

# 17

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## Israel: Dreaming of Deliverance

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From the beaches of Tel Aviv to Jerusalem's "Western Wall," and from the sands of the Negev Desert to the snowy peaks and vineyards of the Golan, in this class we'll explore the complicated and beautiful story of the re-birth of the Jewish State.



# People, Land, and State

Each of the three phrases below refers to a different facet of the word “Israel.”

What does each phrase mean? How do each of them relate to each other, and to you?

AM Yisrael

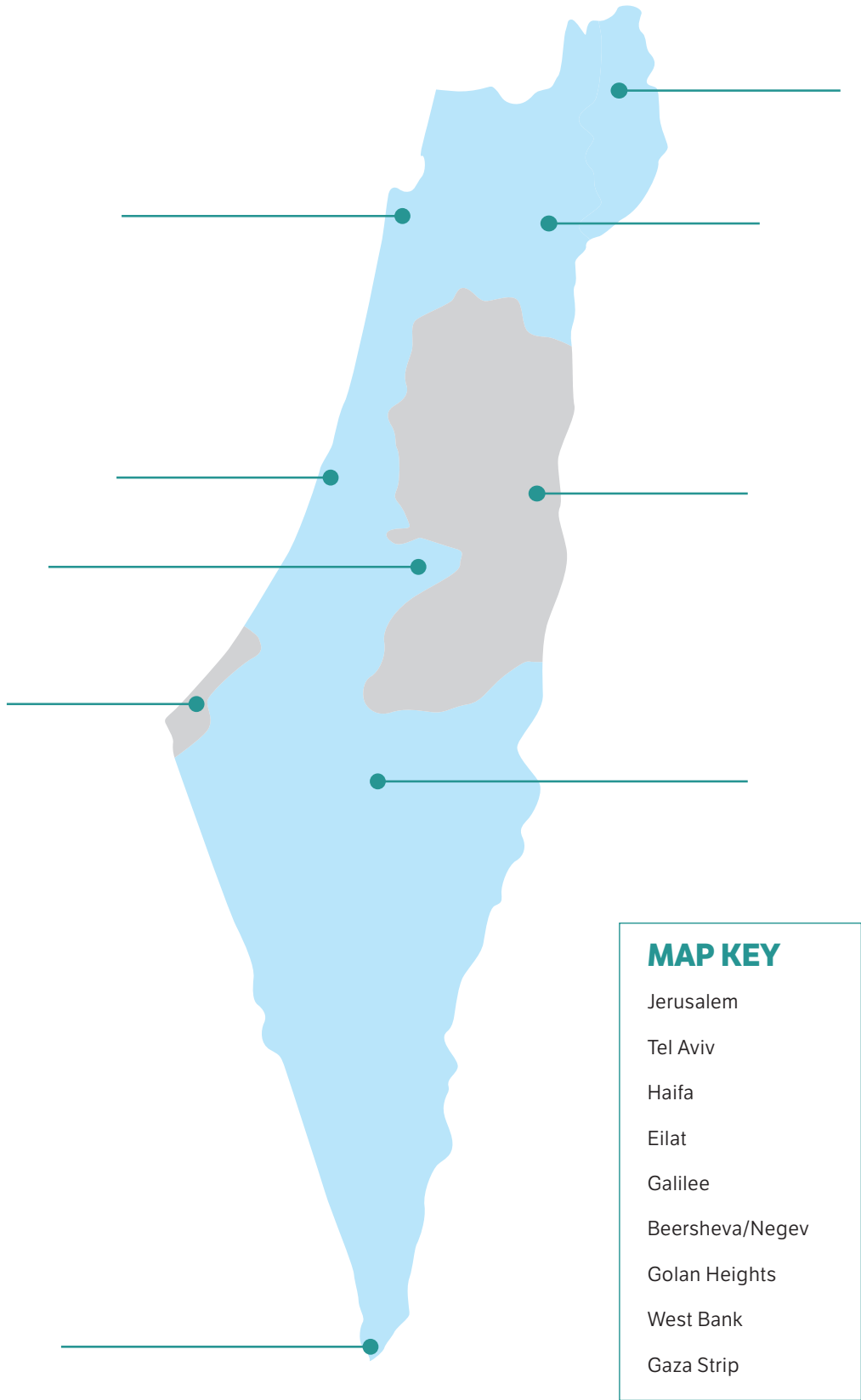
ERETZ Yisrael

MEDINAT Yisrael

“ לְבִי בְּמִזְרָח, וְאֲנוּכִי בְּסוֹף מִמְּעַרְב. ”

My heart is the East, and I am at the ends of the West.

Yehudah Ha-Levi (1075-1141)



# By the Rivers of Babylon

## Psalm 126

A song for ascending.  
When God restores the exiles of Zion  
We will be like dreamers.  
Our mouths will fill with laughter and our tongues with joyful song.  
It will be said among the nations:  
God has done great things for them!  
God will do great things for us, and we will have joy.  
Restore us, Adonai,  
Like streams of water to the desert.  
The ones who sow in tears  
Shall reap with songs of joy!  
Though he goes along weeping, carrying his bag of seed,  
He will come with joy, carrying his sheaves.

## Psalm 137

By the rivers of Babylon, we sat down and wept,  
When we remembered Zion.  
Among the weeping willows, we hung our harps.  
Our captors demanded that we sing a song,  
They would say: "Sing us a song of Zion!"  
How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land?  
**If I forget you Jerusalem, let me forget my right hand.**

# Ha-Tikvah

Israel's National Anthem

כָּל עוֹד בְּלִבְבֵי פְּנִימָה

*Kol od ba'le'vav p'nima*

As long as deep within the heart

נֶפֶשׁ יְהוּדֵי הוֹמִיָּה

*Nefesh yehudi ho'miyah*

A Jewish soul stirs

וְלִפְאַתֵי מִזְרָח, קְדִימָה

*U'lefa-atei mizrach kadimah*

And forward, to the ends of the East

עֵין לְצִיּוֹן צוֹפֵיָה

*Ayin le'Tziyyon tzofiyah*

An eye looks out, towards Zion

עוֹד לֹא אָבְדָה תִּקְוַתֵּנוּ

*Od lo avda tikva-teinu*

Our hope is not yet lost

הַתִּקְוָה בְּת שְׁנֹת אַלְפִים

*Ha'tikvah bat sh'not al-payim*

The hope of two thousand years

לְהִיּוֹת עַם חֶפְשִׁי בְּאֶרְצֵנוּ

*Lih-yot am chofshi b'ar-tzeinu*

To be a free people in our land

אֶרֶץ צִיּוֹן וְיְרוּשָׁלַיִם

*Eretz Tziyyon v'Yerushalayim*

The land of Zion and Jerusalem



Use your smartphone's  
QR reader to hear Ha-Tikvah sung or  
visit [intro.aju.edu/music](http://intro.aju.edu/music)

# A Timeline of the Zionist Movement

IN EUROPE

**1862**

Moses Hess writes *Rome and Jerusalem* — the first widely distributed Zionist book in Europe.

**1894**

The Dreyfus Affair occurs in France. Theodor Herzl, a Hungarian-born secular Jew, covers the Dreyfus Affair as a journalist for an Austrian newspaper. He becomes convinced that the establishment of a Jewish State is a necessity for the survival of the Jewish People.

**1890**

The term “Zionism” is coined for the growing Jewish nationalist movement by Nathan Birnbaum, an Austrian publisher.

**1896**

Herzl publishes his first major Zionist pamphlet, *Der Judenstaat* (The Jewish State).

**1903**

The Sixth Zionist Congress deadlocks on the question of whether to support the establishment of a Jewish State in Uganda.

**1897**

First Zionist Congress convenes in Basel, Switzerland and gains the attention of many prominent Jews.

IN ISRAEL

**1880**

**1878**

Petach Tikvah, the first new Jewish settlement, is built. Naphtali Hirsch Imber writes “Hatikvah.”

**1882**

The First Aliyah begins. This is a group composed almost entirely of Jews from Eastern Europe with some from Yemen.

**1881**

Eliezer Ben Yehudah, the father of the modern Hebrew language, makes aliyah.

**1890**

**1900**

**1910**

**1909**

Tel Aviv is established, as is the first kibbutz, Degania.

**1904**

The Second Aliyah begins. It consists mainly of young, secular, socialist Jews fleeing pogroms in Russia. About 40,000 immigrate at this time.

**1917**

The beginning of the British Mandate. The British Army gained control of this area from the Ottomans as a result of the treaties ending World War I. In November, the British release a statement called The Balfour Declaration, officially giving support to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine.

**1939**

The British issue The White Paper, effectively cutting-off Jewish emigration to Palestine. WWII begins.

**1945**

WWII ends with Germany's unconditional defeat. The world is shocked by graphic images from the liberated concentration camps.

**1947**

The UN approves United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181, which would split Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, with Jerusalem as an international city. It passes with 33 votes in favor, including the United States and the USSR, 13 against, and 10 (including the UK) abstaining.

**1941**

The "Final Solution" begins in Poland. Over the next four years, six million Jews would be killed.

**1920**

**1920**

The Haganah is established as an underground military organization; it later becomes the basis of the Israel Defense Force (IDF).

**1930**

**1936**

The British Government suggests a Partition Plan that would lead to an Arab and a Jewish state within the current British Mandate.

**1940**

**1948**

The State of Israel declares its establishment on May 14th. The next day, five neighboring Arab countries — Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq — declare war, beginning the War of Independence, which lasts until January 1949.

**1949**

First elections in Israel make David Ben Gurion Israel's first Prime Minister.

**1950**

**1950**

The Knesset passes the "Law of Return" guaranteeing all Jews the right to make aliyah and claim immediate citizenship.

# Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel

ERETZ-YISRAEL was the birthplace of the Jewish People. Here their spiritual, religious, and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance, and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books.

After being forcibly exiled from their land, the People kept faith with it throughout their Diaspora and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom.

Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades, they returned in their masses. Pioneers and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and aspiring towards independent nationhood.

In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish People to national re-birth in its own country. This right was recognized in The Balfour Dec-

laration of November 2, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations, which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish People and Eretz-Yisrael and to the right of the Jewish People to rebuild its national home.

The catastrophe which recently befell the Jewish People — the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe — was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of its homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Yisrael the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish People the status of a fully privileged member of the family of nations.

Survivors of the Nazi Holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Yisrael, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a life of dignity, freedom, and honest toil in their national homeland.



In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness. And, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, gained the right to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations.

On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Yisrael. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish People to establish their State is irrevocable.

This right is the natural right of the Jewish People to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own sovereign State.

**Accordingly we, members of the People's Council, representatives of the Jewish community of Eretz-Yisrael and of the Zionist movement, are here assembled on the day of the termination of the British mandate over Eretz-Yisrael and, by virtue of our natural and historic right and on the strength of the resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, hereby declare the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Yisrael, to be known as the State of Israel.**

**THE STATE OF ISRAEL** will be open for Jewish immigration and for the ingathering of the exiles; it will foster the development of the country for the benefit of all its inhabitants; it will be based on freedom, justice and peace as envisaged by the Prophets of Israel; it will ensure complete equality of social and political rights to all its inhabitants irrespective of religion, race, or sex; it will guarantee freedom of religion, conscience, language, education, and culture; it will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions; and it will be faithful to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

**WE APPEAL** — in the very midst of the onslaught launched against us now for months — to the Arab inhabitants of the State of Israel to preserve peace and participate in the upbuilding of the State on the basis of full and equal citizenship and due representation in all its provisional and permanent institutions.

**WE EXTEND** our hand to all neighboring states and their peoples in an offer of peace and good neighborliness, and appeal to them to establish bonds of cooperation and mutual help with the sovereign Jewish People settled in its own land. The State of Israel is prepared to do its share in a common effort for the advancement of the entire Middle East.

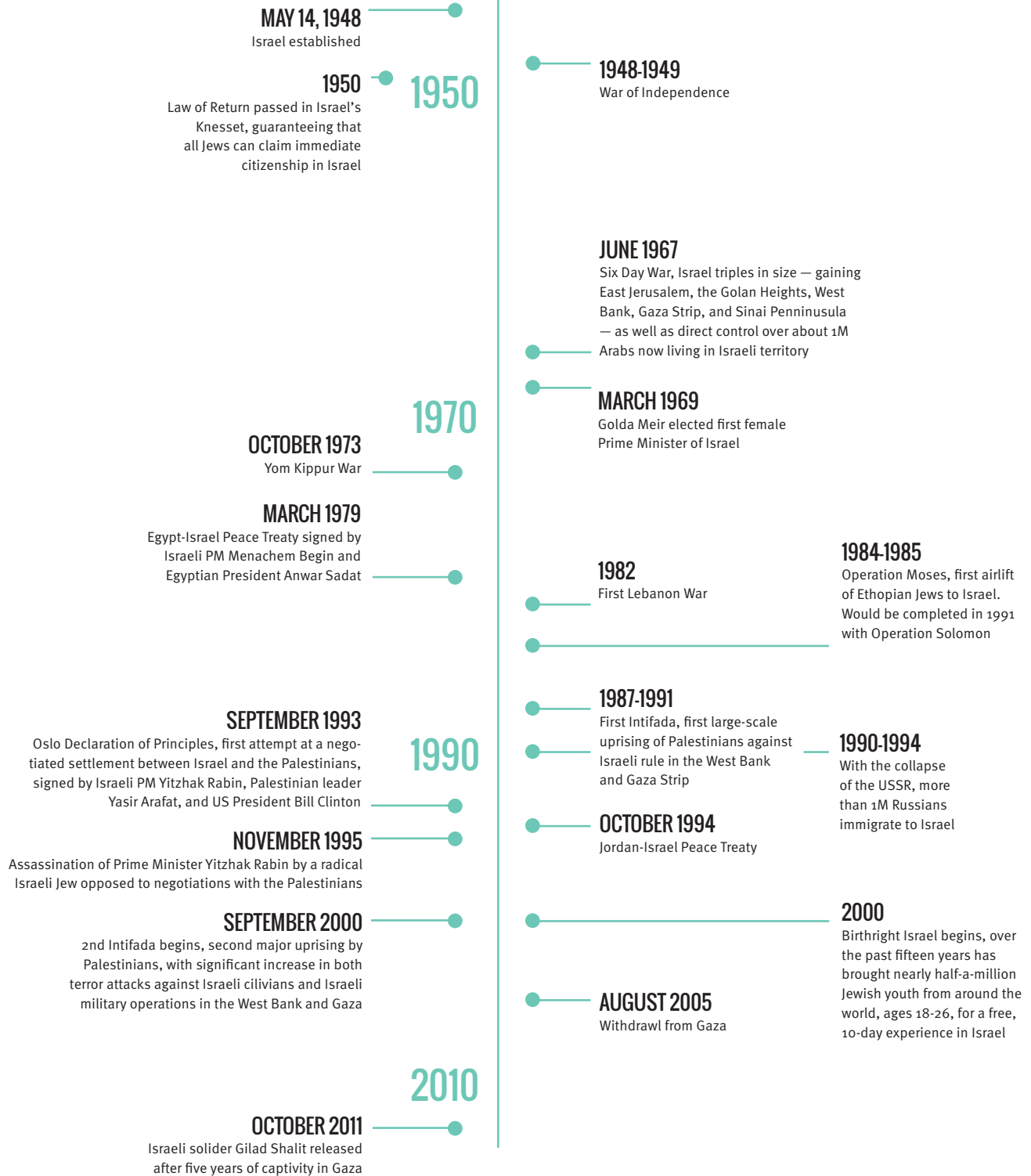
**WE APPEAL** to the Jewish People throughout the Diaspora to rally round the Jews of Eretz-Yisrael in the tasks of immigration and up-building and to stand by them in the great struggle for the realization of the age-old dream — the redemption of Israel.

Placing our trust in the “Rock of Israel,” we affix our signatures to this proclamation at this session of the Provisional Council of State, on the soil of the homeland, in the city of Tel-Aviv, on this Sabbath eve, the 5th day of Iyar, 5708 (May 14, 1948).



David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel, reads the Declaration of Independence on May 14, 1948, in Tel Aviv, beneath a portrait of Theodor Hertzl, the founder of modern Zionism.

# Modern Israel Timeline (1948–Present)



# Reflection on Chapter 17



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**Something new I learned today about the State of Israel:**

**Something that challenges me about the State of Israel:**

**To me, the State of Israel means:**

# Voices of Israel

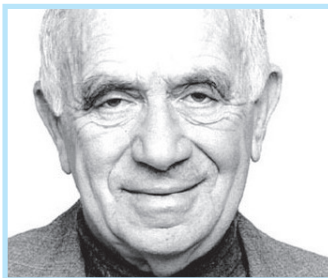
## Tourists

by Yehuda Amichai

Visits of condolence are all we get from them.  
 They squat at the Holocaust Memorial,  
 They put on grave faces at the Wailing Wall  
 And they laugh behind heavy curtains  
 In their hotels.  
 They have their pictures taken  
 Together with our famous dead  
 At Rachel's Tomb and Herzl's Tomb  
 And on Ammunition Hill.  
 They weep over our sweet boys  
 And lust after our tough girls  
 And hang up their underwear  
 To dry quickly  
 In cool, blue bathrooms.

Once I sat on the steps by a gate at David's Tower,  
 I placed my two heavy baskets at my side. A group of tourists  
 was standing around their guide and I became their target marker. "You see  
 that man with the baskets? Just right of his head there's an arch  
 from the Roman period. Just right of his head." "But he's moving, he's moving!"  
 I said to myself: Redemption will come only if their guide tells them,  
 "You see that arch from the Roman period? It's not important; but next to it,  
 left and down a bit, there sits a man who's bought fruit and vegetables for his family."

*Translated by Glenda Abramson and Tudor Parfitt*



Yehuda Amichai (1924-2000) is recognized as one of Israel's finest poets. His poems — written in Hebrew — have been translated into forty languages, and volumes of his work have been published in English, French, German, Swedish, Spanish, and Catalan. Translator Robert Alter has said: "Yehuda Amichai, it has been remarked with some justice, is the most widely translated Hebrew poet since King David."

## Shirat ha-Sticker (Song of the Bumper Stickers)

Words by David Grossman, Sung by Hadag Nahash

This song, composed by the well-known Israeli author David Grossman and sung by the hip-hop group Hadag Nahash, combines phrases from Israeli political bumper stickers to paint a picture of the many controversies that challenge modern Israel.

*Dor shalem doresh shalom  
Tnu tzahal lenatze'ach  
Am chazak oseh shalom  
Tnu letzahal lekaseach*

A whole generation demands peace  
Let the IDF win  
A strong people makes peace  
Let the IDF mow them down

*Ein shalom im aravim  
Al titnu lahem rovim  
Kravi zeh hachi achi  
Gius lekulam, p'tor lekulam  
Ein shum ye'ush ba'olam  
Yesha zeh kan  
Na nach nachman me'uman  
No fear, mashi'ach ba'ir  
Ein aravim ein pigu'im  
Bagatz mesaken yehudim  
Ha'am im hagolan  
Ha'am im hatransfer  
Test beyerka  
Chaver, atah chaser*

There is no making peace with the Arabs  
Don't give them guns  
Battle-ready is the best, my brother  
Draft everyone or excuse everyone  
There is no giving up  
Judea & Samaria are here  
Na-Nach Nachman Me'Uman  
No fear, the Messiah is here  
No Arabs, no terrorism  
The Supreme Court endangers Jews  
The People are with the Golan Heights  
The People are with population transfer  
Smog Test in Yarka  
Friend, you are missed

*Hakadosh baruch hu anachnu bocharim becha  
B'chirah yeshirah zeh rah  
Hakadosh baruch hu anachnu kana'im lecha  
Yamutu hakana'im*

The Holy Blessed One, we elect You  
Direct elections are bad  
The Holy Blessed One, we are zealots for you  
Death to zealots

*Kamah ro'a efshar livlo'a?  
Aba terachem, aba terachem!  
Kor'im li nachman ve'ani megamgem.  
Kamah ro'a efshar livlo'a?  
Aba terachem, aba terachem!*

How much evil can we swallow?  
Father, have mercy! Father, have mercy!  
My name is Nachman and I stutter.  
How much evil can we swallow?  
Father, have mercy! Father, have mercy!

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- Which phrases jump out at you most strongly?
  - Which would you like to know more about?
  - What do you think the author is trying to say with this song?

# Connect: 10 Ways to Build a Relationship with Israel

- **Read an Israeli newspaper**

Often called Israel's version of The New York Times, *Haaretz* is Israel's newspaper of record. Other English-language news sources are the *Jerusalem Post* and *Times of Israel*.
- **Attend an Israel Festival in your community**

Celebrate Israel's birthday with great food, live music, and lots and lots of blue and white.
- **Read a book about Israel's history**

There are thousands of books about Israel, but two to start with are Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel* and Ari Shavit's *My Promised Land*.
- **Hang a *mizrach* (eastern wall marker) in your home**

During prayer, it is traditional for Jews to face east toward Jerusalem. Place a *mizrach* marker on an eastern-facing wall so the residents and visitors of your home will always know where Israel is and will always have the Jewish land on their mind.
- **Purchase and use Israeli products**

Whether it is Ahava Dead Sea lotions or "Made in Israel" Judaica, buying and using products made in Israel is a great way to support the State while enjoying fantastic products.
- **Begin a collection of Israeli music**

Israeli music is a lot like rap: fun to listen to, even if you don't understand all the words. Some contemporary recommended artists are Idan Raichel and David Broza.
- **Get involved with an Israel advocacy organization that matches your values**

There is more than one way to love and support Israel. Get involved with organizations that strengthen the Jewish State and advance a shared vision for what it can and should be.
- **Begin learning Hebrew**

It's the language of our people, it's the language in our prayer book, and knowing this language is a great way to connect to both of those things.
- **Read Israeli fiction/poetry and watch Israeli film**

If there is a genre of fiction, poetry, or film that you enjoy, there is most definitely a recognized Israeli author, poet, or filmmaker who has explored these subjects. Works by writers like Shai Agnon, Etgar Keret, Yehuda Amichai, and many others are wonderful.
- **Visit Israel — for a short trip or for a longer program**

Nothing will make you fall in love with Israel like a visit. See the sights, meet the people, and eat the food. Soon enough, you will feel Israeli yourself. (Hopefully their driving habits won't rub off on you as well.)

# Additional Readings

## Books

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- Howard Sachar, *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time*  
An authoritative and comprehensive look at Israel's history, from the origins of Zionism until the 1990s, and surprisingly readable and engaging even at more than 1,000 pages.
- Ari Shavit, *My Promised Land*  
This groundbreaking and controversial book by one of Israel's top journalist tells the story of the Jewish State from its origins to today through interviews with the people at the center of its key dramas.
- Yehuda Amichai, *Poems of Jerusalem*  
Amichai is Israel's definitive poet. His words offer a glimpse at the heart of Israel beyond what could be expressed in prose.
- Lawrence Hoffman, *Israel: A Spiritual Travel Guide*  
A great book to bring on your first trip to Israel — this is designed to be used, written in and dog-eared — and to allow you to capture what your experience of Israel means to you.
- Dan Senor and Saul Singer, *Start Up Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*  
This book talks about a different side of Israel, namely its spectacular contributions to the field of hi-tech research and business innovation.
- Itamar Grinberg, *Israel from the Air*  
A beautiful book of aerial photography of Israel. A birds-eye look at a gorgeous land.

## Websites

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- Haaretz ([haaretz.com](http://haaretz.com))  
Often called Israel's version of the New York Times — Haaretz is Israel's undisputed newspaper of record and one of the best ways to learn about what's happening in the Homeland.
- Times of Israel ([timesofisrael.com](http://timesofisrael.com))  
Like an Israeli version of the Huffington Post, this site brings together bloggers and journalists of all backgrounds to share a wide variety of perspectives about Israeli current affairs.
- Birthright Israel ([birthrightisrael.com](http://birthrightisrael.com))  
Jewish, 26 or under, and never been to Israel on an organized trip before? Answer YES to all three things and you qualify for an all-expenses paid trip to Israel. Check out their site to find out details.