**History of Zionism**

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*This article is about Zionism as a movement, not the* [*History of Israel*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel)*. For other uses, see* [*Zion (disambiguation)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zion_%28disambiguation%29)*.*

See also:

* [Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism)
* [Timeline of Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Zionism)
* [World Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization)

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| [**Pre-Zionist Aliyah**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pre-Zionist_Aliyah) |
| [The Return to Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_to_Zion) • [The Old Yishuv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yishuv_haYashan)  |
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| [Operation Magic Carpet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Magic_Carpet_%28Yemen%29) • [Operation Ezra and Nehemiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Ezra_and_Nehemiah) • [Jewish exodus from Arab lands](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_exodus_from_Arab_lands) • [Polish aliyah in 1968](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1968_Polish_political_crisis) • [Aliyah from the Soviet Union in the 1970s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_from_the_Soviet_Union_in_the_1970s) • [Aliyah from Ethiopia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_from_Ethiopia) • [Aliyah from the Commonwealth of Independent States in the 1990s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_from_the_Commonwealth_of_Independent_States_in_the_1990s) • [Aliyah from Latin America in the 2000s](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_from_Latin_America_in_the_2000s)  |
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The Zionist movement was created by [Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl) in 1897, however the **history of Zionism** can be seen as beginning earlier and related to [Judaism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judaism) and [Jewish history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_history).

Before [the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust) the movement's central aims were the creation of a [Jewish National Home](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_National_Home) and cultural center in Palestine by facilitating [Jewish migration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah). After the Holocaust, the movement focused on creation of a "[Jewish state](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_state)" (usually defined as a secular state with a Jewish majority), attaining its goal in 1948 with the creation of [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel).

Since the creation of Israel, the importance of the movement has declined as the Israeli state has grown stronger.

The Zionist movement continues to exist, working to support Israel, assist [persecuted Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism) and encourage Jewish [emigration to Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah). While most [Israeli political parties](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_political_parties) continue to define themselves as Zionist, modern Israeli political thought is no longer formulated within the Zionist movement.

The success of Zionism has meant that the percentage of the world's [Jewish population](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_population) who live in Israel has steadily grown over the years and today 40% of the world's Jews live in Israel. There is no other example in human history of a "[nation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nation)" being restored after such a long period of existence as a [Diaspora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diaspora).

**Zionism**

Main article: [Jewish history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_history)

**Biblical precedents**

Main article: [The Return to Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Return_to_Zion)

The precedence for Jews to return to their ancestral homeland, motivated by strong divine intervention, first appears within Judaism in the [Torah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torah), and thus later adopted in the [Christian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian) [Old Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament). After [Jacob](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacob) and his sons had gone down to Egypt to escape a drought, they were enslaved and became a nation. Later, as commanded by God, [Moses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses) went before Pharaoh, demanded, "Let my people go!", and foretold [severe consequences](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plagues_of_Egypt), if this was not done. Most of the Torah is devoted to the story of the plagues and the [Exodus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Exodus) from Egypt, which is estimated at about 1400 BCE. These are celebrated annually during [Passover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover), and the Passover meal traditionally ends with the words "Next Year in Jerusalem."

The theme of return to their traditional homeland came up again after the [Babylonians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) conquered Judea in 641 BCE and the Judeans were exiled to Babylon. In the book of [Psalms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalms) ([Psalm 137](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psalm_137)), Jews lamented their exile while Prophets like [Ezekiel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezekiel) foresaw their return. The Bible recounts how, in 538 BCE [Cyrus the Great](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cyrus_%28Bible%29) of [Persia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persia) conquered Babylon and issued a [proclamation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proclamation) granting the people of Judah their freedom. 50,000 Judeans, led by [Zerubbabel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zerubbabel) returned. A second group of 5000, led by [Ezra](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ezra) and [Nehemiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nehemiah), returned to [Judea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judea) in 456 BCE.

**The Jewish presence in Israel**

Main article: [Old Yishuv (Eretz Yisrael)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Yishuv_%28Eretz_Yisrael%29)

See also: [History of the Jews and the Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_the_Crusades), [inquisition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisition), and [Bohdan\_Khmelnytsky#Khmelnytsky\_in\_Jewish\_history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohdan_Khmelnytsky#Khmelnytsky_in_Jewish_history)

During the [Hellenistic Age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenistic_Age) many Jews left Judea to live in other parts of the [Mediterranean Basin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Basin).

The third great Jewish exile is considered to have begun after the destruction of Judea by the Roman Empire in the year 70 (after the [Great Jewish Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Jewish_Revolt)). A second Jewish revolt against the Romans, the [Bar Kokhba revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt) of 135, led to further dispersal of Jews to other parts of the Empire.

A Jewish presence in the Land of Israel was maintained even after the [Bar Kokhba revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bar_Kokhba_revolt), and there is evidence of vibrant communities in the first millennium. For example, the [Jerusalem Talmud](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem_Talmud) was created in the centuries following the revolt. The inventors of [Hebrew vowel-signs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niqqud), the [Masoretes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Masoretes) (ba'alei hamasorah, Hebrew בעלי המסורה), groups of scribes in 7th and 11th centuries were based primarily in [Tiberias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberias) and [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem).

The [Crusades](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crusades) were devastating for the Jewish presence in Israel. The Crusaders [massacred Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_the_Crusades), both on their path across Europe and in the [Holy Land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Land). Palestine was later ruled by the [Mamluks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mamluk) and [Ottomans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire).

Main article: [Jewish military history](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_military_history)

In 1160 [David Alroy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Alroy) led a Jewish uprising in Kurdistan which aimed to reconquer the promised land. In 1648 [Sabbatai Zevi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sabbatai_Zevi) from modern Turkey claimed he would lead the Jews back to Israel. In 1868 [Judah ben Shalom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judah_ben_Shalom) led a large movement of [Yemenite Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemenite_Jews) to Israel. A dispatch from the British Consulate in Jerusalem in 1839 reported that "the Jews of Algiers and its dependencies, are numerous in Palestine. . . ." There was also significant migration from Central Asia ([Bukharan Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bukharan_Jews)).

In addition to Messianic movements, the population of the Holy Land was slowly bolstered by Jews fleeing [Christian persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisition) especially after the [*Reconquista*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reconquista) of [*Al-Andalus*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Andalus) (the Muslim name of the [Iberian Peninsula](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iberian_Peninsula)). Safed became an important center of [Kabbalah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kabbalah). [Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem), [Hebron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebron) and [Tiberias](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberias) also had significant Jewish populations.

**Aliyah and the ingathering of the exiles**

See also: [Aliyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah)

Among [Jews in the Diaspora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_diaspora) [Eretz Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eretz_Israel) was revered in a religious sense. They thought of a return to it in a future messianic age. Return remained a recurring theme among generations, particularly in [Passover](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover) and [Yom Kippur](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur) prayers which traditionally concluded with, "Next year in Jerusalem", and in the thrice-daily [Amidah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amidah) (Standing prayer).

*Aliyah* (immigration to Israel) has always been considered to be a praiseworthy act for Jews according to [Jewish law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halakha), and is included as a commandment in most versions of the [613 commandments](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/613_Mitzvot) which Jews are supposed to strive to fulfill. From the [Middle Ages](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Ages) and onwards, many famous rabbis (and often their followers) immigrated to the Land of Israel. These included [Nahmanides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahmanides), [Yechiel of Paris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yechiel_of_Paris) with several hundred of his students, [Joseph ben Ephraim Karo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_ben_Ephraim_Karo), [Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menachem_Mendel_of_Vitebsk) and 300 of his followers, and over 500 disciples (and their families) of the [Vilna Gaon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilna_Gaon) known as [Perushim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perushim), among others.

**Persecution of the Jews**

See also: [Jewish deicide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_deicide), [Jewish ghettos in Europe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_ghettos_in_Europe), [Christianity and antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christianity_and_antisemitism), and [Inquisition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisition)

Persecution of Jews played a key role in preserving Jewish identity and keeping Jewish communities transient, it would later provide a key role in inspiring Zionists to reject European forms of identity.

Jews in Catholic states were banned from owning land and from pursuing a variety of professions. From the 13th century Jews were required to wear identifying clothes such as [special hats](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_hat) or [stars on their clothing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yellow_badge). This form of persecution originated in tenth century Baghdad and was copied by Christian rulers. Constant expulsions and insecurity led Jews to adopt artisan professions that were easily transferable between locations (such as furniture making or tailoring).

Persecution in Spain and Portugal led large number of Jews there to convert to Christianiy, however many continued to [secretly practice Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marrano) rituals. The Church responded by creating the [Inquisition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inquisition) in 1478 and by expelling all remaining [Jews in 1492](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alhambra_Decree). In 1542 the inquisition expanded to include the [Papal States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papal_States). Inquisitors could arbitrarily torture suspects and many victims were burnt alive.

In 1516 the state of Venice decreed that Jews would only be allowed to reside in a walled area [adjacent to Venice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Venetian_Ghetto) called the [Ghetto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghetto). Ghetto residents had to pay a daily [poll tax](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poll_tax) and could only stay a limited amount of time. In 1555 the Pope decreed that Jews in Rome were to face similar restrictions. The requirement for Jews to live in Ghettos spread across Europe and Ghettos were frequently highly overcrowded and heavily taxed. They also provided a convenient target for mobs ([pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom)). Jews were [expelled from England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edict_of_Expulsion) in 1290. A ban remained in force that was only lifted when [Oliver Cromwell](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oliver_Cromwell) [overthrew](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/English_Civil_War) the Catholic monarchy in 1649 (see [Resettlement of the Jews in England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resettlement_of_the_Jews_in_England)).

Persecution of Jews began to end following [Napoleon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Napoleon_and_the_Jews)'s conquest of Europe after the [French Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution) although the short lived Nazi Empire resurrected most practices. In 1965 the Catholic Church [formally ended](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nostra_Aetate) the doctrine of holding Jews collectively responsible for the death of Jesus.

**Pre-Zionist Initiatives 1799–1897**

See also: [Jewish Emancipation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Emancipation), [antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism), and [History of antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_antisemitism)

**The Enlightenment and the Jews**

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| [**HaYishuv haYashan**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Yishuv) |
|  |
| [Jewish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jew) life in the [Holy Land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holy_Land) before Modern [Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism) |
| **Founders:** |
| [Nahmanides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahmanides) • [Yechiel of Paris](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yechiel_of_Paris)[Bartenura](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obadiah_ben_Abraham) • [Yehuda he-Hasid](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judah_he-Hasid_%28Jerusalem%29) |
| **Finance:** |
| [Kollel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kollel) • [Halukka](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halukka) • [Etrog](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balady_citron) |
| **Communities:** |
| [Sephardim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sephardim) • [Perushim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perushim) • [Hasidim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hasidic_Judaism) |
| **Synagogues:** |
| [Ramban](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ramban_Synagogue) • [Ari](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ari_Synagogue) • [Hurva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hurva_Synagogue) • [Shomrei HaChomos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shomrei_HaChomos_Synagogue) |
| **Related articles:** |
| [History of the Jews in the Land of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_the_Land_of_Israel) • **History of Zionism** ([Timeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Zionism)) • [Haredim and Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredim_and_Zionism) • [Edah HaChareidis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edah_HaChareidis) • [Neturei Karta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neturei_Karta) • [ShaDaR](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meshulach) • [Yishuv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yishuv) • [Three Oaths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Three_Oaths) |
| [v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template%3AYishuv_haYashan) • [d](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk%3AYishuv_haYashan) • [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:Yishuv_haYashan&action=edit) |

The [Age of Enlightenment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Enlightenment) in Europe led to an 18th and 19th century Jewish enlightenment movement in Europe, called the [Haskalah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haskalah). In 1791, the [French Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Revolution) led France to become the first country in Europe to grant Jews legal equality. Britain gave Jews equal rights in 1856, Germany in 1871. The spread of western liberal ideas among newly emancipated Jews created for the first time a class of [secular Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secular_Jews) who absorbed the prevailing ideas of enlightenment, including [rationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rationalism), [romanticism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romanticism), and [nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nationalism).

However, the formation of modern nations in Europe accompanied changes in the prejudices against Jews. What had previously been [religious persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_antisemitism) now became a new phenomenon, [Racial antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_antisemitism) and acquired a new name: [antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism). Anti-Semites saw Jews as an alien religious, national and racial group and actively tried to prevent Jews from acquiring equal rights and citizenship.

**Persecution in Russia (before the revolution)**

See also: [History of the Jews in Russia and the Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Russia_and_the_Soviet_Union)

Jews in Eastern Europe faced constant [pogroms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom) and [persecution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_Russia_and_the_Soviet_Union#Tsarist_Russia_.281480s-1917.29) in Tzarist Russia. From 1791 they were only allowed to live in the [Pale of Settlement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pale_of_Settlement). In response to the Jewish drive for integration and modern education ([Haskalah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haskalah)) and the movement for emancipation, the Tzars imposed [tight quotas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/May_Laws) on schools, universities and cities to prevent entry by Jews. From 1827 to 1917 Russian Jewish boys were required to serve 25 years in the Russian army, starting at the age of 12. The intention was to forcibly destroy their ethnic identity, however the move severely radicalized Russia's Jews and familiarized them with nationalism and socialism.

See also: [Anti-Jewish pogroms in the Russian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Jewish_pogroms_in_the_Russian_Empire)

The tsar's chief adviser [Konstantin Pobedonostsev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Konstantin_Pobedonostsev), was reported as saying that one-third of Russia's Jews was expected to emigrate, one-third to accept baptism, and one-third to starve.

Famous incidents includes the 1913 [Menahem Mendel Beilis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menahem_Mendel_Beilis) trial ([Blood libel against Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blood_libel_against_Jews)) and the 1903 [Kishinev pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kishinev_pogrom).

Between 1880 and 1928, two million Jews left Russia; most emigrated to the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), a small minority chose Palestine.

**Proto-Zionism**

Proto-Zionists include the (Lithuanian) [Vilna Gaon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vilna_Gaon), (Russian) Rabbi [Menachem Mendel of Vitebsk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menachem_Mendel_of_Vitebsk), (Bosnian) Rabbi [Yehuda Solomon Alkalay](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Yehuda_Solomon_Alkalay&action=edit&redlink=1) and (German) Rabbi [Zvi Hirsch Kalischer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zvi_Hirsch_Kalischer). Other advocates of Jewish independence include (American) [Mordecai Manuel Noah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mordecai_Manuel_Noah), (Russian) [Leon Pinsker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Pinsker) and (German) [Moses Hess](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Hess).

In 1862 [Moses Hess](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Hess), an associate of Karl Marx, wrote [*Rome and Jerusalem. The Last National Question*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rome_and_Jerusalem._The_Last_National_Question) calling for the Jews to create a socialist state in [Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine) as a means of settling the [Jewish question](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_question). Also in 1862, German Orthodox Rabbi Kalischer published his tractate *Derishat Zion*, arguing that the salvation of the Jews, promised by the Prophets, can come about only by self-help.[[10]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Zionism#cite_note-9#cite_note-9) In 1882, after the [Odessa pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa_pogrom), [Judah Leib Pinsker](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judah_Leib_Pinsker) published the pamphlet [*Auto-Emancipation*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto-Emancipation), arguing that Jews could only be truly free (automatically emancipated) in their own country and analyzing the persistent tendency of Europeans to regard Jews as aliens:

"Since the Jew is nowhere at home, nowhere regarded as a native, he remains an alien everywhere. That he himself and his ancestors as well are born in the country does not alter this fact in the least... ...to the living the Jew is a corpse, to the native a foreigner, to the homesteader a vagrant, to the proprietary a beggar, to the poor an exploiter and a millionaire, to the patriot a man without a country, for all a hated rival."

Pinsker established the [Hibbat Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hovevei_Zion) movement to actively promote Jewish settlement in Palestine. In 1890, the "Society for the Support of Jewish Farmers and Artisans in Syria and Eretz Israel" (better known as the [Odessa Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa_Committee)) was officially registered as a [charitable organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Charitable_organization) in the [Russian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire), and by 1897, it counted over 4,000 members.

**Early British and American support for Jewish return**

Ideas of the restoration of the Jews in the Land of Israel entered [British](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire) public discourse in the early 19th century, at about the same time as the British Protestant Revival.

Not all such attitudes were favorable towards the Jews; they were shaped in part by a variety of [Protestant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant) beliefs, or by a streak of [philo-Semitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philo-Semitism) among the classically educated British elite, or by hopes to extend the Empire. *(See* [*The Great Game*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Great_Game)*)*

At the urging of [Lord Shaftesbury](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Shaftesbury), Britain established a consulate in Jerusalem in 1838, the first diplomatic appointment in the city. In 1839, the [Church of Scotland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_of_Scotland) sent [Andrew Bonar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Bonar) and [Robert Murray M'Cheyne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Murray_M%27Cheyne) to report on the condition of the Jews there. The report was widely published and was followed by a "Memorandum to Protestant Monarchs of Europe for the restoration of the Jews to Palestine." In August 1840, *The Times* reported that the British government was considering Jewish restoration. Lord Lindsay wrote in 1847: "The soil of Palestine still enjoys her sabbaths, and only waits for the return of her banished children, and the application of industry, commensurate with her agricultural capabilities, to burst once more into universal luxuriance, and be all that she ever was in the days of Solomon."

[Benjamin Disraeli](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Benjamin_Disraeli) wrote in his article entitled "The Jewish Question is the Oriental Quest" (1877) that within fifty years, a nation of one million Jews would reside in Palestine under the guidance of the British. [Moses Montefiore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Montefiore) visited the Land of Israel seven times and fostered its development.

In 1842, Mormon leader [Joseph Smith, Jr.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Smith%2C_Jr.) sent a representative, [Orson Hyde](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orson_Hyde), to dedicate the land of Israel for the return of the Jews. Protestant theologian [William Eugene Blackstone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Eugene_Blackstone) submitted a petition to the US president in 1891; the [Blackstone Memorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackstone_Memorial) called for the return of Palestine to the Jews.

**The first aliya**

Main articles: [Mikveh Israel Settlement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikveh_Israel_Settlement), [Bilu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilu), and [Hovevei Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hovevei_Zion)

In the late 1870s, Jewish philanthropists such as the [Montefiores](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Montefiore) and the [Rothschilds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rothschild_family) responded to the persecution of Jews in Eastern Europe by sponsoring agricultural settlements for Russian Jews in Palestine. The Jews who migrated in this period are known as the [First Aliyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Aliyah). *Aliyah* is a Hebrew word meaning "ascent," referring to the act of spiritually "ascending" to the Holy Land and a basic tenet of Zionism.

The movement of Jews to Palestine was opposed by the [Haredi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haredi) communities who lived in the [Four Holy Cities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Four_Holy_Cities), since they were very poor and lived off charitable donations from Europe, which they feared would be used by the newcomers. However from 1800 there was a movement of Sephardi businessmen from North Africa and the Balkans to Jaffa and the growing community there perceived modernity and Aliyah as the key to salvation. Unlike the Haredi communities, the Jaffa community did not maintain separate Ashkenazi and Sephardi institutions and functioned as a single unified community.

Founded in 1878, [Petah Tikva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Petah_Tikva) was the first [modern Jewish settlement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_settlement).

In 1881-1882 the Tzar sponsored a huge wave of pogroms in the [Russian Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Empire) and a massive wave of Jews began leaving, mainly for America. So many Russian Jews arrived in Jaffa that the town ran out of accommodation and the local Jews began forming communities outside the Jaffa city walls. However the migrants faced difficulty finding work (the new settlements mainly needed farmers and builders) and 70% ultimately left, mostly moving on to America. One of the migrants in this period, [Eliezer Ben-Yehuda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eliezer_Ben-Yehuda) set about modernizing Hebrew so that it could be used as a national language.

[Rishon LeZion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rishon_LeZion) was founded on 31 July 1882 by a group of ten members of [Hovevei Zion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hovevei_Zion) from [Kharkov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kharkov) (today's [Ukraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine)). In 1887 [Neve Tzedek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neve_Tzedek) was built just outside Jaffa. Over 50 Jewish settlements were established in this period.

In 1890, Palestine, which was part of the [Ottoman Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire), was inhabited by about 520,000 people, mostly [Muslim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim) and [Arab Christians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Christians), but also 20-25,000 Jews.

**Establishment of the Zionist movement 1897–1917**

**Formation**

In 1883, [Nathan Birnbaum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nathan_Birnbaum), 19 years old, founded *Kadimah*, the first Jewish student association in Vienna and printed Pinsker's pamphlet [Auto-Emancipation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Auto-Emancipation).

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| Theodor Herzl and his 1896 book, *The Jewish State*. |

The [Dreyfus Affair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dreyfus_Affair), which erupted in [France](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/France) in 1894, profoundly shocked emancipated Jews. The depth of antisemitism in the first country to grant Jews equal rights led many to question their future prospects among Christians. Among those who witnessed the Affair was an Austro-Hungarian (born in [Budapest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Budapest), lived in [Vienna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna)) Jewish journalist, [Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl), who published his pamphlet [*Der Judenstaat*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Der_Judenstaat) ("The Jewish State") in 1896 and [*Altneuland*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_New_Land) ("The Old New Land") in 1897. He described the Affair as a personal turning point, Herzl argued that the creation of a Jewish state would enable the Jews to join the family of nations and escape antisemitism.

[Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl) infused political Zionism with a new and practical urgency. He brought the [World Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization) into being and, together with Nathan Birnbaum, planned its First Congress at [Basel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basel) in 1897.

**The objectives of Zionism**

During the [First Zionist Congress](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Zionist_Congress), the following agreement, commonly known as the Basel Program, was reached:

Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in [Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine) secured under public law. The Congress contemplates the following means to the attainment of this end:

1. The promotion by appropriate means of the settlement in Palestine of Jewish farmers, artisans, and manufacturers.
2. The organization and uniting of the whole of Jewry by means of appropriate institutions, both local and international, in accordance with the laws of each country.
3. The strengthening and fostering of Jewish national sentiment and national consciousness.
4. Preparatory steps toward obtaining the consent of governments, where necessary, in order to reach the goals of Zionism.

"Under public law" is generally understood to mean seeking legal permission from the Ottoman rulers for Jewish migration. In this text the word "home" was substituted for "state" and "public law" for "international law" so as not to alarm the Ottoman Sultan.

**The organizational structure of the Zionist movement**

For the first four years, the [World Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization) (WZO) met every year, then, up to the Second World War, they gathered every second year. Since the creation of Israel, the Congress has met every four years.

[Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl) addresses the Second Zionist Congress in 1898.

Congress delegates were elected by the membership. Members were required to pay dues known as a "shekel," At the congress, delegates elected a 30-man executive council, which in turn elected the movement's leader. The movement was democratic and women had the right to vote, which was still absent in Great Britain in 1914.

The WZO's initial strategy was to obtain permission from the [Ottoman Sultan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Empire#Sultans) [Abdul Hamid II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Hamid_II) to allow systematic Jewish settlement in Palestine. The support of the German Emperor, [Wilhelm II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilhelm_II%2C_German_Emperor), was sought, but unsuccessfully. Instead, the WZO pursued a strategy of building a homeland through persistent small-scale immigration and the founding of such bodies as the [Jewish National Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_National_Fund) (1901 - a charity which bought land for Jewish settlement) and the [Anglo-Palestine Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Palestine_Bank) (1903 - provided loans for Jewish businesses and farmers).

**Early arguments**

**Cultural Zionism and opposition to Herzl**

Main article: [Cultural Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Zionism)

See also: [Revival of the Hebrew language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revival_of_the_Hebrew_language), [Hebraization of surnames](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebraization_of_surnames), and [Ahad Ha'am](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ahad_Ha%27am)

Herzl's strategy relied on winning support from foreign rulers, in particular the [Ottoman Sultan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ottoman_Sultan). He also made efforts to cultivate Orthodox rabbinical support. Rabbinical support depended on the Zionist movement making no challenges to existing Jewish tradition. However, an opposition movement arose which emphasized the need for a revolution in Jewish thought. While Herzl believed that the Jews needed to return to their historic homeland as a refuge from antisemitism, the opposition, led by Ahad Ha'am, believed that the Jews must revive and foster a Jewish national culture and, in particular strove to revive the Hebrew language. Many also adopted Hebraized surnames. The opposition became known as Cultural Zionists. Important Cultural Zionists include Ahad Ha'am, [Chaim Weizmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim_Weizmann), [Nahum Sokolow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahum_Sokolow) and [Menachem Ussishkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menachem_Ussishkin).

**The "Uganda" proposal**

In 1903, the British Colonial Secretary, [Joseph Chamberlain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Chamberlain), suggested the [British Uganda Program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Uganda_Programme), land for a Jewish state in "[Uganda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uganda)" (in today's [Uasin Gishu District](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uasin_Gishu_District), [Eldoret](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eldoret), [Kenya](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenya)). Herzl initially rejected the idea, preferring Palestine, but after the April 1903 [Kishinev pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kishinev_pogrom), Herzl introduced a controversial proposal to the Sixth Zionist Congress to investigate the offer as a temporary measure for Russian Jews in danger. Despite its emergency and temporary nature, the proposal proved very divisive, and widespread opposition to the plan was fueled by a walkout led by the Russian Jewish delegation to the Congress. Nevertheless, a committee was established to investigate the possibility, which was eventually dismissed in the Seventh Zionist Congress in 1905. After that, Palestine became the sole focus of Zionist aspirations.

[Israel Zangwill](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Zangwill) left the main Zionist movement over this decision and founded the [Jewish Territorialist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Territorialist_Organization) (ITO) . The [territorialists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorialism) were willing to establish a Jewish homeland anywhere, but failed to attract significant support and were dissolved in 1925.

**The death of Herzl**

By 1904, cultural Zionism was accepted by most Zionists and a schism was beginning to develop between the Zionist movement and Orthodox Judaism. In 1904, Herzl died unexpectedly at the age of 44 and the leadership was taken over by [David Wolffsohn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Wolffsohn), who led the movement until 1911. During this period, the movement was based in Berlin (Germany's Jews were the most [assimilated](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_assimilation)) and made little progress, failing to win support among the [Young Turks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Young_Turks) after the collapse of the Ottoman Regime. From 1911 to 1921, the movement was led by Dr. [Otto Warburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Warburg_%28botanist%29).

**Anti-Zionism and alternative Proposals**

Main article: [Anti-Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Zionism)

**[**[**edit**](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=History_of_Zionism&action=edit&section=21)**] Jewish Orthodox and Reform opposition**

Under Herzl's leadership, Zionism relied on [Orthodox Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Jews) for religious support, with the main party being the orthodox [Mizrachi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mizrachi_%28political_party%29). However, as the cultural and socialist Zionists increasingly broke with tradition and used language contrary to the outlook of most religious Jewish communities, many orthodox religious organizations began opposing Zionism. Their opposition was based on its secularism and on the grounds that only the [Messiah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_eschatology) could re-establish Jewish rule in Israel. Therefore, most Orthodox Jews maintained the traditional Jewish belief that while the Land of Israel was given to the ancient [Israelites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israelites) by [God](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/God), and the right of the Jews to that land was permanent and inalienable, the Messiah must appear before the land could return to Jewish control.

While Zionism aroused [Ashkenazi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashkenazi_Jews) orthodox antagonism in Europe (probably due to Modernist European antagonism to organized religion), and also in the United States, it aroused no such antagonism in the Islamic world.

Prior to [the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust), [Reform Judaism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_Judaism) rejected Zionism as inconsistent with the requirements of Jewish citizenship in the diaspora.

**Communism**

In Eastern Europe the [General Jewish Labor Bund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Jewish_Labour_Bund_in_Lithuania%2C_Poland_and_Russia) called for [Jewish autonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Autonomism) within Eastern Europe and promoted [Yiddish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yiddish) as the Jewish language. The Bund regarded Zionism as a form of [Bourgeois nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgeois_nationalism). As with Orthodox Judaism, while the official Bund leadership opposed Zionism (as well as Orthodox Judaism), the rank and file in practice, often had ties with other forms of Jewish life including Zionism. The Bund's influence led to the development of Socialist Zionism which competed with it for Jewish support. In 1917 the Bund had 30,000 members in Russia, compared to 300,000 Zionist members. A 1922 Bolshevik census found less than 1,000 Jewish party members.

**The second aliya**

Widespread pogroms accompanied the [1905 Russian Revolution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1905_Russian_Revolution), inspired by the Pro-Tzarist [Black Hundreds](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Hundreds). In [Odessa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odessa), [Leon Trotsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Trotsky) provided arms so the Zionists could protect the Jewish community and this prevented a pogrom. Zionist leader Jabotinsky eventually led the Jewish resistance in Odessa. During his subsequent trial Trotsky produced evidence that the Police had organized the effort to create a pogrom in Odessa.

The vicious pogroms led to a wave of immigrants to Palestine. This new wave expanded the [Revival of the Hebrew language](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revival_of_the_Hebrew_language). In 1909 a group of 65 Zionists laid the foundations for a modern city in Palestine. The city was named after the Hebrew title of Herzl's book "[The Old New Land](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Old_New_Land)" - [Tel-Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel-Aviv).

[Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv) was founded on empty dunes, purchased from Arabs, north of the existing city of Jaffa. This photograph is of the auction of the first lots in 1909.

[Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv) had a modern "scientific" school, the [Herzliya Hebrew High School](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herzliya_Hebrew_High_School), the first such school to teach only in Hebrew. All the cities affairs were conducted in Hebrew.

In Jerusalem, foundations were laid for a Jewish University (the [Hebrew University](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_University)), one which would teach only in Hebrew and which the Zionists hoped would help them prove their usefulness to the Turks (this did not come to fruition until 1918). In Haifa, the cornerstone was laid for a Jewish Technical school, the [Technion – Israel Institute of Technology](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technion_%E2%80%93_Israel_Institute_of_Technology).

Jewish migrants and organizations began making large land purchases, in particular buying malarial swamps (of which there were many) and draining them to produce highly fertile land.

In 1911 a socialist commune was given some land near the Sea of Galille, forming the first [Kibbutz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz), [Degania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Degania_Alef).

**Zionism and Feminism**

The Zionist movement never restricted female suffrage. Women were active in Zionist parties in many countries before women gained the franchise, and ran for office in Poland where Zionist and other Jewish parties won seats in parliament. In 1911, Zionist activist [Hannah Meisel Shochat](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hannah_Meisel_Shochat&action=edit&redlink=1) established [Havat Ha'Almot](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Havat_Ha%27Almot&action=edit&redlink=1) (the girl's farm) to train Zionist women in farming so as to assist in the Zionist program of developing the land for mass settlement. The famous poet [Rachel Bluwstein](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rachel_Bluwstein) was one of the graduates. Zionist settlers were usually young and far from their families so a relatively permissive culture was able to develop. Within the Kibbutz movement child rearing was done communally thus freeing women to work (and fight) alongside the men. [**Roza Pomerantz-Meltzer**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roza_Pomerantz-Meltzer) was the first woman elected to the [Sejm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sejm), the Parliament of [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland). She was elected in 1919 as a member of a Zionist party. In Mandatory Palestine women in Jewish towns could vote in elections before women won the right to vote in Britain.

**Zionism in non-European Jewish communities**

The 1911 edition of the [Jewish Encyclopedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Encyclopedia) noted the movement's spread: "not only in the number of Jews affiliated with the Zionist organization and congress, but also in the fact that there is hardly a nook or corner of the Jewish world in which Zionistic societies are not to be found."

Support for Zionism was not a purely European and [Ashkenazi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ashkenazi) phenomenon. In the Arab world, the first Zionist branches opened in [Morocco](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morocco) only a few years after the Basel conference, and the movement became popular among Jews living within the Arab and Muslim world. Although levels of persecution were generally lower there, Jewish residents still faced some religious persecution, prejudice and occasional violence. A number of the founders of the city of [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv) were Moroccan Jewish immigrants. Ottoman [Salonika](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salonika) had a vigorous Zionist movement by 1908.

In the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), during this period however, support for Zionism was generally a harder sell among the predominantly assimilationist [American Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Jews), represented then, in part, by the predominantly German, conservative, "up-town" and strongly anti-Zionist [American Jewish Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Jewish_Committee), which held a more spiritual and less nationalist meaning for Judaism and was concerned with charges of “dual loyalty”. But, demographics were changing rapidly and the Jewish population increased about ten times between 1880 and 1920, with the immigration of poorer, more liberal and radical, "downtown", Eastern European immigrants fleeing persecution. It was not until 1912, when the secular “people’s lawyer” [Louis Brandeis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louis_Brandeis) became involved in the movement, just before the First World War, and Zionism gained significant support The neutrality that the European movement maintained was not as applicable in the US. By 1917, the [American Provisional Executive Committee for General Zionist Affairs](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=American_Provisional_Executive_Committee_for_General_Zionist_Affairs&action=edit&redlink=1), which Brandeis chaired, increased American Zionist membership ten times to 200,000 members, and “thenceforth became the financial center for the world Zionist movement,” greatly surpassing its previous European base of support.

**Socialist Zionism: a new Zionist movement**

Main article: [Socialist Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Zionism)

See also: [Kibbutz Movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz_Movement) and [Kibbutz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz)

The chief rival to Zionism among young Jews in Eastern Europe was the [socialist movement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_movement). Many Jews were abandoning Judaism in favor of [Communism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communism) or supported the Bund, a Jewish socialist movement which called for [Jewish autonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Autonomism) in Eastern Europe and promoted [Yiddish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yiddish) as the Jewish language.

This led to the emergence of a new Zionist movement, the socialist Zionists, who believed that the Jews' centuries of being oppressed in anti-Semitic societies had reduced Jews to a meek, vulnerable, despairing existence which invited further anti-Semitism. They argued that Jews should redeem themselves from their history by becoming farmers, workers, and soldiers in a country of their own. These socialist Zionists rejected religion as perpetuating a "[Diaspora](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diaspora) mentality" among the Jewish people and established rural communes in Israel called "[Kibbutzim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kibbutz)". Major theoreticians of Socialist Zionism included [Moses Hess](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Moses_Hess), [Nachman Syrkin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nachman_Syrkin), [Ber Borochov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ber_Borochov) and [A. D. Gordon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A._D._Gordon), and leading figures in the movement included [David Ben-Gurion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Ben-Gurion) and [Berl Katznelson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berl_Katznelson). Socialist Zionists rejected Yiddish as a language of exile, embracing Hebrew as the common Jewish tongue.

Gordon believed that the Jews lacked a "normal" class structure and that the various classes that constitute a nation had to be created artificially. Socialist Zionists therefore set about becoming Jewish peasants and proletarians and focused on settling land and working on it. According to Gordon "the land if Israel is bought with labor: not with blood and not with fire".

Opponents of Zionism usually claimed the land could not sustain a large population and so could not house the huge numbers of Jews in Europe. Zionists were anxious to develop agriculture and water resources so as to prove they could sustain millions of Jews.

Socialist Zionism became a dominant force in Israel. However, it caused the schism between Zionism and some groups of [Orthodox Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Jews) to grow.

Socialist Zionists formed youth movements which became influential organizations in their own right including [Habonim Dror](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Habonim_Dror), [Hashomer Hatzair](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashomer_Hatzair), [Machanot Halolim](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Machanot_Halolim&action=edit&redlink=1) and [HaNoar HaOved VeHaLomed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HaNoar_HaOved_VeHaLomed). Because of the lack of available immigration permits to Palestine, the youth movements operated training programs in Europe which prepared Jews for migration to Palestine. As a result most Socialist-Zionist immigrants arrived already speaking Hebrew, trained in agriculture and prepared for life in Palestine.

**Early Zionism and the non-Jewish population of Palestine**

See also: [Zionist and Palestinian Arab attitudes before 1948](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionist_and_Palestinian_Arab_attitudes_before_1948)

Before 1917, Palestine's Arab population mostly saw themselves as Ottoman subjects. They feared the objectives of the Zionist movement, but they assumed the movement would fail. After the Young Turk revolution in 1908, Arab Nationalism grew rapidly in the area and most Arab Nationalists regarded Zionism as a threat, although a minority perceived Zionism as providing a path to modernity.

While Zionist leaders and advocates followed conditions in the land of Israel and travelled there regularly, their concern before 1917 was with the future of the small Jewish settlement. A Jewish state seemed highly unlikely at this point and realistic aspirations focused on creating a new center for Jewish life. The future of the land's Arab inhabitants concerned them as little as the welfare of the Jews concerned Arab leaders.

**The Zionist Movement in World War I and the Balfour Declaration**

Main article: [Balfour Declaration of 1917](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917)

As in the US, England had experienced a rapid growth in their Jewish minority. About 150,000 Jews migrated there from Russia in the period 1881–1914. With this immigration influx, pressure grew from British voters to halt it; added to the established knowledge in British society of [Old Testament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Testament) scripture, Zionism became an attractive solution for both Britain and the [Empire](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Empire#World_wars_.281914.E2.80.931945.29).

In the search for support, Herzl, before his death, had made the most progress with the German Kaiser, joining him on his 1898 trip to Palestine. At the outbreak of war in 1914, the offices of the Zionist Organization were located in Berlin and led by [Otto Warburg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otto_Warburg_%28botanist%29), a German citizen. With different national sections of the movement supporting different sides in the war, Zionist policy was to maintain strict neutrality and "to demonstrate complete loyalty to Turkey," the German ally controlling Palestine.

Following Turkey's entry into [World War I](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_I) in August however, the Zionists were expelled from Tel Aviv and its environs. In England the Polish Zionist, [Ze'ev Jabotinsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ze%27ev_Jabotinsky), worked to create a Jewish division in the British army.

When the war started in 1914, most Jews viewed [Tsarist Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tsardom_of_Russia), on the Allied side, as the historic enemy of the Jewish people and there was tremendous support for Germany. In much of Eastern Europe the advancing Germans were regarded as liberators by the Jews. Russian Jewish immigrants to Britain avoided the draft. The [Jewish Legion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Legion) was established as a means of recruiting Russian immigrants to the British war effort and was dominated by Zionist volunteers.

In the United States, still officially neutral, many Russian and German Jews supported the Germans as did much of the large [Irish American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irish_American) community. Britain was anxious to win US support for its war effort, and winning over Jewish financial and popular support in the US was considered vital. The most prominent Russian-Zionist migrant in Britain was chemist [Chaim Weizmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim_Weizmann). Weizmann developed a new process to produce [Acetone](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acetone), a critical ingredient in manufacturing explosives that Britain was unable to manufacture in sufficient quantity. In 1915, the British government fell as a result of its inability to [manufacture enough artillery shells](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shell_Crisis_of_1915) for the war effort. In the new Government, [David Lloyd George](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lloyd_George) became the minister responsible for armaments, and asked Weizmann to develop his process for mass production.

Lloyd George was an evangelist Christian and pro-Zionist. According to Lloyd George when he asked Weizmann about payment for his efforts to help Britain, Weizmann told him that he wanted no money, just the rights over Palestine. Weizmann became a close associate of [Lloyd George](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Lloyd_George) (Prime-Minister from 1916) and the [First Lord of the Admiralty](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Lord_of_the_Admiralty) (Foreign Secretary from 1916), [Arthur Balfour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Balfour).

In 1916 [Hussein bin Ali, Sharif of Mecca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hussein_bin_Ali%2C_Sharif_of_Mecca) (in [Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabia)), began an "[Arab Revolt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Revolt)" hoping to create an Arab state in the Middle East. In the [McMahon–Hussein Correspondence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McMahon%E2%80%93Hussein_Correspondence) British representatives promised they would allow him to create such a state. They also provided him with large sums of money to fund his revolt.

In February 1917 the [Tzar was overthrown](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/February_Revolution) and [Kerensky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kerensky) became Prime Minister of the Russian Empire. Jews were prominent in the new government and the British hoped that Jewish support would help keep Russia in the war. In June 1917 the British army, led by Allenby, invaded Palestine. The [Jewish Legion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Legion) participated in the invasion and [Jabotinsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabotinsky) was awarded for bravery. Arab forces conquered [Transjordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transjordan) and later took over Damascus.

In August 1917, as the British cabinet discussed the Balfour Declaration, [Edwin Samuel Montagu](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Samuel_Montagu), the only Jew in the British Cabinet and a staunch anti-Zionist, "was passionately opposed to the declaration on the grounds that (a) it was a capitulation to anti-Semitic bigotry, with its suggestion that Palestine was the natural destination of the Jews, and that (b) it would be a grave cause of alarm to the Muslim world.". Additional references to the future rights of non-Jews in Palestine and the status of Jews worldwide, were thus inserted by the British cabinet, reflecting the opinion of the only Jew within it. As the draft was finalized, the term "state" was replaced with "home", and comments were sought from Zionists abroad. Louis Brandeis, a member of the US Supreme Court, influenced the style of the text and changed the words "Jewish race" to "Jewish people".

On November 2, the British Foreign Secretary, [Arthur Balfour](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Balfour), made his landmark [Balfour Declaration of 1917](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balfour_Declaration_of_1917), expressing the government's view in favor of "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people", and specifically noting that its establishment must not "prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

As the declaration was being finalized, the [Bolsheviks](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bolsheviks)[took over](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/October_Revolution) Russia. On 23 November, they released a copy of the previously secret [Sykes–Picot Agreement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sykes%E2%80%93Picot_Agreement), among others, publishing its full text in [Izvestia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Izvestia) and [Pravda](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pravda), and it was subsequently printed in the [Manchester Guardian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester_Guardian) on November 26. This caused Britain great embarrassment, because of the conflicting plans and promises it revealed.

**Massacres of Jews during the Russian civil war**

The civil war that accompanied the [Russian Revolution (1917)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Revolution_%281917%29), saw terrible [atrocities against Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom#During_the_Revolution_and_the_Civil_Wars_in_Russia), particularly in the Ukraine:

...the one and a half million Jews of the Ukraine became the victims of the most vicious attacks since the days of [Khmelnitsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bohdan_Khmelnytsky). Estimates of the numbers killed run as high as one Jew out of every thirteen. Hundreds of thousands were left homeless.

Anti-Semites assumed the Bolsheviks were largely Jewish (calling it [Jewish Bolshevism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Bolshevism)) and the Bolsheviks did give Jews equal rights as individuals, however they were intolerant of religious Judaism (see [Karl Marx#Marx and antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Karl_Marx#Marx_and_antisemitism)) and of Zionism, which was later banned.

The Communist party and its Jewish sections regarded the values of the Jewish community as so alien to Marxist ideology and to the new society to be based on it that they were determined to eradicate them as soon as possible.

In 1917 there were 300,000 Zionist members in Russia. A 1922 Bolshevik census found less than 1,000 Jewish party members.

**The British Mandate and the struggle for Palestine 1918–1939**

**Weizmann becomes leader**

Main article: [Chaim Weizmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaim_Weizmann)

In late 1921, the 12th Zionist congress was held in Carlsbad, Czechoslovakia; it was the first congress to be held since 1913, because of World War I, and much change, both positive and less-so, had occurred. Four hundred-fifty delegates attended, representing 780,000 fee paying Zionist members worldwide. Following Chaim Weizmann's "clash" with Louis Brandeis and American Zionism, and the latter's resignation as honorary president of the Zionist Organization, Weizmann was elected its president in recognition of his role in obtaining the Balfour Declaration and the international acceptance of it that had accrued since. With this new impetus however, conditions in Palestine were less than favorable, and the conference passed a proposal for an "Arab-Jewish Entente", which called on Zionist leadership to "forge a true understanding with the Arab nation". Weizmann led the movement until 1931. From 1931 to 1935 the WZO was presided by [Nahum Sokolow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nahum_Sokolow) (who had also spent the first world war in Britain). Weizmann resumed presidency of the WZO in 1935 and led it until 1946.

**The League of Nations endorses Zionism**

Poster from the Zionist Tarbut schools of [Poland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland) in the 1930s. Zionist parties were very active in [Polish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poland) politics. In the 1922 Polish elections, Zionists held 24 seats of a total of 35 Jewish parliament members.

After the defeat and dismantling of the Ottoman Empire by European colonial powers in 1918, the [League of Nations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations) endorsed the full text of the Balfour Declaration and established the [British Mandate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/League_of_Nations_mandate) for Palestine (Full text:).

In addition to accepting the Balfour Declaration policy statement, the League included that “[a]n appropriate [Jewish agency](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Agency_for_Israel) shall be recognized as a public body for the purpose of advising and co-operating with the Administration of Palestine..." This inclusion paralleled a similar proposal made by the [Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization) during the [Paris Peace Conference](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_Peace_Conference%2C_1919).

The Zionist movement entered a new phase of activity. Its priorities were encouraging Jewish settlement in Palestine, building the institutional foundations of a Jewish state and raising funds for these purposes. The 1920s did see a steady growth in the Jewish population and the construction of state-like Jewish institutions, but also saw the emergence of Palestinian Arab nationalism and growing resistance to Jewish immigration.

**Expansion of the movement: the third and fourth aliya**

The success of Zionism in getting international recognition for its project led to growth in the membership and development of new forms of Zionism. The period 1919-1923 saw migration by Jews escaping the civil war in Russia, the period 1924-1929 migration by Jews escaping antisemitic regimes in Poland and Hungary.

**Religious Zionism**

Main article: [Religious Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Zionism)

In the 1920s and 1930s, a small but vocal group of religious Jews, under such leaders as Rabbi [Abraham Isaac Kook](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abraham_Isaac_Kook) (the first Chief Rabbi of Palestine) and his son Zevi Judah, began to develop the concept of [Religious Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Zionism). At the time, Kook was concerned that growing secularism of Zionist supporters and increasing antagonism towards the movement from the largely non-Zionist Orthodox community might lead to a schism between them. He therefore sought to create a brand of Zionism which would serve as a bridge between Jewish Orthodoxy and secular Jewish Zionists, for the benefit of the overall Zionist endeavor.

The Religious Zionists established a youth movement called [Bnei Akiva](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bnei_Akiva) in 1929, and a number of [Religious Kibbutzim](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Kibbutz_Movement).

**Revisionist Zionism**

Main article: [Revisionist Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revisionist_Zionism)

The Revisionist Zionists were established in 1923 and originally led by [Ze'ev Jabotinsky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ze%27ev_Jabotinsky). After his involvement against the [1929 Arab riots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Palestine_riots), the British banned Jabotinsky from re-entering Palestine, and until his death in 1940, he advocated the more militant revisionist ideology in Europe and America. In 1935, he and the Revisionists left the mainstream [Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization) and formed the [New Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zionist_Organization). Following mainstream Zionism's' acceptance of their earlier militant demand for a Jewish state they eventually rejoined in 1946.

During this period, Revisionist Zionism was detested by the competing Socialist Zionist movement, which saw them as being [capitalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capitalist) and influenced by [Fascism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism); the movement also caused a great deal of concern among Arab Palestinians.

Revisionism was popular in Poland but lacked large support in Palestine. The Revisionists refused to comply with British quotas on Jewish migration, and, following the election of Hitler in Germany, the Revisionist youth movements [HeHalutz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HeHalutz) and [Beitar](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beitar) began to organize illegal Jewish migration to Palestine. In Europe and America they advocated pressing Britain to allow mass Jewish emigration and the formation of a Jewish Army in Palestine. The army would force the Arab population to accept mass Jewish migration and promote British interests in the region.

**Jewish opposition to Zionism between the wars**

International Jewish opinion remained divided on the merits of the Zionist project. Some Jews in Europe and the United States argued that a Jewish homeland was not needed and that Jews should become equal citizens in their countries of residence.

Jews who embraced [socialism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialism) and [proletarian internationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Proletarian_internationalism) sometimes opposed Zionism as a form of [bourgeois nationalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bourgeois_nationalism). The [Polish Bund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Jewish_Labour_Bund_in_Poland), was anti-Zionist and called for [Jewish autonomy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Autonomism) within Eastern Europe.

Communist Jews often abandoned their connection with the religion, sometimes completely ceasing to identify as Jews but many retained an affiliation with their co-religionists and a sympathy for Zionism. In 1928, the [Soviet Union](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_Union) established a [Jewish Autonomous Oblast](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Autonomous_Oblast) in the [Russian Far East](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Russian_Far_East) but the effort failed to meet expectations and as of 2002 Jews constitute only about 1.2% of its population.

**Zionism and the Arabs**

Arab nationalists predominantly perceived Zionism as a threat to their own aspirations. This sense was heightened, by the growth of Zionist labor movement and its "[Hebrew labor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hebrew_labor)" program. The latter was an effort to increase Jewish immigrant employment, secure the creation of a Jewish proletariat, and to prevent Zionist settlement from turning into a standard colonial enterprise. Initially, it sought to develop separate settlements and economies and campaigned for the exclusive employment of Jews; it later campaigned against the employment of Arabs. Its adverse effects on the Arab majority were increasingly noted by the mandatory administration.

In 1919 [Hashemite](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hashemite) [Emir Faisal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faisal_I_of_Iraq), signed the [Faisal–Weizmann Agreement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faisal%E2%80%93Weizmann_Agreement). He wrote:

We [Arabs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arabs), especially the educated among us, look with the deepest sympathy on the Zionist movement. Our delegation here in Paris is fully acquainted with the proposals submitted yesterday by the Zionist organization to the Peace Conference, and we regard them as moderate and proper.

In their first meeting in June 1918 Weizmann had assured Faisal that

the Jews did not propose to set up a government of their own but wished to work under British protection, to colonize and develop Palestine without encroaching on any legitimate interests

Initially Palestinian Arabs looked to the Arab-nationalist leaders to create a single Arab state, however Faisal's agreement with Weizmann led Palestinian-Arabs to develop their own brand of nationalism and call for Palestine to become a state governed by the Arab majority, in particular they demanded an elected assembly.

Zionist supporters were by now aware of Arab opposition, and this led the movement in 1921 to pass a motion calling on the leadership to "forge a true understanding with the Arab nation".

**The Mufti and the emergence of Palestinian Nationalism**

Main article: [Mohammad Amin al-Husayni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Amin_al-Husayni)

[Mohammad Amin al-Husayni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Amin_al-Husayni)

In 1921, [Mohammad Amin al-Husayni](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohammad_Amin_al-Husayni) was appointed as [Grand Mufti of Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grand_Mufti_of_Jerusalem) by the Palestine High Commissioner [Herbert Samuel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Samuel%2C_1st_Viscount_Samuel), after he had been pardoned for his role in the [1920 Palestine riots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1920_Palestine_riots). During the following decades, he became the focus of Palestinian opposition to Zionism.

The Mufti believed that Jews were seeking to rebuild the [Temple in Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Temple_in_Jerusalem) on the site of the [Dome of the Rock](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dome_of_the_Rock) and [Al-Aqsa Mosque](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Aqsa_Mosque). This led to a long confrontation over the use of the [Kotel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall), also known as the Wailing Wall, which was owned by the [Moslem authorities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Waqf) but was sacred to Jews.

Religious tension, an international economic crisis (affecting crop prices) and nationalist tension (over Zionist immigration) led to the [1929 Palestine riots](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Palestine_riots). In these religious-nationalist riots Jews were [massacred in Hebron](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1929_Hebron_massacre) and the survivors forced to leave the town. Devastation also took place in [Safed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Safed) and Jerusalem.

In 1936 an [Arab uprising](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%931939_Arab_revolt_in_Palestine) occurred, which lasted for three years. The [Supreme Muslim Council](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Muslim_Council) in Palestine, led by the Mufti, organized the revolt. During the revolt the Mufti was forced to flee to Iraq, where he was involved in a pro-Nazi coup during which the Jewish areas of Baghdad were subjected to a [pogrom](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Farhud).

In 1939 he rejected as insufficient the British [White Paper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Paper_of_1939) which imposed restrictions on Jewish immigration and land acquisition by Jews.

After the British reoccupied Iraq the Mufti joined the Nazis. He worked with [Himmler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Himmler) and aided the [SS](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schutzstaffel) his main role was broadcasting propaganda and recruiting Moslems, primarily for the [Waffen SS in Bosnia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/13th_Waffen_Mountain_Division_of_the_SS_Handschar_%281st_Croatian%29). There is also evidence that he was active in promoting the Nazi extermination program.

In 1948 the Mufti returned to Egypt. He was involved in the short-lived [All-Palestine Government](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All-Palestine_Government) sponsored by Egypt but was sidelined by most of the Arab countries.

**Roosevelt-Ibn Saud correspondence**

As the [Second World War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_World_War) was drawing to its close, the King of [Saudi Arabia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi_Arabia) expressed his concern in a letter to US President [Franklin D. Roosevelt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franklin_D._Roosevelt) lest the US support for Zionism will infringe on the rights of the Arabs of Palestine. On April 5, 1945, the President replied in a letter to the King that

I would take no action, in my capacity as Chief of the Executive Branch of this Government, which might prove hostile to the Arab people.

Following Roosevelt's death, the Truman administration publicly adhered to the policy announced in the letter in an official statement released on October 18, 1945.

**Growing conflict with the Palestinian Arab population**

One issue fatally divided Arab and Jew in Palestine: immigration. Jews would not compromise over immigration which they needed as a means of escaping European persecution and which was a core doctrine of Zionism. The Arabs for their part could not compromise on immigration because to do so would effectively end their majority in Palestine. As time went on the conflict between the two communities became increasingly bitter.

**[British immigration restrictions**

British support for Zionism was always controversial and the issue was periodically debated in [Parliament](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/House_of_Commons_of_the_United_Kingdom).

Churchill also restricted Jewish migration to an annual quota decided by the British. Certificates allowing migration were distributed by the Jewish Agency. Jews with 1000 Pounds in cash or Jewish professionals with 500 Pounds in cash could emigrate freely. Churchill's reforms made it hard for [Arab Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arab_Jews), [Orthodox Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orthodox_Jews) and [Revisionist Zionists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revisionist_Zionist) from Poland to migrate to Palestine as the Jewish Agency was dominated by European Zionists, and increasingly by Socialist Zionists. Immigration restrictions did, however mean that Jewish immigrants to Palestine had to prove their loyalty and dedication by spending years preparing for migration. Many immigrants arrived after rigorous preparation including agricultural and ideological training and learning Hebrew.

**The rise of Hitler: the Fifth Aliyah and illegal migration**

See also: [Hitler's rise to power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hitler%27s_rise_to_power), [Fifth Aliyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fifth_Aliyah), and [Aliyah Bet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_Bet)

During the 1920s concerns about antisemitism increased across Europe. By 1928, nations were increasingly legislating immigration, which at times prevented Jews from entering, and some of the new European states, established after the First World War, perceived Jewish immigrants as a threat to their political stability. Many countries feared that immigrating Jews from the east would bring revolutionary political ideas with them; Jews were also perceived as being a negative moral influence on society.

The rise to power of [Adolf Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) in Germany in 1933 produced a powerful new impetus for increased Zionist support and immigration to Palestine. The long-held assimilationist and non-Zionist view that Jews could live securely as minorities in European societies was deeply undermined, since Germany had been regarded previously as the country in which Jews had been most successfully integrated. With nearly all other countries closed to Jewish immigration, a new [wave of migrants](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah#Fifth_Aliyah_.281929.E2.80.931939.29) headed for Palestine. Those unable to pay the fees required for immediate entry by the British had to join the waiting lists.

Nazi efforts to induce Jews to leave Germany were made, but were undermined by their refusal to allow them to take their property also. In response, [Haim Arlozorov](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haim_Arlozorov) of the Jewish Agency negotiated the [Haavara Agreement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haavara_Agreement) with the Nazis, whereby German Jews could buy and then export German manufactured goods to Palestine. In Palestine the goods were later sold and the income returned to the migrants. As a result of this agreement, the influx of capital gave a much-needed economic boost in the midst of the [great depression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_depression). Arlozorov, however, was assassinated shortly after his return, it was generally believed by members of the [Irgun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irgun) (in recent years it has been suggested that Nazi propaganda Minister [Goebbels](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goebbels) may have ordered the assassination to hide Arlozorov's connection with his [wife](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magda_Goebbels)).

Starting in 1934, the Revisionists also began organizing [illegal immigration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_Bet), and combined, the Jewish population of Palestine rose rapidly. While these conditions also led to increased Arab immigration, the rapid rise in Jewish immigrants eventually led to the [1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%931939_Arab_revolt_in_Palestine).

By 1938, the increasing pressure put on European Jews also led mainstream Zionists to organize illegal immigration.

**The Struggle Against Britain and the Nazis 1939–1948**

**The 1939 White Paper and the British break with Zionism**

Main article: [1939 White Paper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1939_White_Paper)

In Britain as elsewhere in Europe, the 1930s saw an increase in [antisemitism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antisemitism). [British Labor Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Labour_Party) politician, Oswald, established a new party, the [British Union of Fascists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Union_of_Fascists), which claimed that "the Jews" were leading Britain to war and campaigned for peace with Germany. British support for Zionism was further undermined by the [1936–1939 Arab revolt in Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1936%E2%80%931939_Arab_revolt_in_Palestine) and concern that millions of Jews would soon be seeking entry to Palestine. The [Nuremberg Laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Laws) effectively ended the 500,000 Jews of Germany status as citizens, making them refugees in their own country. In March 1938 Hitler [annexed Austria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anschluss) making its 200,000 Jews stateless refugees. In September the British [agreed to Nazi annexation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Munich_Agreement) of the [Sudetenland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sudetenland) making a further 100,000 Jews refugees.

In the [absence of alternative destinations](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89vian_Conference), over 100,000 German Jews headed for Palestine.

In 1939 the British issued a [White Paper](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_Paper_of_1939), in which they declared that a [Jewish National Home](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_National_Home) now existed and that their obligations under the mandate were fulfilled. Further migration would be harmful to the Arab population. A further 10,000 Jews a year were to be admitted from 1939 to 1944 as well as a one-time allowance of 25,000 in view of the situation in Europe. After that Jewish migration would require (the extremely unlikely) agreement of the Arab majority (by this time Jews were about a third of the population). The British promised Palestinians independence by 1949 and imposed restrictions on land purchases by Jews.

The British were concerned about maintaining Arab support as Italian Fascist and German Nazi propaganda was [targeting the Arab world](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fascism_as_an_international_phenomenon#Overtures_to_Muslims_and_Arab_countries) (and winning support). Jewish support in the fight against Fascism was guaranteed. In Palestine, Zionists increasingly viewed the British as an enemy, but they deemed the fight against the Nazis more important. In 1940 a group led by [Avraham Stern](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Avraham_Stern), later known as [Lehi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lehi_%28group%29), left the [Irgun](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irgun) over its refusal to fight the British.

**State of the Zionist movement on the eve of World War II**

In 1938–39 the Zionist movement had 1,040,540 members in 61 countries. Total world Jewish population at this time was about 18 million. Zionism was banned in Turkey. Likewise though a significant proportion of the movement's supporters originally came from the [USSR](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USSR), under [Stalin](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Stalin). Zionism and Orthodox Judaism were banned and Jews were prominent among the victims of the [Soviet genocide](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soviet_genocide). These figures suggest Zionism was very popular among Jews.

The following figures relate to the last pre-war Zionist congress in Geneva, 1939. Elections for the congress were held in 48 countries and 529 delegates attended. Members of the movement voted for the parties. Each party submitted a delegate list. Seats were distributed to the parties according to the number of votes they obtained and candidates elected in the order in which they were named on the list. This system today forms the basis for Israeli elections.

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| **Members and delegates at the 1939 Zionist congress, per country** |
| **Country** | **Members** | **Delegates** |
| Poland | 299,165 | 109 |
| USA | 263,741 | 114 |
| Palestine | 167,562 | 134 |
| Rumania | 60,013 | 28 |
| United Kingdom | 23,513 | 15 |
| South Africa | 22,343 | 14 |
| Canada | 15,220 | 8 |

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| **Delegates per political party at the 1939 Zionist congress** |
| **Party** | **Number** | **Percentage** |
| Worker's Party | 216 | 41 |
| General Zionists (center) | 143 | 27 |
| General Zionists (conservative) | 28 | 5 |
| Mizrahi (Orthodox religious) | 65 | 12 |
| Radical Workers [far left] | 3 | 2.5 |
| State Party [right-wing] | 8 | 1.5 |
| Others | 66 | 11 |

**Zionism during the Holocaust**

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| [**The Holocaust**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust) |
| **Early elements** |
| [Racial policy](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Racial_policy_of_Nazi_Germany)**·** [Nuremberg Laws](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Laws)**·** [Nazi eugenics](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_eugenics)**·** [Action T4](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_T4) |
| [**Jews**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_during_World_War_II) |
| [German Jews](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Jews) |
| [**Pogroms**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pogrom#During_the_Holocaust): [Kristallnacht](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht)**·** [Bucharest](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legionnaires%27_rebellion_and_Bucharest_pogrom)**·** [Dorohoi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorohoi_pogrom)**·** [Iaşi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ia%C5%9Fi_pogrom)**·** [Kaunas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaunas_pogrom)**·** [Jedwabne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jedwabne_pogrom)**·** [Lviv (Lvov)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lviv_pogroms) |
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| **Responsible parties** |
| [**Nazi Germany**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Germany): [Adolf Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler)**·** [Heinrich Himmler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heinrich_Himmler)**·** [Ernst Kaltenbrunner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ernst_Kaltenbrunner)**·** [Theodor Eicke](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Eicke)**·** [Reinhard Heydrich](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reinhard_Heydrich)**·** [Adolf Eichmann](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Eichmann)**·** [Rudolf Höss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolf_H%C3%B6ss)**·** [Nazi Party](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Party)**·** [Schutzstaffel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schutzstaffel) (SS) **·** [Gestapo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gestapo)**·** [Sturmabteilung](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sturmabteilung) (SA)[**War Collaborators**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Collaboration_with_the_Axis_Powers_during_World_War_II)[**Nazi Ideologues**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nazi_Ideologues)[**Aftermath**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aftermath_of_World_War_II): [Nuremberg Trials](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuremberg_Trials)**·** [Denazification](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Denazification)**·** [Reparations Agreementbetween Israel and West Germany](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reparations_Agreement_between_Israel_and_West_Germany) |
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| [*The Destruction of the European Jews*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Destruction_of_the_European_Jews) [Functionalism versus intentionalism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Functionalism_versus_intentionalism) |
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Main article: [Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust)

During the Holocaust Europe's Jews were cut off from and disowned by the outside world. Jews were systematically impoverished, starved and murdered. Where Jews did try to fight the Nazis, Zionists were prominent in the resistance. However those fighting never had a chance of success, and were always bloodily suppressed by the Nazis. The only instances where Jews had been successful, were when they fought in the woods as partisans, for example the [Bielski partisans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bielski_partisans), a group of 1213 Jews who survived the whole war while making trouble for the Nazis. Nazi allies ([Hungary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungary), [Romania](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romania), [Slovakia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slovakia) and [Croatia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Croatia) (mainly Romania) were responsible for the deaths of at least 10% of the 6 million Jews killed in the Holocaust. Axis governments, local police forces and local volunteers across Europe played a critical role in rounding up or executing Jews for the Nazis.

The [Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warsaw_Ghetto_Uprising) of January and April 1943 included the participation of both right- and left-leaning Zionist organizations. Zionists of all political spectra played a leading role in the struggle. The uprising's left-leaning survivors eventually made their way to Palestine and founded two Kibbutzim, [Lohamei HaGeta'ot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lohamei_HaGeta%27ot) and [Yad Mordechai](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yad_Mordechai).

In Palestine the Zionist leadership instructed all able-bodied Jews to volunteer for the British Army. In addition there was an effort to parachute fighters into Europe, though little came of this. Fearing a Nazi invasion, the Jewish community prepared for a final stand to be made against the Nazis.

Overall the yishuv leaders had not done enough in publicizing and trying to stop the Holocaust. While they could have succeeded in saving thousands of Jews if rescuing Jews had been their top priority, rather than state creation, they had no power to "stop" the Holocaust. In the words of [Tom Segev](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tom_Segev):

"The story of the yishuv leaders during the Holocaust was essentially one of helplessness. They rescued a few thousand Jews from Europe. They could, perhaps have saved more, but they could not save millions."

Efforts were made to offer the Nazis money for the release of Jews. However, these efforts were systematically (and, according to Segev, cynically) destroyed by the British.

The 1942 Zionist conference could not be held because of the war. Instead 600 Jewish leaders (not just Zionists) met at the Biltmore Hotel in New York and adopted a statement known as the [Biltmore Program](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biltmore_Program). They agreed that the Zionist movement would seek the creation of a Jewish state after the war and that all Jewish organizations would fight to ensure free Jewish migration into Palestine. Regrettably, Jewish efforts at rescue from the Holocaust were not a major part of the program, neither was it a major part of any Zionist conference, except where immigration to Palestine was involved.

**Impact of the Holocaust**

See also: [After the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/After_the_Holocaust)

The Nazi-inspired genocide in Europe had grave consequences for the Zionists.

1. A large section of the membership was wiped out. The damage was particularly great in Poland where about a third of the Zionist members had lived (the Russian membership had been lost to communism).
2. Those Jews who were not killed lost their possessions; the ability of the Zionist movement to raise money in Europe was severely reduced.

This calamity led to important changes in Jewish and Zionist politics:

1. Many Jews were now desperate to leave Europe and willing to take grave risks for that purpose
2. All Jews now agreed on the need for a Jewish state where Jews could live free of the fear of persecution and which would provide a haven in times of persecution.
3. The Jews of the USA were now the dominant force in Jewish politics.
4. More Jews were prepared to mobilize on behalf of their brethren.
5. Britain was now weakened and less able to resist international pressure.

**The rapid growth of illegal immigration to Palestine**

Main articles: [Aliyah Bet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_Bet) and [British Conflict with Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Conflict_with_Zionism)

See also: [Berihah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berihah) and [Sh'erit ha-Pletah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sh%27erit_ha-Pletah)

In 1945, President Truman sent a personal representative, [Earl G. Harrison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earl_G._Harrison), to investigate the situation of the Jewish survivors ("[*Sh'erit ha-Pletah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sh%27erit_ha-Pletah)") in Europe. Harrison reported that

substantial unofficial and unauthorized movements of people must be expected, and these will require considerable force to prevent, for the patience of many of the persons involved is, and in my opinion with justification, nearing the breaking point. It cannot be overemphasized that many of these people are now desperate, that they have become accustomed under German rule to employ every possible means to reach their end, and that the fear of death does not restrain them.

Despite winning the 1945 British election with a manifesto promising to create a Jewish state in Palestine, the Labor Government succumbed to Foreign Office pressure and kept Palestine closed to Jewish migration.

In Europe former [Jewish partisans](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_partisans) led by [Abba Kovner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abba_Kovner) began to organize escape routes ("[*Berihah*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berihah)") taking Jews from Eastern Europe down to the Mediterranean where the Jewish Agency organized ships ("[*Aliyah Bet*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah_Bet)") to illegally carry them to Palestine.

The British government responded by trying to force Jews to return to their places of origin. Holocaust survivors entering the British Zone were denied assistance or forced to live in hostels with former Nazi collaborators (Britain gave asylum to a large number of [Belorussian Nazi collaborators](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/30th_Waffen_Grenadier_Division_of_the_SS_%282nd_Russian%29) after the war). In American-controlled zones, political pressure from Washington allowed Jews to live in their own quarters and meant the US Army helped Jews trying to escape the centers of genocide.

Despite the death of almost a third of the world's Jews during the Second World War, the number of fee paying members of the Zionist movement continued to grow. The December 1946 Zionist congress in Basle (Switzerland) attracted 375 delegates from 43 countries representing two million fee paying members. As before the largest parties were the Socialist Zionist parties although these lacked a full majority. Only ten of the delegates were British Jews.

**The 1947 UN decision to partition Palestine**

In 1947 Britain announced its intention to withdraw from Palestine. An [United Nations Special Committee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Special_Committee_on_Palestine) investigated the situation and offered two solutions :

1. to establish a bi-national state in Palestine (the minority option);
2. to partition Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state.

From the Zionist point of view, the second option corresponded to their goal and they gave full support to this.

On 29 November the [United Nations General Assembly](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly) voted to [partition Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Partition_Plan_for_Palestine) into an Arab state and a Jewish state (with Jerusalem becoming an international enclave). Amid public rejoicing in Jewish communities in Palestine, the Jewish Agency accepted the plan. The Palestinian Arab leadership and the Arab League rejected the decision and announced that they would not abide by it. [Civil conflict between the Arabs and Jews in Palestine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1947%E2%80%931948_Civil_War_in_Mandatory_Palestine) ensued immediately.

**Zionism after the creation of Israel**

See also: [History of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel)

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| [**State of Israel**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel) |
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| [**Geography**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Israel) |
| [Land of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_of_Israel)[Districts](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Districts_of_Israel)**·** [Cities](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Israeli_cities)**·** [Transportation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Transport_in_Israel)[Mediterranean Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediterranean_Sea)**·** [Red Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Sea)[Dead Sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dead_Sea)**·** [Sea of Galilee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_of_Galilee)[Jerusalem](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem)**·** [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv)**·** [Haifa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haifa) |
| [**History**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel) |
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| [History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_conflict)[1948 War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_War)**·** [1949 Armistice](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1949_Armistice_Agreements)[Jewish exodus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_exodus_from_Arab_lands)[Suez Crisis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Suez_Crisis)**·** [Six-Day War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War)[War of Attrition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/War_of_Attrition)**·** [Yom Kippur War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yom_Kippur_War)[1982](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1982_Lebanon_War) / [2006 Lebanon Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2006_Lebanon_War)[Peace proposals](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Middle_East_peace_proposals)[Treaties with Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egyptian%E2%80%93Israeli_Peace_Treaty) / [Jordan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%E2%80%93Jordan_peace_treaty)[International law](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_law_and_the_Arab%E2%80%93Israeli_conflict) |
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| [History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict) ([timeline](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict))[1948 Palestinian exodus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1948_Palestinian_exodus)[Occupation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli-occupied_territories)[Peace process](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_process_in_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict)**·** [Peace camp](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_peace_camp)[First Intifada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Intifada)**·** [Oslo Accords](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_Accords)[Second Intifada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Intifada)**·** [West Bank barrier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_West_Bank_barrier)[Unilateral disengagement](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%27s_unilateral_disengagement_plan) |
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| [**Security Forces**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_security_forces) |
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| [**Portal**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal%3AIsrael)**·** [**Category**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category%3AIsrael)[**WikiProject**](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AWikiProject_Israel) |
| [v](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template%3AState_of_Israel) • [d](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Template_talk%3AState_of_Israel) • [e](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Template:State_of_Israel&action=edit) |

[David Ben-Gurion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Ben-Gurion) (First Prime Minister of [Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel)) publicly pronouncing the Declaration of the State of Israel, May 14, 1948, [Tel Aviv](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tel_Aviv), Israel, beneath a large portrait of [Theodor Herzl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodor_Herzl), founder of modern political Zionism.

On 14 May 1948 the leaders of the Jewish community in Palestine made a [declaration of independence](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_Independence_%28Israel%29), and the state of Israel was established. This marked a major turning point in the Zionist movement, as its principal goal had now been accomplished. Many Zionist institutions were reshaped, and the three military movements combined to form the [Israel Defense Forces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel_Defense_Forces). The continuing conflict with the Arabs can be read in the article on the [History of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel) or the [Israeli–Palestinian conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict).

Since 1948 the international Zionist movement has undertaken a variety of roles in support of Israel. These have included the encouragement of immigration, assisting the absorption and integration of immigrants, fundraising on behalf of settlement and development projects in Israel, the encouragement of private capital investment in Israel, and mobilization of world public opinion in support of Israel. Most Jews have come to identify as Zionists, in the sense that they support the State of Israel even if they do not choose to live there. This worldwide support has been of vital importance to Israel, both politically and financially.

The 1967 war between Israel and the Arab states (the "[Six-Day War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Six-Day_War)") marked a major turning point in the history of both Israel and of Zionism. Israeli forces captured the eastern half of Jerusalem, including the holiest of Jewish religious sites, the [Western Wall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Wall) of the ancient Temple. They also took over the remaining territories of pre-1948 Palestine, the [West Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank) (from Jordan) the [Gaza Strip](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza_Strip) (from [Egypt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt)) as well as the [Golan Heights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golan_Heights) (from Syria).

The 28th Zionist Congress (Jerusalem, 1968) adopted the following five principles, known as the "Jerusalem Program", as the aims of contemporary Zionism:[[73]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Zionism#cite_note-72#cite_note-72)

* The unity of the Jewish people and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life
* The ingathering of the Jewish people in the historic homeland, Eretz Israel, through [aliyah](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aliyah) from all countries
* The strengthening of the State of Israel, based on the "prophetic vision of justice and peace"
* The preservation of the identity of the Jewish people through the fostering of Jewish, Hebrew and Zionist education and of Jewish spiritual and cultural values
* The protection of Jewish rights everywhere.

The [election of 1977](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli_legislative_election%2C_1977), characterized as “the revolution”, brought the nationalistic, right-wing [Revisionist Zionists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revisionist_Zionism) to power, after thirty years of opposition to the dominant Labor party and indicated further movement to the political right. Joel Greenburg, writing in [The New York Times](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times) twenty years after the election, notes its significance and that of related events; he writes:

The seed was sown in 1977, when Menachem Begin of Likud brought his party to power for the first time in a stunning election victory over Labor. A decade before, in the 1967 war, Israeli troops had in effect undone the partition accepted in 1948 by overrunning the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Ever since, Mr. Begin had preached undying loyalty to what he called Judea and Samaria (the West Bank lands) and promoted Jewish settlement there. But he did not annex the West Bank and Gaza to Israel after he took office, reflecting a recognition that absorbing the Palestinians could turn Israel it into a binational state instead of a Jewish one.

Control of the West Bank and Gaza placed Israel in the position of control over a large population of Palestinian Arabs. This policy was partially abandoned in 2004 leading to the [unilateral withdrawal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%27s_unilateral_disengagement_plan) from Gaza. Since Israel founding, Zionism and its ideological underpinnings have become less important in Israeli politics, except for on-going national debate over the nature of what is meant by a "Jewish State," and the geographic limits of the State of Israel.

**The campaign to free the Jews of the USSR**

After 1967, the Zionist movement mounted a major campaign to pressure the USSR to allow Soviet Jews to migrate to Israel. In 1975 the [United Nations General Assembly Resolution 3379](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_3379) was passed. It stated that "Zionism is a form of racism and racial discrimination." Resolution 3379 was rescinded in 1991 by the [Resolution 4686](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_General_Assembly_Resolution_46/86). This issue is discussed in length in the article on [anti-Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Zionism).

**Further reading**

* Brenner, Michael, and Shelley Frisch. *Zionism: A Brief History* (2003) [excerpt and text search](http://www.amazon.com/dp/1558763015)
* Cohen, Naomi. *The Americanization of Zionism, 1897-1948* (2003). 304 pp. essays on specialized topics
* Laqueuer, Walter. *A History of Zionism: From the French Revolution to the Establishment of the State of Israel* (2003) good history by a leading scholar [excerpt and text search](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0805211497)
* Medoff, Rafael. "Recent Trends in the Historiography of American Zionism," *American Jewish History* 86 (March 1998), 117-134.
* Sachar, Howard M. *A History of Israel: From the Rise of Zionism to Our Time* (2007) [excerpt and text search](http://www.amazon.com/dp/0375711325)
* Urofsky, Melvin I. *American Zionism from Herzl to the Holocaust* (1995), the standard history
* Wigoder, Geoffrey, ed. *New Encyclopedia of Zionism and Israel* (2nd ed. 2 vol. 1994); 1521pp

**Primary sources**

* Hertzberg, Arthur. *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader* (1997), 648pp, major primary sources plus very good introduction

**See also**

* [Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zionism)

**Types of Zionism**

* [Christian Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christian_Zionism)
* [Cultural Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_Zionism)
* [General Zionists](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Zionists)
* [Labor Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labor_Zionism)
* [Reform Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reform_Zionism)
* [Religious Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religious_Zionism)
* [Revisionist Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Revisionist_Zionism)

**Zionist institutions and organizations**

* [Histadrut](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histadrut)
* The [Jewish Agency for Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Agency_for_Israel)
* [Jewish National Fund](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_National_Fund)
* [Vaad Leumi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vaad_Leumi)
* [World Zionist Organization](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Zionist_Organization)

**History of Zionism and Israel**

* [History of Israel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Israel)
* [History of the Southern Levant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Southern_Levant)
* [Israeli–Palestinian conflict](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict)
* [List of Zionist figures](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Zionist_figures)
* [Timeline of Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Zionism)

**Other**

* [Anti-Zionism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Zionism)
* [Jewish Autonomism](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Autonomism)
* [Jewish emancipation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_emancipation)
* [Yerida](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yerida)