sides.*

2010 The IDF carries out two airstrikes against weapons tunnels in Gaza used by Hamas to stage attacks on Israel and smuggle in rockets.

- . Gaza Flotilla Raid - Turkish supporters of the Palestinians try to break Israel's blockade of Gaza. The flotilla was intercepted by IDF; found activists armed and fighting.*
- . US initiates direct talks between Israel and the PA in Washington, DC.;

second round concludes in Sharm Al Sheik, Egypt; PA submits plan for territorial exchange in the West Bank; Israel does not .

2011 Itamar Massacre - Armed Palestinians entered the village killing five members of the Fogel family. *

- . Jerusalem bus bombing.*
- . Hamas attacks school bus.*
- . Egyptian & Palestinian militants attack across Israel's southern border.*
- . PA leader Abbas initiates UN resolution for Palestinian statehood.
- . Palestine wins recognition by UNESCO; vote on statehood postponed.

2012 Rate of attacks across Gaza continues to grow; Gaza launches 300 missiles and mortar shells into southern Israel.

- . Operation Pillar of Defense - Israel Air Force (IAF) kills second in command of Hamas military wing.
- . UN General Assembly updates Palestine to non-member observer state status.
- . In response Israel approves enlarging settlements in the area connecting Jerusalem and Maale Adumim in the West Bank.

2013 Attacks continue on both sides; Bibi Netanyahu becomes PM for third time.

2014 Three hitch hiking Israeli teens from Gush Etzion, Naftali Frenkel, Eyal Yifrah, & Gilad Sha'ar, were kidnapped by Hamas operatives and murdered in the West Bank.

- . The search for the missing boys was followed by Jews around the world.
- . In retaliation, an ultra Orthodox man and two teens search for a lone Arab boy, find Mohammad Khdeir, capture him, and burn him alive. Jews around the world are mortified.
- . Hamas sends an unrelenting barrage of rockets, missiles, and drones to Israeli cities around the country - targeting Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Ben Gurion Airport.
- . Israel launches Operation Protective Edge on July 8th and uses the Iron Dome to protect its civilians.
- . The first 10 days, the IDF retaliates with air strikes. The IDF sends leaflets, texts, and made phone calls to warn Palestinian civilians before an attack.
- . Hamas uses Palestinians as human shields to protect their rockets - hiding missiles, rockets, & drones in schools, hospitals, and private homes. Hamas capitalizes on the media coverage of death and destruction they say is "caused" by Israel.
- . After 10 days of unrelenting rocket launches into Israeli cities, PM Netanyahu made the difficult decision to call up ground troops to blow up the many tunnels from which Hamas attacks and brings rockets into Gaza. Netanyahu regretted that this would increase the death toll on both sides.
- . Estimated death toll 1,900 Gazans, 67 Israelis; anti-Semitism rising around the world.

- . Secretary of State John Kerry and President El Sisi of Egypt try to broker cease fires for humanitarian aid. A 72 hour cease fire enabling time for negotiation broke down. Hamas refuses to demilitarize and demands opening of the sea blockade which would allow many more missiles to be brought into Gaza. The Hamas charter rejects the right of Israel to exist.

Food for Thought:

- . What does Hamas really want? How do we know?
- . What does Israel want?
- . How does the history of wars, incursions, atrocities, and aborted peace talks lead to the current stalemate?
- . Does Fatah have what it takes to negotiate for the Palestinian people?
- . Do you think PM Netanyahu was right to expand Operation Protective Edge with ground forces despite the possibility of high civilian casualties of both sides?
- . What do you think Israel's next moves should be?

Sources: Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, Myths & Facts

Wikipedia, Timeline of the Israeli Political Conflict

Haaretz.com

* Actions against Israel