

Chapter 22

SS7H2b. Explain the historical reasons for the establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948; include the Jewish religious connection to the land, the Holocaust, anti-Semitism, and Zionism in Europe.

Israel—Brand New Old Country

If you looked at a map from 70 years ago, you would not see Israel. Why? Israel did not exist at that time, but the Jewish people have a religious connection to the land that spans several thousand years. All of their sacred places are there, including the Western Wall, remains of their ancient temple destroyed in 70 C.E.

How exactly did the State of Israel come to exist in the 20th century? In the late 19th century, Palestine (formerly the Jewish homeland of Israel) was still part of the Ottoman Empire. With help from the Arabs, Britain captured Palestine from the Ottoman Empire in 1918. In July 1922, the League of Nations entrusted Palestine to Britain. Between 1919 and 1939, waves of Jewish immigrants poured into Palestine to escape rising persecution in

Europe. Many of these were highly educated people who raised the quality of life in the area.



Moving Jews to concentration camps
Photo from cork/pc.com

During World War II, German chancellor Adolf Hitler ordered the killing of six million Jews in the **Holocaust**. Following World War II, about 250,000 Jewish survivors went to camps for displaced persons set up by the Allies. The Jews desired to enter Palestine, but Britain had halted Jewish immigration into Palestine. As people around the world learned the details of the Holocaust, they were horrified that the Jews couldn't go to Palestine. Britain, weary from war and from dealing with the Jewish and Arab claims to Palestine, asked the United Nations

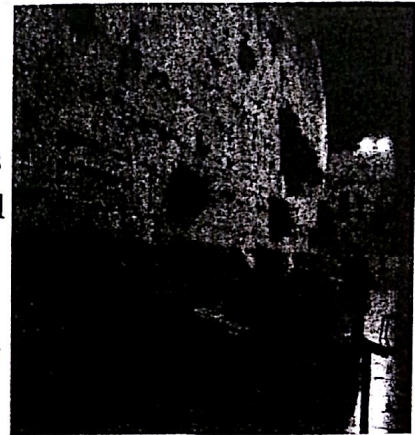
(UN) to resolve the situation. The UN voted to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states.

Modern-day Israel emerged at midnight on May 14, 1948. The dream of the Jewish people for centuries finally came true. The nation of Israel was a reality!

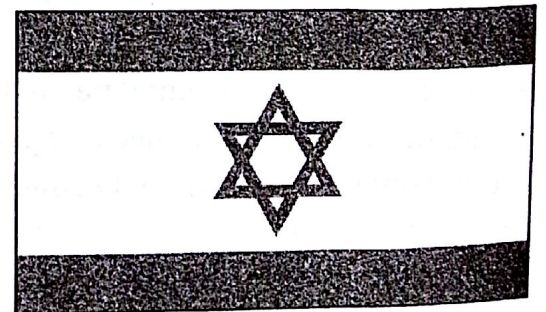


Word Definition

Holocaust: killing of millions of Jews by the Nazis during World War II



The Western Wall at night
Photo by chmouel.com





Quick Quiz

Put the following events in order in which they took place. Write 'A' before the first to take place and 'B' before the second. Continue like this until you have lettered all the events.

- _____ 1 250,000 Jewish survivors went to camps started by the Allies.
- _____ 2 Palestine is part of the Ottoman Empire.
- _____ 3 Britain captured Palestine from the Ottoman Empire.
- _____ 4 Modern-day Israel emerged.
- _____ 5 Waves of Jewish immigrants arrived from Europe.
- _____ 6 Six million Jews are killed in the Holocaust.

Zionism in Europe—A Longing for Home

In the late 1880s, **Zionism** was emerging in Europe. Zionism in modern times began with the first Zionist Congress in Switzerland where the goal of Zionism was defined: a home for the Jewish people in Palestine secured by public law.

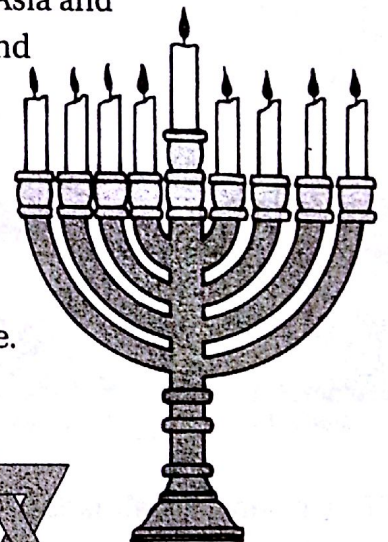


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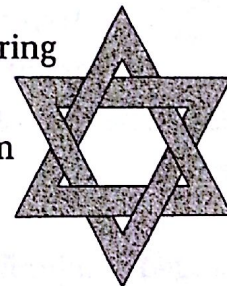
Zionism: the movement to unite displaced Jews and settle them in Palestine

The story of Zionism has roots in ancient history from the 11th century B.C.E. when King Saul established the kingdom of Israel in the region of Palestine. The Jews enjoyed the independence of their own kingdom until 586 B.C.E. when the Babylonians captured them. While in captivity, the Jewish prophets encouraged the people in their belief that they would return to their homeland. After the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in 70 C.E., the Jews scattered. Throughout the following centuries, a variety of political events spread Jews throughout Asia and parts of Europe, and then to North America. But the desire for their homeland never died. Into the 19th century, individual Jews still migrated to Palestine, but they were a minority among a largely Arab population.

During World War I, Britain worked with the Zionist movement, with the underlying motive that Jews throughout the world would support the Allies' side in the war. Another of Britain's purposes was to gain control of Palestine.



As more and more Jews immigrated to Palestine, the neighboring Arabs felt increasingly threatened and periodically attacked Jewish settlements. To appease the Arabs, Britain backed off from its support of Zionism.



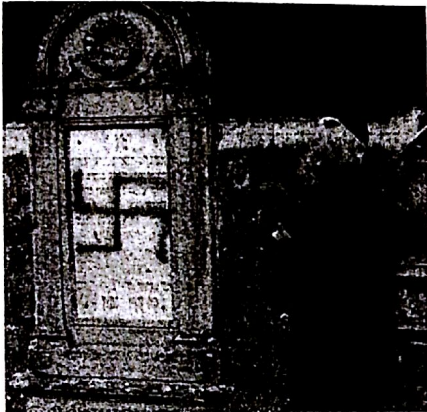


Quick Quiz

Label the following statements T for True and F for False.

- _____ 1. Zionism began emerging in Europe in the 1500s.
- _____ 2. The Jewish prophets discouraged the people in their longing to return to Israel.
- _____ 3. During World War 1, Britain worked with the Zionist movement.
- _____ 4. As Jews migrated further throughout the world, their desire for a homeland lessened.
- _____ 5. The Arabs and Jews lived together peacefully in Palestine.

Anti-Semitism Grows



Defaced Jewish gravestone
Photo by jewishjournal.com

Different political developments spurred Zionism into an obsession by Jews for a Jewish nation. Europeans had been discriminating against Jews for centuries in a practice known as anti-Semitism. Many people believed the Jews were an inferior race. Others held Jews responsible for the death of Jesus Christ. Some European countries didn't allow Jews to own property and restricted the number who could attend college.



Word Definition

Anti-Semitism: prejudice or discrimination against the Jews

Anti-Semitism grew enormously in the 1930s when Hitler's Nazi Party came to power in Germany. One of the Nazis' first actions was to remove the protection of German law for Jews. Anti-Semitism spread throughout Europe as Germany forced France, Italy, Poland, and the Ukraine to persecute the Jews.



Quick Quiz

Answers the questions below.

- 1. Write two reasons why many Europeans practiced anti-Semitism. _____

- 2. Write two things European governments did to restrict Jews. _____

- 3. Anti-Semitism spread rapidly when this political party came to power in Germany. _____
- 4. What happened to Jews once the new party took over in Germany? _____

Dark, Dark Days

One of the darkest chapters in world history is the Holocaust, one of the worst episodes of mass murder ever recorded. Hitler's intent was to rid the world of its "Jewish problem."

When Hitler became head of the Nazi party and then leader of Germany, he took anti-Semitism to a horrible level that grew into the Holocaust. Hitler blamed the Jews for Germany's losing World War I. Convinced that Jews were an inferior race, he spread this conviction throughout Germany and other European countries as he defeated them in war.

One of Hitler's first moves was to end Jewish employment in government jobs. From there, he closed other employment opportunities, removed Jews from public schools, and forbid them to own cars. Then he seized Jewish property and stripped the Jews of their citizenship.

In 1938, most German Jews had left the country, and 60 percent of those who stayed were unable to work because of government restrictions. On November 9, 1938, the "Night of Broken Glass," Hitler's mobs killed dozens of Jews, shattered thousands of windows of homes and businesses in Jewish neighborhoods, and set fire to every Jewish house of worship in Germany. The situation worsened as the Nazis forced Jews into ghettos and then shipped them to concentration camps.



Prisoners from the Dachau concentration camp

The Nazis killed Jews in some of the camps by forcing them to breathe poisoned gas and burning the bodies in large ovens. This continued until the end of World War II. When the war ended, close to six million Jews had been killed. About 25 percent of the victims were children.



Word Definition

concentration camps:
large prison camps used to confine Jews and other undesirable civilians

ghetto: a section of a city where the Nazis forced all Jews to live



Quick Quiz

Decide if the following statements are fact or opinion. Write F for Fact and O for Opinion.

- ___ 1. Hitler intended to rid the world of its "Jewish problem."
- ___ 2. It was the Jews' fault that Germany lost World War I.
- ___ 3. Hitler sent mobs to Jewish neighborhoods that broke windows in homes and businesses and burned every Jewish house of worship.
- ___ 4. People who disagreed with Hitler were foolish.
- ___ 5. Jews were forced to live in ghettos.
- ___ 6. We should remember what happened to the Jews in the Holocaust and work to make sure it never happens again.

The Plight of the Jews

The Jewish people have been persecuted for centuries, most notably by Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime during World War II. The establishment of the modern State of Israel in 1948 finally created a homeland for this religious and ethnic group.

Match the terms below with the correct description.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| ___ 1. Holocaust | a. section of a city where Nazis forced Jews to live |
| ___ 2. Zionism | b. a German member of Hitler's political party |
| ___ 3. anti-Semitism | c. killing of millions of Jews during WWII |
| ___ 4. concentration camps | d. large prison camps used to confine Jews |
| ___ 5. ghetto | e. prejudice or discrimination against Jews |
| ___ 6. Night of Broken Glass | f. destruction of Jewish homes, businesses, and places of worship |
| ___ 7. Nazi | g. movement to unite displaced Jews and settle them in Palestine |

Extra!

Put the following events in the correct order.

- ___ The State of Israel is established
- ___ Hitler comes to power in Germany
- ___ Hitler seizes Jewish property and strips Jews of their citizenship
- ___ Nazis murder six million Jews
- ___ Jews scattered throughout Europe after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem



Correlation: SS7H2



Seventh Grade  **Blacklines**

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