Telling and Remember Israel's Story -
Where you choose to begin to tell or remember Israel's
story matters. It shapes the history and politics
you do or do not want to convey!
What you include and what you leave out reveals your
knowledge, biases, and political intentions.

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Context: When do you begin to recall the story of modern Israel; where you start determines what you intentionally omit?

- June – 1967 war
- 1948 -State Declared
- 1939-1945 - Holocaust
- 1917- Balfour Declaration
- 19th century -Failed emancipation
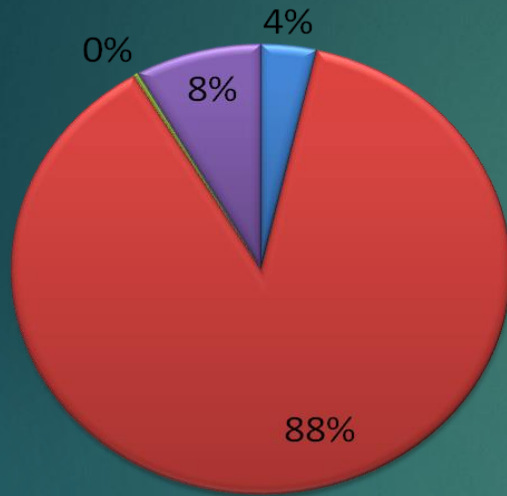- 67-70AD -Destruction of Second Temple
- Moses at Sinai

What Do you leave out when you choose to begin Israel's Story only in 1967, in 1945, or In 1897? Does your choice of where to begin show your prejudice, or what you do not Know?

▶ Where one starts telling Israel's story matters. If one starts with June 1967, one eliminates all Jewish and Zionist history previously; if one starts in 1945, one eliminates Jewish nation building, Arab complicity in Jewish state building –(Hebrew, English, and Spanish, and may assume wrongly that Israel came into being only because of the Shoah, and not because Jews chose Zionism, Lehiyot am Hofshi Bearzenu-- to take destiny into their own hands; if one chooses 1897, then only the Zionist evolution and anti-Semitism are relevant to Jewish and Israeli history; it is more than that. If you choose Moses at Sinai, then a history of Jewish peoplehood and Jewish community evolution in the diaspora becomes part of the story. Jews as a a nation of laws, rules, covenants, life-cycle events; Israel is not only about what others did to Jews over the ages, Israel is about how Jewish identity evolved; Jews said to themselves in the early 1800s, we no longer want to be **object** in another's sentence, but the **subject** in our own sentence. Lets intervene in history.

Explaining the next two slides

▶ The graph that follows shows where Jews lived in the 1880s as compared to 2010. In the 1880s, more than 80% of Jews lived primarily in non-democratic settings; by 2010, 84% were living in democratic settings where liberty, equality, and freedom were practiced. An extraordinary major socio-political shift of the Jewish world.

▶ The photo comparison of 1939 (Zionist Congress) and 1978 (Israeli Parliament) dramatically depicts Jewish leaders NOT having self-determination – British White Paper, Nurenberg Laws, Hitler undeterred, and Israeli leaders debated whether to accept the Camp David Accords with Egypt!
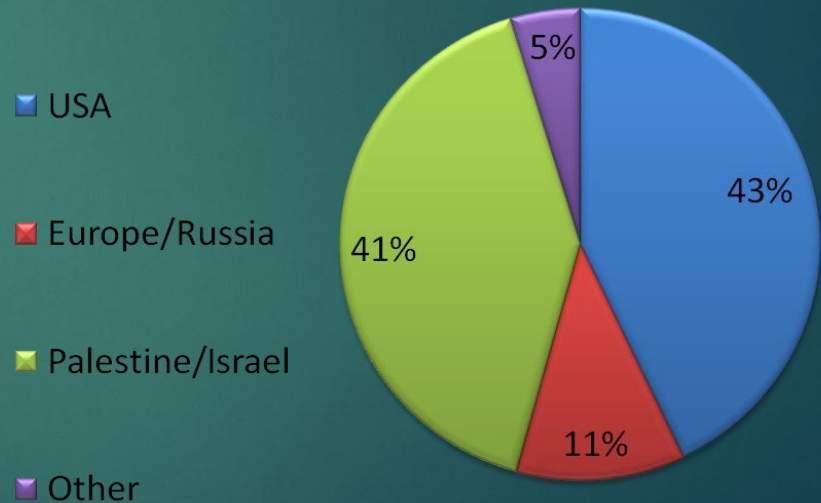
1880 World Jewish Population

- 4%
- 0%
- 8%
- 88%

Year	USA	Europe/ Russia	Palestine/ Israel	Total
1880	230,000	6,858,000	24,000	7,800,000
2009	5,649,000	1,492,700	5,393,400	13,155,200

* The category "other" is not included in the above table

2009 World Jewish Population

- 5%
- 43%
- 41%
- 11%

- USA
- Europe/Russia
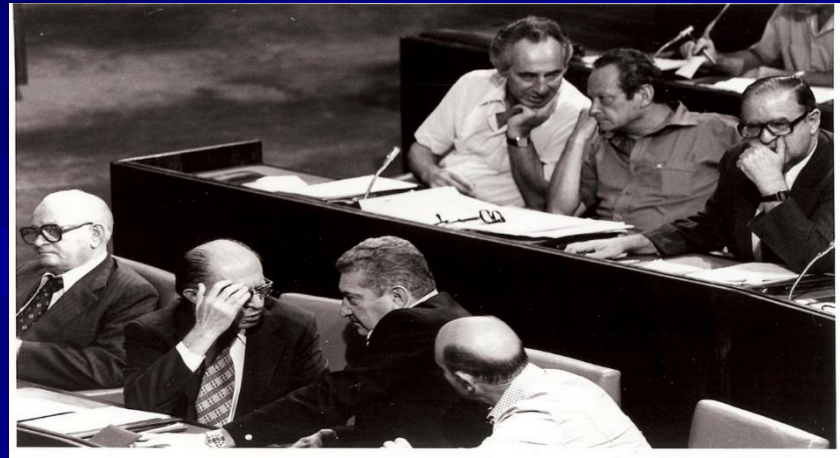- Palestine/Israel
- Other

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Zionism's Overarching Concept – what is that story?
להיות עם חופשי בארצנו

March 1939

September 1978

Context and Frameworks --toward Zionism/Israel – Choice and Self- Determination--

- Before 1840s – peoplehood, messianic dreams, partial emancipation
- 1800s Failed emancipation plus modern anti-Semitism –-
- 1840s-1948- Jewish choices- do we go, stay, or change – Zionism one option – Jews seek to intervene personally their history
- 1840s – 1948- seeking and making a state--Alkalai to Balfour to Weizmann and Ben-Gurion –Jewish diaspora existence lessons
- 1922 – 1949 – Making a state autonomy without sovereignty –
- 1922 --- 1949 – Social and political implications of Arab rejection of Zionism and rejection of compromise. (see next slide)
- 1949 - 1979 – Keeping the state sovereignty without recognition – defining the state internal
- 1979 – present – partial recognition by regional neighbors –

Historical Palestinian stubbornness has cost the Palestinians dearly, Palestinian writer, 2006.

■ **Palestinian stubbornness has cost the Palestinians dearly:** " rejection of the partition decision in 1947 made more than half the Palestinian people refugees and deprived us of Palestinian sovereignty over our lands in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip... rejection of Resolutions 242 and 338 obstructed the opportunity of their implementation when the world was enjoying some sort of balance of power with the existence of the Soviet camp...how did the partition borders, according to which the Palestinian people would get 48 percent of their historic land, become truce line borders in 1949 when these do not exceed 22 percent of the historic land of Palestine? And how did the West Bank become a piece of Swiss cheese that is cut by settlements everywhere? And how, in Jerusalem, did we become a minority that Israel seeks to get rid of....Time, my brothers in HAMAS, does not work in our [Palestinians']favor" Muhammad Yaghi, "The Dangers of Hamas's Policy" *Al-Ayyam ,* March 13, 2006.

Key to using the sources that tell the story of state-making to Israel's establishment

These items are found at www.israeled.org

1. This compilation of sources reviews Zionist thinkers and varieties of Zionism, provides socio-economic differences between Jewish and Arab communities, lays out Zionist strategic thinking, and Palestinian Arab rejection of compromise with Zionists. (sources do not appear in Spanish or Hebrew)

2. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th items, Forming a Nucleus for the Jewish state, traces Zionist state building with Jewish presence from ancient times to 1949; the 20 maps show how a nucleus for a Jewish state was acquired, much from Palestinian Arab small and large owners, and it traces the major immigrations to Palestine. The ability to look at a detailed source with a historical synopsis of each source is provided. This learning/teaching tool appears in English, Spanish and Hebrew.

3. This 45 minute video was recorded in 2019 by Ken Stein and summarizes the state-making process from the 1880s- 1948.

4. Short prose summaries of the state making period ,1898-1948 are provided in 'Autonomy to Sovereignty,'

   https://israeled.org/era-1898-1948/ These also appear in Hebrew and Spanish.
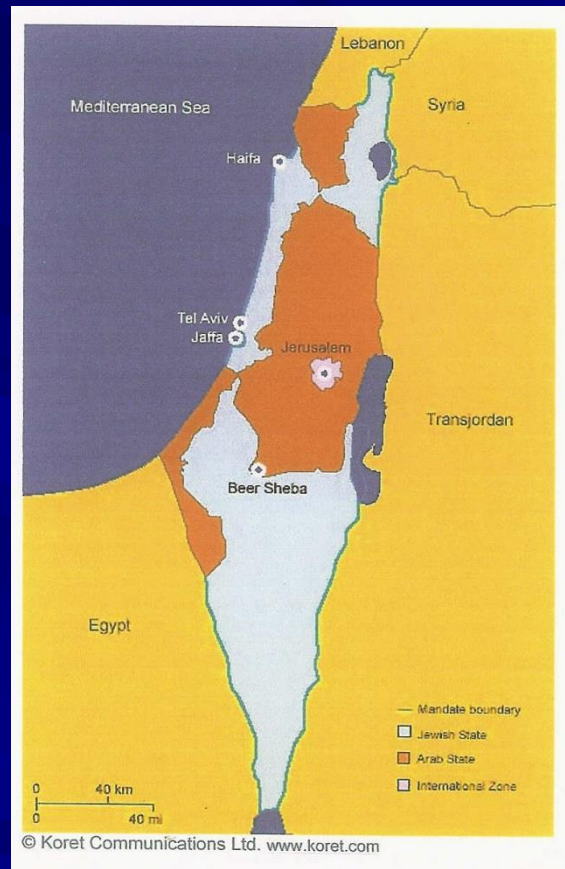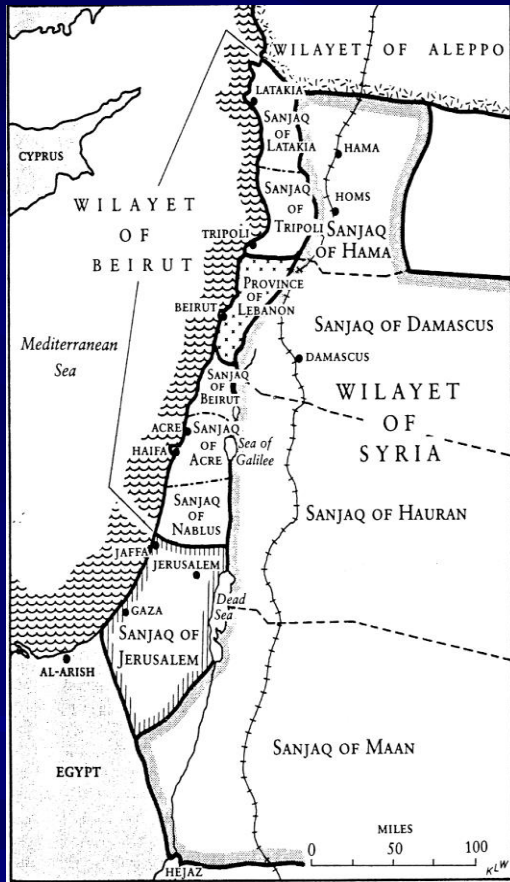
The Making of Israel

1. Zionists and Arabs - Historical Sources Unfold the Jewish State

2. Forming a Nucleus for the Jewish State

3. El proceso de formación del núcleo que constituyó la creación del estado de Israel 1882-1947

4. גיבוש הגרעין למדינה היהודית –

5. How did the Zionists make the state, 1880s-1949 (a video, 45 minutes, Ken Stein, 2019)

Reasons why Zionists Succeed

- Jewish peoplehood- Torah, continuity and communities
- Zionists engage in history
- Link people to the land
- Palestine as setting – politically weak, not formed
- Arab population – divided, dysfunctional impoverished
- Access political power – seek destiny in own hands
- Lobby for the cause- diplomatically and day to day
- British allow Arabs and Jews to grow autonomously
- Jews glued by external cement – pogroms, Mufti, Nazism, hatred by Arab world, Nasser – Arafat –
- Diaspora-Israeli Relations sustain a Jewish state

Comparison of Palestine area in the 1860s, 1947 partition plan, and 1949 armistice lines

End of Israel's independence war, 1949: Decisions have Consequences

- When Israel's independence war ended in March 1949, the area held by Israel was 20,500 sq kilometers, an increase of 37% of what the UN had allocated to the Jewish state in the UN's 1947 partition plan; and a 50% decrease of what was to be the Arab state per the UN Partition plan.

- The decision by Arab states not to accept partition in 1947 and to go to war resulted in land lost and Arab departure/flight from Palestine. In 1950, Jordan annexed the West Bank (6,070 sq km and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip (390 sq km)

Lebanon

Mediterranean Sea

Syria

Haifa

Tel Aviv
Jaffa

Jerusalem

Beer Sheba

Transjordan

Egypt

- ■ Area Given to Israel
- ■ Area Given to Jordan
- □ Demilitarized Zone
- □ No man's Land
- ■ Syrian Occupied
- ■ Jordanian Occupied
- ■ Egyptian Occupied

0 40 km
0 40 mi

Comparison ME in 1914 with Israel and neighbors pre-June 1967 war

The Middle East - circa 1914