

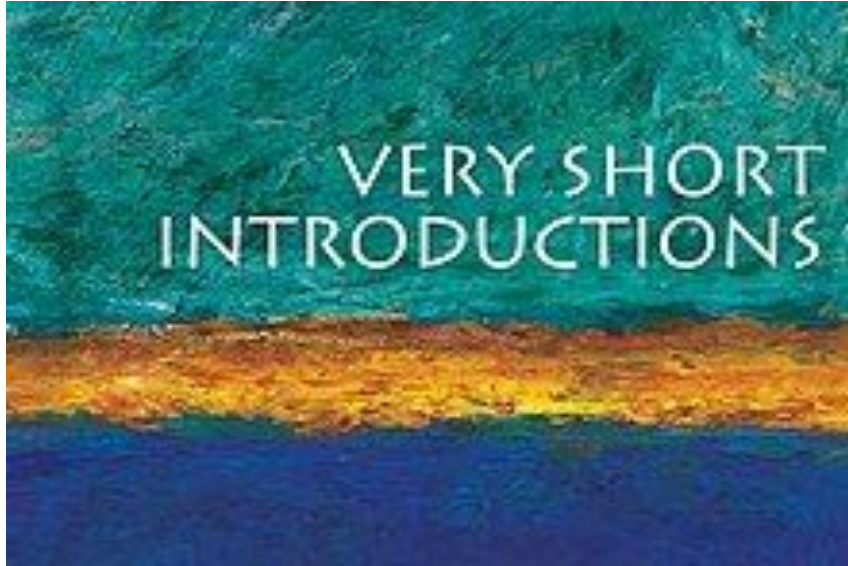


# Israel: Politics, History and Society

NDC  
Dr. Ehud Eiran  
18 July, 2022  
Part 1



Introductions and  
What do you want to get from this course?



# Method

- Lectures
- Class discussion
- Try to connect to current affairs
- Happy to take the discussion in any direction

One association/thought  
you have about Israel



# There are many ways to think about this place

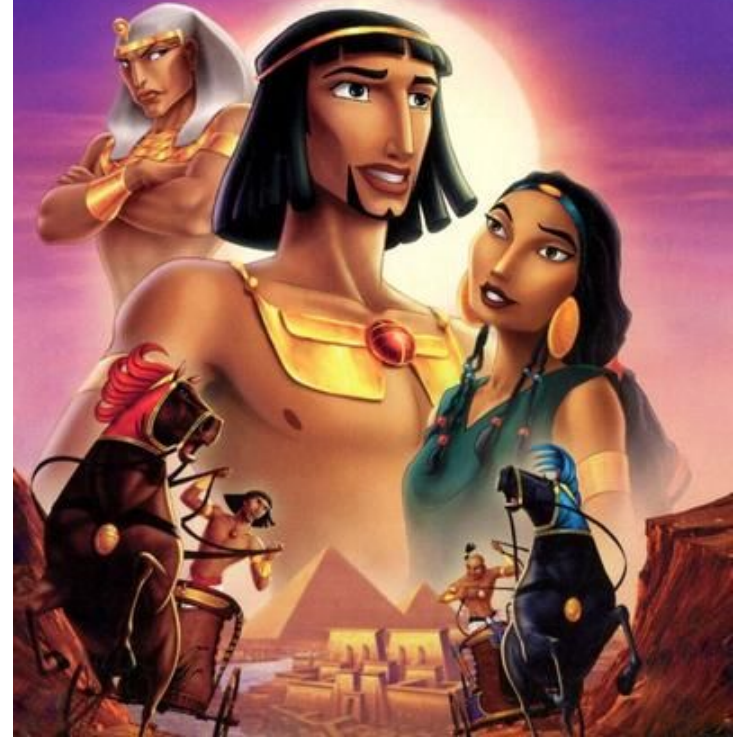
## How would conceptualize Israel?



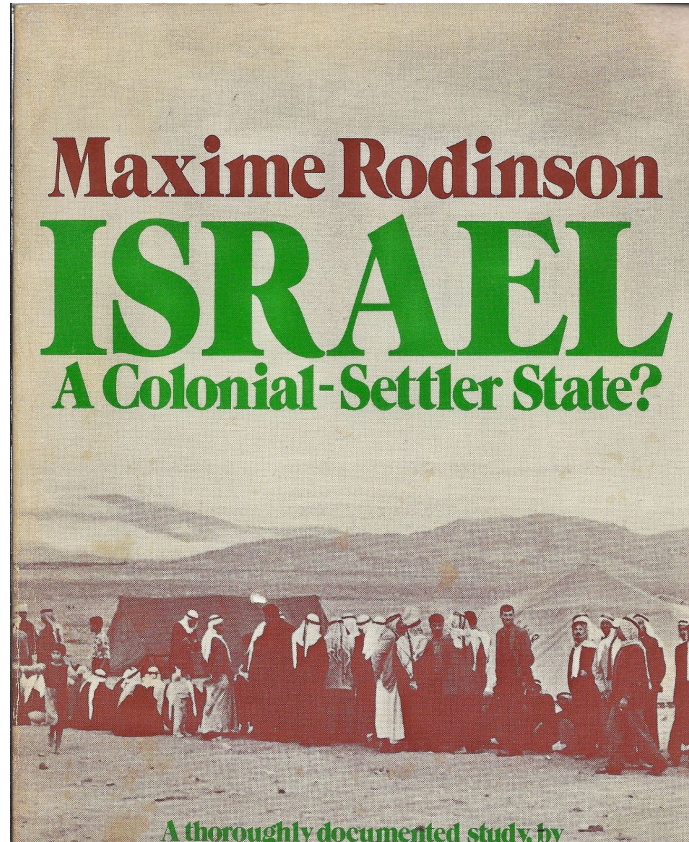
As a narrative of exile and return



# THE PRINCE OF EGYPT



# As a settler-colonial narrative



# **As a set of wars: Why are wars effective in national narratives?**

**1948-1949 War of Independence: PL, Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq,**

**1956-7: Suez War: Egypt**

**1967 Six Day War: Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq**

**1967-1970 War of Attrition: Egypt. Also: USSR**

**1973: Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Also: Morocco, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Libya**

**1982: PLO, Syria**



# As an internal debate about the nature of Judaism



# As a post-colonial political construct



The approach in this course:

- 1. Israel as an Idea: the peculiar evolution of the state**
- 2. How the idea was implemented: Centralized, socialist, communal, and in the context of conflict**
- 3. One aspect of implementation: Security**

# Israel as an Idea: Why is it effective ?



What do we gain by focusing on the idea ? Is it a material world ?

**We are living in a material world and I'm a material girl.**

Madonna

Israel as an Idea: How it helpful ?

**Explains identity**

**Shaped policy preferences**

**Shaped Institutions**

**Explains society: structure,  
tensions, culture**

# The Land







Take Aways from geography ?

# Highlights

Long and narrow

At a global historical crossroads

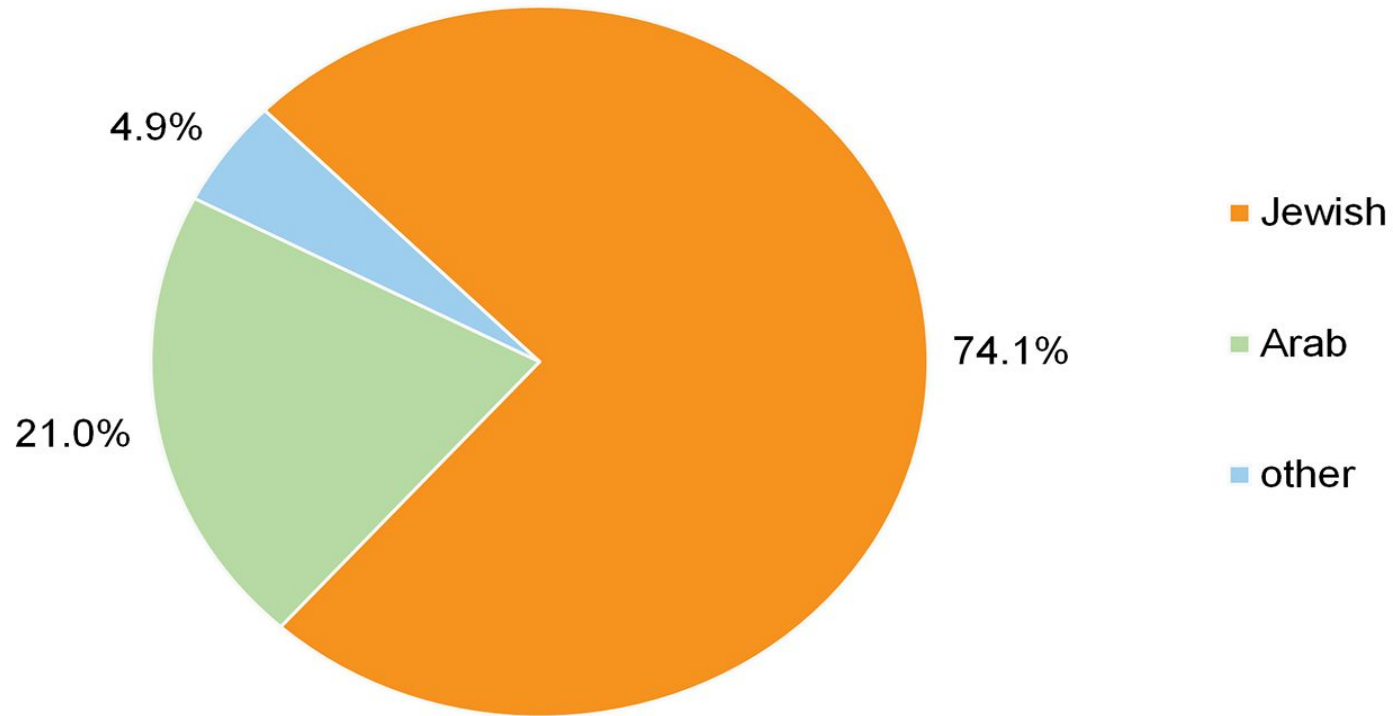
Disputed borders

Most of the population, in the coastal place/center

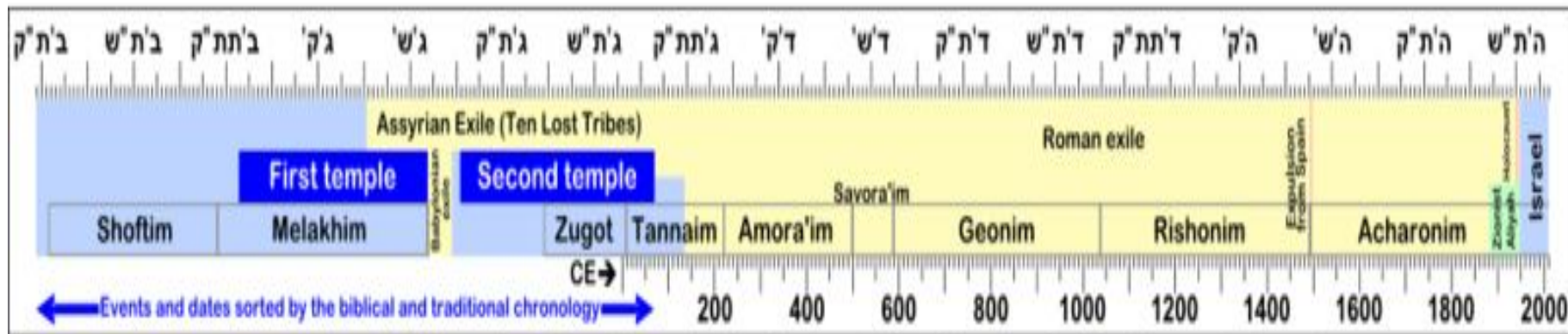
Long shore

Surrounded by Arab League nations

## Israel ethnic composition (2020\*)

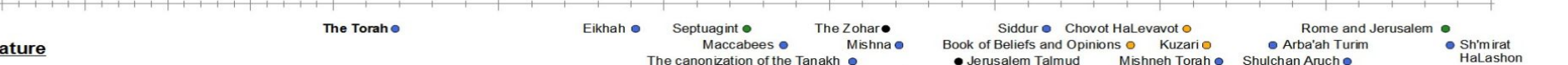
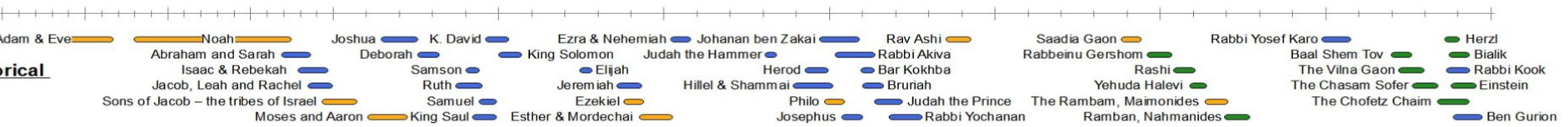
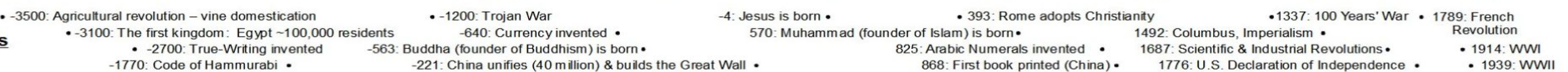
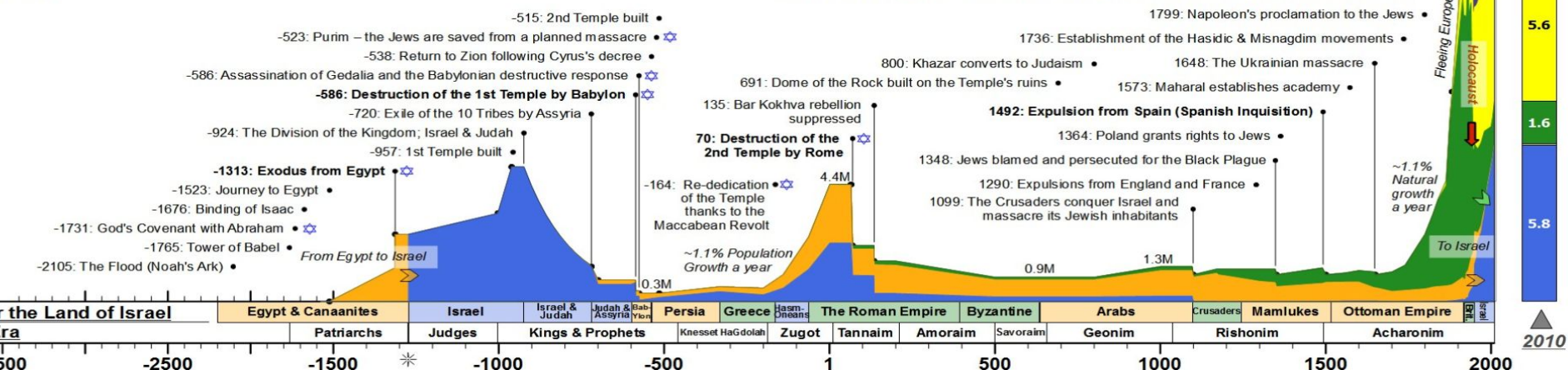
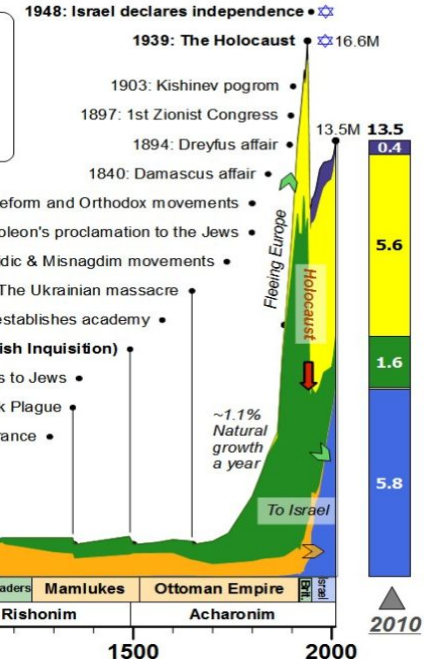
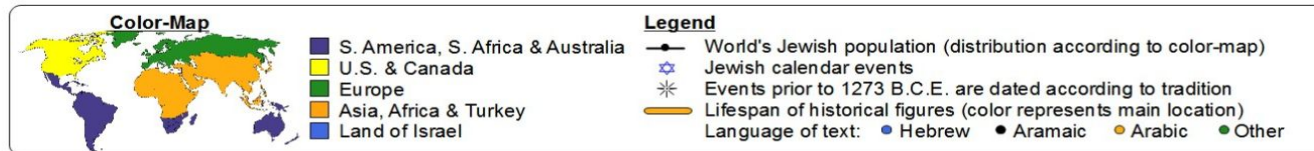


# A Brief History of the place

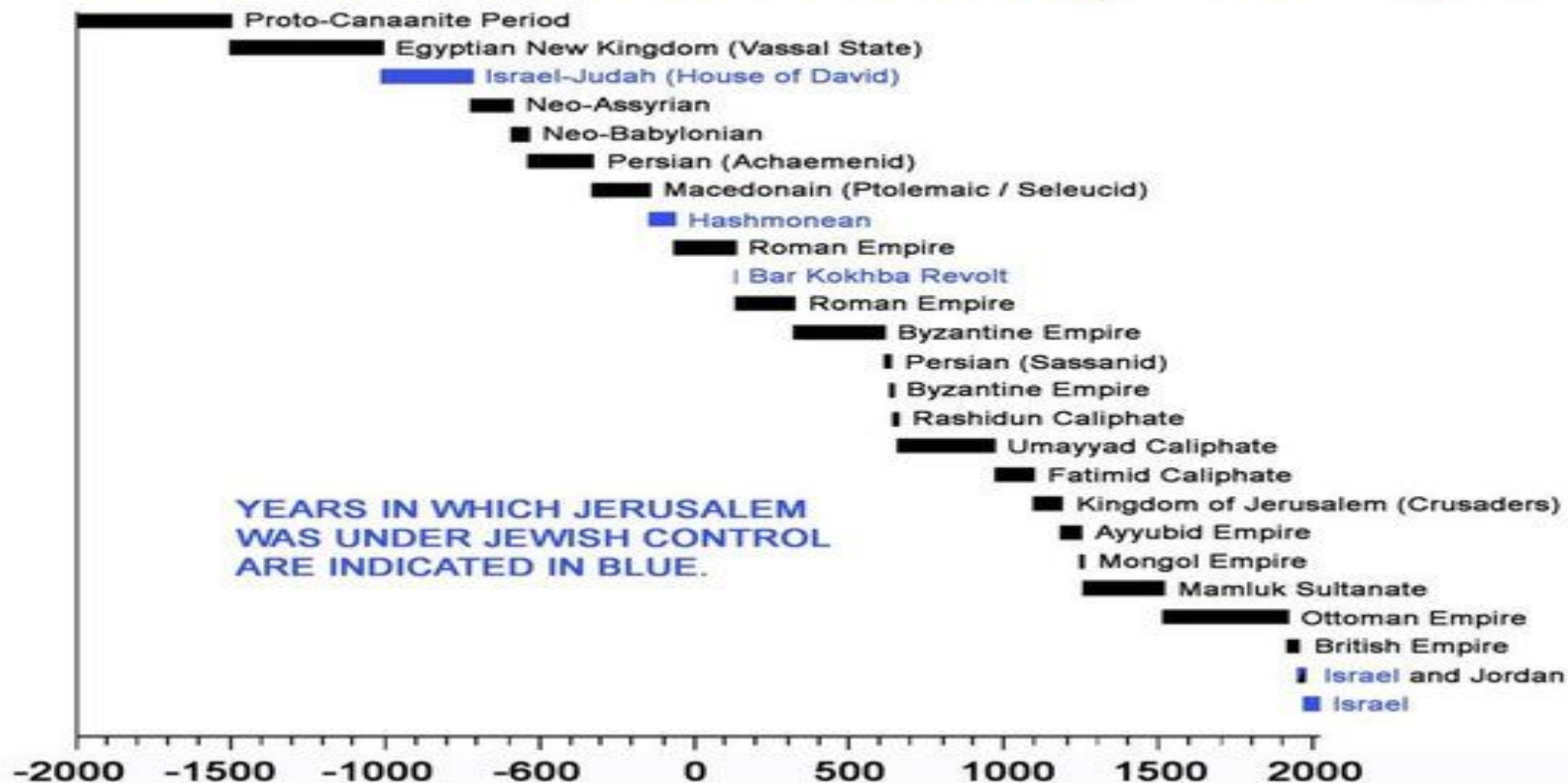


Jewish history: ■ Temple period ■ In Israel ■ In exile ■ On the way to Israel

# Timeline of Jewish History and Heritage



# Rule of Jerusalem Through the Ages





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## Israel as an Idea: Zionism

Jewish **national movement**

Goal: the creation and support of a Jewish national state in Eretz-Yisrael/**Palestine**,





# Background: Jewish experience in Europe



# Jews in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: from the margins to the center



Jews in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: If  
Soooo good why a challenge ?

# Western Europe

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E212ggKqKt0>





# Liberalism and nationalism lead to questions/new self awareness

For the environment

For the Jewish population



**Legend**

-  **The Pale of Settlement**
-  **Russian Empire**
-  **Contemporary country borders**
-  **Subnational administrative units**

What options for Jews in an opening,  
yet somewhat hostile Europe?



Give me your tired, your poor,  
Your huddled masses  
yearning to breathe free,  
The wretched refuse of  
your teeming shore,  
Send these, the homeless,  
tempest-tossed, to me:  
I lift my lamp beside  
the golden door.

- Emma Lazarus



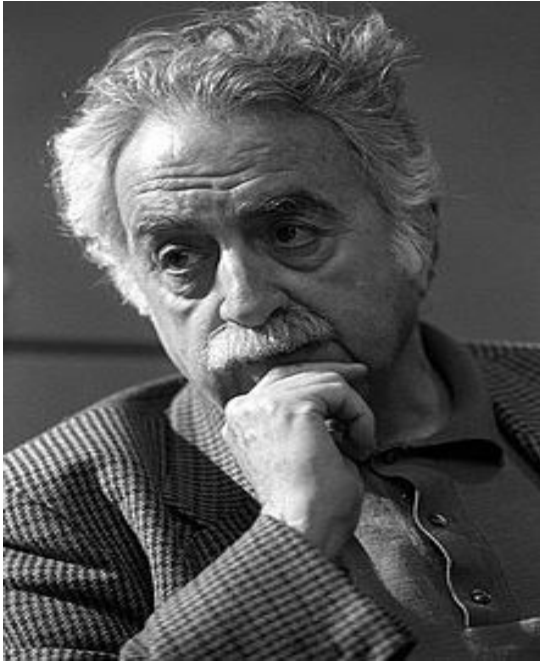
# Universalist deliverance

**We still believe, or many of us do, what the Exodus first taught about the meaning and possibility of politics and about its proper form: First; that wherever you live, it is probably Egypt; second; that there is a better place, a world more attractive, a promised land; and third, that the way to the land is through the wilderness. There is no way to get from here to there except by joining together and marching." - Michael Walzer**









# Zionism: elements of revolution

- Led by socialists
- National, economic, and personal transformation
- Willingness to break old traditions
- Counter revolution and synthesis
- Many different dream for deliverance

# Await passive deliverance: and the shadow of Shabati Zvi





# Jewish nationalism (local):



# So What is Zionism ?



# Zionism (Zion=Jerusalem/the land of Israel)

1. A Jewish national movement
2. Goal the creation and support of a Jewish national state in Erez-Yisrael/Palestine

Internal view: Builds on the centrality of Israel in Judaism as interwoven into Jewish life



(Jewish ritual) three pilgrimage festivals  
(Sukkot, Passover, and Shavuot)

# But, also a modern national movement

- Born in the context of 19th century Central/Eastern Europe
- Ethnic Nationalism vs. Civic nationalism

# Tensions

- Between traditional view and modern nationalism (military service, gender equality)
- The purpose of the state
- Membership

# Zionism as a personal and national revolution





# Prime Ministers (ot their parents) and their new names

	<b>Old Names</b>	<b>New Name</b>
<b>1948-1963</b>	<b>David Grin</b>	<b>David Ben Gurion</b>
<b>1963-1969</b>	<b>Levi Shkolnik</b>	<b>Levi Eshkol</b>
<b>1969-1974</b>	<b>Golda Merison</b>	<b>Golda Meir</b>
<b>1974-1977</b>	<b>Yitzhak Rabin</b>	<b>Nehemia Rebizov (Father)</b>
<b>1977</b>	<b>Shimon Persky</b>	<b>Shimon Peres</b>

# Prime Ministers (or their fathers) and their new names

	Old Names	
<b>1977-1981</b>	<b>Mieczysław Biegun/ Menachem Begin</b>	<b>Menachem Begin</b>
<b>1981-1986, 1988-1990</b>	<b>Yitzhak Yezernizky</b>	<b>Yitzhak Shamir</b>
<b>1986-1988, 1995</b>	<b>Shimon Persky</b>	<b>Shimon Peres</b>
<b>1996-1999, 2009-2021</b>	<b>Benjamin Netanyahu</b>	<b>B.z Milikovski (father)</b>

# Prime Ministers (or their fathers) and their new names

	Old Names	
<b>2006-2009</b>	<b>Ehud Olmert</b>	<b>Ehud Olmert</b>
<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>Nftali Bennet</b>	<b>Jim Bennet To Jacob Mirena Bennet to Leah Bennet (parents)</b>

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<b>2021-2022</b>	<b>Naftali Bennet</b>	<b>Jim Bennet To Jacob Mirena Bennet to Leah Bennet (parents)</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>Yair Lapid</b>	<b>Tommislav Lempel to Yoseph Lapid (father)</b>