

Some facts on Israel - Helpful information

Nationhood and Jerusalem:

- * Israel became a nation in 1312 B.C.E., two thousand years before the rise of Islam.
- * Arab refugees in Israel began identifying themselves as part of a Palestinian people in 1967, two decades after the establishment of the modern State of Israel.
- * Since the Jewish conquest in 1272 B.C.E. the Jews have had dominion over the land for one thousand years with a continuous presence in the land for the past 3,300 years. The only Arab dominion since the conquest in 635 C.E. lasted no more than 22 years.
- * For over 3,300 years, Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem, they never sought to make it their capital, and Arab leaders did not come to visit.
- * Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in the Tanach, the Jewish Holy Scriptures. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.
- * King David founded the city of Jerusalem. Mohammed never came to Jerusalem.
- * This "third holiest site in Islam" is ignored by modern Muslims, other than those living around Jerusalem. Muslims are required to make a religious pilgrimage (the Haj) to Mecca and Medina during their lifetime. There is no obligation to visit Jerusalem and few do so. Israeli Muslims not living in Jerusalem make no special effort to go there to pray even though they may do so at any time.
- * While Jews do not generally revere places, the Temple Mount is the only remains of the only holy temples ever to be built in their capital, Jerusalem. Jews come from all over the world to pray at the Western Wall of the Temple Mount. Even the Pope and the Dali Lahma have prayed there in recognition of its symbolism.
- * Jews the world over pray facing Jerusalem. If they live in Jerusalem, they face the Temple Mount. Muslims pray facing Mecca (in Saudi Arabia). If they live in Jerusalem, they turn their backs on the Temple Mount (El Aksa mosque) to turn towards Mecca.

Arab and Jewish Refugees:

- * In 1948 the Arab refugees were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders promising to purge the land of Jews. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier. The Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution, seizing of land and property, and pogroms.
- * The number of Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 is estimated to be around 630,000. The number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated to be the same.
- * Arab refugees were intentionally not absorbed or integrated into the Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100,000,000 refugees since World War II, theirs is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands. Jewish refugees were completely absorbed into Israel, a country no larger than the state of New Jersey.

The Arab - Israeli Conflict :

- * The Arabs are represented by eight separate nations, not including the Palestinians. There is only one Jewish nation, representing one tenth of one percent of all Arab lands.
- * The Arab nations initiated all five wars and lost all of them. Israel defended itself each time and won. The lands occupied after the Six Day War in 1967 were not occupied out of imperialistic goals, rather to produce defensible borders for the next attacks. Prior to 1967, Syrians shot freely at Kibbutz farmers living and working below the Golan Heights. And, the hilltops in Judea & Samaria (The West Bank) were used

by the invading Jordanian armies to fire on populated areas in Israel. Israel was easily able to return all conquered lands to Egypt because of the natural defence provided by the vastness of the Sinai desert separating the two countries.

* The PLO's Charter still calls for the destruction of the State of Israel. Israel has given the Palestinians most of the West Bank land, autonomy under the Palestinian Authority, and has supplied them with weapons for their police force (these same weapons are currently being used against Israeli soldiers and citizens).

* Under Jordanian rule, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship. The Israeli government has never destroyed a single mosque in its territory, including those that have been long abandoned. While under Jordanian rule, there was no call for a liberation of Jerusalem, no call for East Jerusalem to be given to Palestinians, and no call for the return of lands in Jordan that were originally proposed to be part of Palestine in the original partition plan.

* Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites have been preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.

The UN Record on Israel and the Arabs:

* Of the 175 Security Council resolutions on all topics passed before 1990, 97 (55%) were directed against Israel.

* Of the 690 General Assembly resolutions on all topics voted on before 1990, 429 (62%) were directed against Israel.

* The UN passes resolutions directed against Israel before any investigation of facts takes place.

* The UN was silent while 58 Jerusalem Synagogues were destroyed by the Jordanians between 1948 and 1967.

* The UN was silent while the Jordanians systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, using the headstones for road pavers and toilets.

* The UN was silent while the Jordanians enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

These are incredible times. We have to ask what our role should be.

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"On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock."

--Thomas Jefferson