

Israel: Politics, History, and Society
An introduction to Israel for international students
National Defense College (MA Program)
Summer 2022
Dr. Ehud (Udi) Eiran
eeiran@poli.haifa.ac.il

General

The course offers a coherent framework for understanding Israel's current political, societal, cultural, economic, and security-related realities. This, through an investigation of core developments in Zionist and Israeli history and politics.

The course focuses on three elements. First, Israel grew out of an ideational framework. Both an ancient one, but most of all, a modern interpretation of the 19th-century plight of the Jewish people. One that should be resolved through the creation of a Jewish nation-state within the framework of international legitimacy. Debates about the fundamental concepts that informed this approach, underline some of the core aspects of current-day political cleavages.

Second, Israel should be also understood as the outcome of the specific path in which the idea was translated into reality. At its core: a centralized national project, led from the top-down, further strengthened by socialist control over the major Zionist institutions between 1933 and 1977. This, in turn, had affected the institutional make-up of Israel, and some of the major societal and economic features. Israel's success was further a result of effective interaction with the international system, in particular great powers, and the sources of legitimacy in the post-WW2 era.

Finally, the course highlights one aspect of the implementation: Israel's security challenges, and its journey between war and peace, both with the Palestinians, as well as with the broader Arab world and Iran. A special effort will be made to highlight issues that may unfold during the 2022-2023 academic year, such as Israel's elections, as well as the growing tension with Iran.

Instructor: Dr. Ehud (Udi) Eiran, eeiran@poli.haifa.ac.il

Course requirements: Reading, and class participation

Course grading: this is a non-graded course

	Date	Topic	Reading/Activities
1	18 July, 2022 1300-1430	Introduction	Ilan Troen, Maoz Azaryahu, and Arnon Golan, Israel: Geography, Demography and Economy : In: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. pp. 12-39
	Israel as an Idea		
2	18 July, 2022 1430-1600	Foundations of Zionism: Late 19th century Jewish dilemmas	Michael Brenner From Zionism to Zion, in: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. pp. 40-61
3	28 July, 2022 1300-1430	The Zionist revolution: core ideas and the shadow of the holocaust	Michael Brenner From Zionism to Zion, in: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.),

			Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. pp. 40-61
4	28 July, 2022 1430-1600	Zionism: main debates	Yedidia Stern, In: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. pp. 182-200
	Israel: an idea is implemented		
5	1 August, 2022 1300-1430	Implementation: the creation of centralized institutions and the context of the British mandate	TBA
6	1 August, 2022 1430-1600	Implementation: immigration and its legacy	Donna Robinson Divine, Citizenship and democracy in Israel: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University

			Press, 2017. pp. 2012-231. Especially pp. 221-226
7	7 August, 2022 1300-1430	Implementation: economic challenges and achievements	Ilan Troen, Maoz Azaryahu, and Arnon Golan, Israel: Geography, Demography and Economy : In: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. Pp. 31-37
	7 August, 2022 1430-1600	Implementation and society: the four tribes	Reuven Rivlin, the Four tribes speech, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ci5zZi5Zpb0
	Implementation: the security challenge		
	Meeting 9	The security challenge: Israeli-Palestinian conflict	Alan Dowty, The Arab-Israeli Conflict, in: S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN:

			Indiana University Press, 2017. pp. 89-117
	Meeting 10	The security challenge: the era of the great Arab-Israeli wars (1948-1973)	S. Ilan Troen and Rachel Fish (Eds.), Essential Israel: Essays for the 21st Century (Perspectives on Israel Studies), Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 2017. Pp. 89-117
	Meeting 11	The security challenge: Israel's security doctrine and the current threats: Iran and non-state actors	Ehud Eiran and Martin Malin, The Sum of all Fears: Israel's Perception of a Nuclear-Armed Iran, Washington, <i>Washington Quarterly</i> , vol. 3. no. 36. (Summer 2013), pp. 77-89 .
	Meeting 12	Conclusion	