



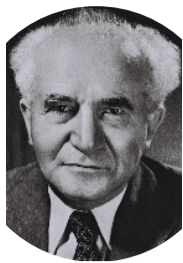
MODERN ISRAEL'S FIRST 70 YEARS

From mourning to joy

70 YEAR CELEBRATION

Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day)

14 May 1948, led by David Ben-Gurion



Israel's independence is celebrated according to the lunisolar calendar so the date shifts every year.

Remembrance Day, Yom Hazikaron, is the day before Independence Day, which was celebrated on **19 April 2018 at Mount Herzl, Jerusalem** with

- **1,500** speakers and performers
- **6,500** in attendance (double than in previous years)
- Lighting of **12 torches** symbolising the **12 tribes of Israel** by people seen to have made an outstanding contribution to society – incl. artists, religious leaders, sports people, military representatives, etc.
- Commemoration of the **23,447** Israeli soldiers who have died in action since 1948



COUNTRY PROFILE



POPULATION

806,000 in 1948 (> 5% of world's Jews) - 1st million reached by 1949; 2nd million by 1958

8.84 million (74.5% Jewish, 20.9% Arab, 4.6% other) at present

'Sabras' – people who were born in Israel

35% of Jews born in Israel (1948)

75% born in Israel (2017)

Out of the **14.3 million** Jewish people in the world, **43%** reside in Israel (**34%** in the USA)

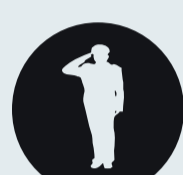


ECONOMY

Israel has averaged a **9%** annual increase in its gross national product since 1948

GDP (nominal) 2017: **33rd** of 191 countries according to the International Monetary Fund

21% of the population lives below the poverty line (2014)



MILITARY

± 117,500 soldiers (fought in 1948 War of Independence)

176,500 active personnel at present (ranked 34th in the world)

♂ 1,499,998 males, age 17–49 (2016 est.)

♀ 1,392,319 females, age 17–49 (2016 est.)

Military budget (% of GDP)

1950-1966 = 9%

1980s = 24%

Present = 15%

Global Firepower Index 2017: **15th** of 133 countries



INDUSTRY

1948 – Primarily exported oranges

Present – Exporter of high-tech products



POLITICS

Coalition governments

1948-1977 = Labour

1977-present = Conservative

2013 Freedom in the World annual survey ranked Israel as the Middle East and North Africa's only free country

2016 Economist Intelligence Unit rated Israel as "flawed democracy" (29th of 167 countries)

CULTURE

Israel has become an important cultural centre, vastly disproportionate for a country whose population approximates that of New York City.

Two of the five finalists for the Man Booker literary prize in 2017 were Israelis who write in Hebrew: David Grossman and Amos Oz. Grossman won.



SMALL COUNTRY - BIG IMPACT

8th most powerful country (2018 - US News and World Report)

10th most innovative country (2018 - Bloomberg News)

Ranked **1st in medical patents**

Among world leaders in **solar energy** and **seawater desalination**

Provided **humanitarian aid and rescue services** to over **140 countries** (even to some who refuse to recognise them)

Only country to enter 21st century with a **net gain in number of trees** (albeit in an area that's mainly desert)



INVENTORS OF

- Drip irrigation agricultural technique
- Intel 8088 processor ('brain' of original IBM personal computer of the early 1980s)
- USB flash drive
- Kindle technology
- World's smallest video camera (for medical use)
- Nanowire (conductive wire a thousand times thinner than a human hair)



KEY WARS THAT HAVE DEFINED MODERN ISRAEL

Israeli War of Independence (November 1947–July 1949)

Israel (117,500 troops) vs Arab forces (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraqi, other: 137,300 troops)

Six-Day War (June 1967)

Israel (264,000 troops) vs Arab forces (Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon: 547,000 troops)

Yom Kippur War (October 1973)

Israel (375,000–415,000 troops) vs Arab forces (Egypt, Syria: 914,000–1,067,500 troops)

Conflict with Palestinians

* In Lebanon (1978 - Operation Litani; 1982 - Lebanon War; 1985–2000 - South Lebanon conflict; 2006 - Lebanon War)

* First Intifada (1987–1993)

* Second Intifada (2000–2005)

* Gaza (Winter of 2008–2009 - Operation Cast Lead; November 2012 - Operation Pillar of Defence; July–August 2014 - Operation Protective Edge)



WORLD RECOGNITION AND INVOLVEMENT



Number of countries who **recognise** Israel = **161**

Number who **don't recognise** Israel = **31**