

# TIMELINE OF MAIN EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF ISRAEL

## Biblical Period

1600 BCE	Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – forefathers of the Jewish people and bearers of the faith in one God – settle in the Land of Israel
	The tribes of Israel go down to Egypt because of a severe famine in the Land of Israel
1200 BCE	The Exodus from Egypt, the gathering at Mount Sinai
1200-1100 BCE	The tribes of Israel settle in the Land of Israel
1020 BCE	The Kingdom of Israel is established; Saul – the first king
1000 BCE	Jerusalem becomes the capital of the Kingdom of Israel under King David
960 BCE	The First Temple, the national and spiritual center of the people of Israel, is built in Jerusalem by King Solomon
722-720 BCE	The Kingdom of Israel that is located in the northern Land of Israel is conquered by Assyria; ten tribes go into exile
586 BCE	The Kingdom of Judah is conquered by Babylonia; Jerusalem and the Temple are laid waste; the Jews are exiled to Babylonia

## The Second Temple Period

538-515 BCE	The Return to Zion after the proclamation of Cyrus – masses of Jews return from Babylonia; the Temple is rebuilt
332 BCE	The Land of Israel is conquered by Alexander the Great; Hellenistic rule
166-160 BCE	The Hasmonean Revolt against the Greek Empire in reaction to the constraints imposed on Jewish religious practice
129-63 BCE	Jewish political independence under the Hasmonean Kingdom

## The Period of Roman Rule

63 BCE to 4 CE	King Herod, a Roman vassal, rules in the Land of Israel; the Temple is expanded and becomes a spectacular compound
66	The Jews rebel against the Romans
70	The destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Temple
73	The Romans' battle to conquer Masada
132-135	The Bar Kochba Revolt against the Romans
136	The Romans change the name of Judea to Syria Palaestina and the name of Jerusalem to Aelia Capitolina. Jews are forbidden to settle in the Land of Israel

## Changing Foreign Regimes

614	The Persian invasion
638	The Arab conquest
638	The liberation of Jerusalem by a combined force of Persians and Jews
638	Conquest of Jerusalem by the Second Caliph, Umar ibn al-Khattab Renewal of the Jewish community in Jerusalem
691	The Dome of the Rock is built on the Temple Mount by the caliph Abd al-Malik on the presumed location of the First and Second Temples
1099-1291	Crusader rule
1291-1516	Mamluk rule
1517	Ottoman rule

## The Modern Period

1863	The relative Jewish majority in Jerusalem is renewed
1882-1903	The First Aliyah

1897	The First Zionist Congress in Basel under the aegis of Binyamin Ze'ev Herzl
1901	The establishment of the Jewish National Fund – an organization for purchasing land for Jewish settlement in the Land of Israel
1904-1914	The Second Aliyah – mostly Jews from Eastern Europe and Yemen
1909	The founding of the first kibbutz – Kibbutz Degania on the shore of Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee)
May 16, 1916	The Sykes-Picot Agreement between France and Britain, which delineated the two powers' Middle Eastern areas of rule in the Ottoman Empire once the First World War had ended
November 2, 1917	The Balfour Declaration – a document signed by British foreign minister Lord Arthur James Balfour, which espouses a national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel
January 3, 1919	The Faisal-Weizmann agreement between Chaim Weizmann and Emir Faisal – an agreement that envisaged the relations between the Arabs in the Arab state to be established and the Jews in the Land of Israel
April 25, 1920	The San Remo Agreement – that gave Britain rule over the Land of Israel after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, and ratified the creation of the national home for the Jewish people in the Land of Israel under the aegis of the British power
May 1-7, 1921	Arab riots in Jaffa, Petah Tikva, Rehovot, Hadera, and elsewhere, in which 43 people were killed. The riots were spurred by the Arab national awakening and the demand to annul the Balfour Declaration
July 24, 1922	The removal of Transjordan from the Jewish national home and its transformation into the Emirate of Transjordan (in the future, the Kingdom of Jordan) – in the framework of the publication of the first British White Paper

### **The Establishment of the British Mandate over the Land of Israel**

August 23, 1929	Riots in Hebron, Jerusalem, and Safed. Arabs murder 133 Jews.
July 7, 1937	The Peel Commission – the partition resolution is accepted by the British administration, Ben-Gurion, and the Zionist institutions, and is rejected by the Arabs

1934-1948	Aliyah Bet – “illegal immigration to Israel” – the bringing of Holocaust survivors to the Land of Israel
April 1936 to 1939	The disorders of the Arab Revolt and suppression by the British
1939	Publication of the third White Paper by Malcolm MacDonald, which restricts Jewish immigration to the Land of Israel
March 22, 1945	The establishment of the Arab League with Cairo as its hub
November 29, 1947	Approval of the partition plan by the General Assembly of the United Nations – Resolution 181

### Establishment of the State of Israel

November 29, 1947 to July 20, 1949	The War of Independence; from May 15 to June 11 – the regular Arab armies’ invasion of the Land of Israel. 6000 Jews were killed during the war.
May 14, 1948	Declaration of statehood by David Ben-Gurion, chairman of the Jewish Agency, before the Provisional State Council
February 24, 1949 to July 20, 1949	Armistice agreements (Rhodes agreements): February 24 – Egypt, March 23 – Lebanon, April 3 – Jordan, July 20 – Syria
1948 (until 1967)	Jerusalem is divided between Israel and Jordan along the armistice lines: Jordan holds the eastern part of the city, Israel the western and southern parts. Jews are denied access to the Old City and the holy places in contravention of the armistice agreement
1949	Massive <i>aliyah</i> to Israel from Arab states and North Africa, and of displaced Jews from Europe. The Jewish population doubles from 650,000 to 1,300,000
May 11, 1949	Israel is accepted as the 59 <sup>th</sup> member of the United Nations
December 5, 1949	Jerusalem is declared the capital of Israel by David Ben-Gurion
1951	A UN Security Council resolution condemns Egypt’s blocking of the Suez Canal

1956	Egypt's blocking of the Straits of Tiran and emplacement of coastal artillery at Ras Natzrani — one of the main causus belli for the launching of the Sinai Campaign by France, Britain, and Israel
October 29, 1956 to November 5, 1956	The Sinai Campaign – conquest of the Sinai Peninsula
November 1, 1956	Establishment of the United Nations Emergency Force, UNEF
June 2, 1964	The founding of the PLO – the Palestine Liberation Organization – whose purposes are: to represent the Palestinian people and to wage armed struggle aimed at destroying the State of Israel
June 5, 1967 to June 10, 1967	The Six-Day War between Israel and Arab states: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq
August 29, 1967 to September 1, 1967	Meeting of the Arab League in Khartoum, which laid down the “three no’s”: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with Israel
November 22, 1967	UN Security Council Resolution 242 calls for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East, Israeli withdrawal from lands it conquered in the Six-Day War, a solution to the refugee problem, and the guaranteeing of free passage for ships through international lanes
March 8, 1969 to August 9, 1970	The War of Attrition – repeated Egyptian bombardment of IDF forces deployed along the Suez Canal
September 5-6, 1972	Massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics by Palestinian terrorists of the Black September organization
October 6-24, 1973	The Yom Kippur War between Syria and Egypt and Israel. 2,222 Israelis are killed
October 22, 1973	UN Security Council Resolution 338, which calls for a ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War, the launching of negotiations, and implementation of Resolution 242
November 10, 1975	UN General Assembly Resolution 3379, which equates Zionism with racism

November 9, 1977	Sadat's visit to Israel
September 17, 1978	The Camp David Accords
March 26, 1979	The signing of the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty
April 1, 1982	Completion of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula as stipulated by the peace treaty with Egypt
June 3, 1982	Assassination attempt on the Israeli ambassador to Britain, Shlomo Argov
June 6, 1982	The First Lebanon War (Operation Peace for Galilee)
1982	Israel expels the PLO from southern Lebanon to Tunisia
1985	The IDF withdraws from Lebanon
December 9, 1987	First Intifada erupts
November 1988	Yasser Arafat declares Palestinian independence
January 17, 1991	The First Gulf War
October 30, 1991	The Madrid Conference
December 16, 1991	The UN General Assembly revokes Resolution 3379 (that equates Zionism with racism)
September 13, 1993	The Israeli-PLO Declaration of Principles (Oslo I) and exchange of letters of recognition between the PLO and Israel
May 4, 1994	The Gaza-Jericho Agreement (Cairo Agreement)
October 26, 1994	The signing of the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty
September 28, 1995	The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip (Oslo II)
January 15, 1997	The Israeli-PLO Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron (Hebron Protocol)

October 23, 1998	The Wye River Memorandum between Israel and the PLO, which set forth the steps for implementing the Oslo agreements
July 2000	The second Camp David Conference, held by President Clinton with the participation of Barak and Arafat. Ended without results
September 28, 2000	Outbreak of the Second Intifada
September 11, 2001	The terror attack in the United States
March 27, 2002	A suicide bombing at the Park Hotel in Netanya – the “Passover Massacre,” 30 Israelis murdered. One of the main reasons for Operation Defensive Shield
March 29 to May 10, 2002	Operation Defensive Shield in West Bank – with the aim of subverting the terror infrastructure
April 2002	The beginning of the building of the separation fence to prevent the entry of terrorists from the West Bank
May 2, 2002	Establishment of the Middle East Quartet (the Quartet) – the European Union (EU), United States, United Nations, and Russia
June 4, 2003	The Akaba meeting – Ariel Sharon, George Bush, and Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) meet to bring the intifada to an end
June 24, 2002	The Roadmap for Peace of the United States and the Quartet
April 14, 2004	Letter from President George W. Bush to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon stating that it is unrealistic to expect “a full and complete withdrawal to the armistice lines of 1949” – the letter reiterates U.S. commitment to “defensible borders” for Israel
June 23-24, 2004	The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate endorse the April 14, 2004, Bush letter
August 15, 2005	The disengagement from Gaza and the northern West Bank – initiated and conducted by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
July 12 to August 14, 2006	The Second Lebanon War – following the abduction of three Israeli soldiers. Attacks on Hizbullah’s terror infrastructure
	UN Security Council Resolutions 1701 and 1703 and the deployment of a UN force in southern Lebanon

November 27-28, 2007	Annapolis Conference – with the participation of the United States, members of the Quartet, and Arab states, aimed at renewing the negotiating process
November 28, 2008	The Quartet’s declaration at Sharm el-Sheikh
December 16, 2008	UN Security Council Resolution 1850, which sets out the Quartet’s conditions as a basis for the legitimacy of the Palestinian Authority and for assistance to it by the international community
December 27, 2008 to January 18, 2009	Operation Cast Lead in the Gaza Strip in response to the firing of thousands of rockets from Gaza at Israeli communities
January 8, 2009	UN Security Council Resolution 1860, which calls for an immediate ceasefire and Israeli forces’ withdrawal from Gaza
January 16, 2009	Memorandum of understanding between Israel and the United States on the prevention of the supply of weapons to terrorist organizations
November 26, 2009	A freeze on Israeli construction in The West Bank for a period of 10 months
August 20, 2010	The invitation of Israel and the Palestinians to face-to-face negotiations by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
May 4, 2011	A reconciliation agreement between Fatah and Hamas in Cairo
May 24, 2011	Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appears before both houses of the U.S. Congress, explaining that “Israel will not return to the indefensible lines of 1967”
September 23, 2011	The submission to the UN secretary-general of a request by the Palestinian Authority that Palestine be recognized as a UN member state
October 18, 2011	IDF soldier Gilad Shalit released by Hamas after five years in captivity in exchange for 1,027 Palestinian prisoners
November 2011	The UN Security Council fails to approve the Palestinian request for recognition as a UN member state
November 10-21, 2012	Operation Pillar of Defense launched in Gaza by IDF in response to a surge in rocket attacks against Israel by Palestinian groups

November 29, 2012	UN upgrades Palestine from “observer” to “observer state”
July 28, 2013	104 Palestinian prisoners released to pave the way for resumption of peace talks
August 13, 2013	Israeli-Palestinian peace talks resume