

Israel at 35

Israel's 35 years of independence (1948-1983) are rooted in 35 centuries of Jewish life in the Land of Israel. In these 35 years, Israel has built a modern, democratic state, absorbed hundreds of thousands of newcomers and developed its economy, while being compelled to defend its very existence.

People:

Israel regained its independence to become a homeland for the Jewish people, and the majority of its population are Jews. At the same time, Israel is a pluralistic, egalitarian society in which people of different religions, ethnic origins and social traditions co-exist, and every citizen is equal before the law.

In 1948, about 800,000 people lived in the country - 650,000 Jews and 150,000 Arabs and Druze. In 1983, Israel's total population is 4,010,000, of which more than 600,000 comprise the country's Arab and Druze communities.

Since 1948, Israel has welcomed more than 1.7 million Jews, coming from more than 100 countries. Many were survivors of the Holocaust in Europe or Jews forced to flee from Arab lands. Others were immigrants who wanted to participate in the rebuilding of the Jewish state. Today more than half of the country's population is Israel-born.

Population Distribution:

Israel is basically an urban society. Almost 90 percent of all Israelis live in more than 112 urban centres and three major cities -- Jerusalem, the capital (pop. 410,000); Tel Aviv-Jaffa (pop. 336,000); and Haifa (pop. 230,000). Nearly half of Israel's total population lives in the coastal plain bordering the Mediterranean, from Nahariya in the north to Ashkelon in the south.

In 1946, fewer than 10 Israeli towns had populations of over 10,000; today there are at least 65. Some are new development towns built since the early 1950's, each based on a comprehensive plan for housing, employment, distribution of services and the siting of new industry.

Return to the land has been one of the central efforts of modern Israel. Some 10 percent of all Israelis today live in 125 rural centres, 230 kibbutzim and 360 moshavim. The kibbutz -- the best-known of Israel's cooperative agricultural villages -- is a democratically-run community in which all property is collectively owned and work is organized on a shared basis. About 2.8 percent of Israel's population are kibbutz members. Some 3.7 percent of all Israelis live on a moshav -- a cooperative village in which each member family owns and operates its own farm, but marketing and services are organized on a communal basis.

Education:

Education is allocated a major portion of Israel's national budget. In 1948/49, 135,000 youngsters attended school in Israel; currently, over 1.25 million children and youth are enrolled in the country's education system. In Israel, education is free and compulsory for all children aged 5 - 16, and free for those who continue through high school.

Today, 88 percent of all three-year olds and 97 percent of all four-year olds in Israel attend preschool programmes -- the highest rate in the world. About 116,000 students are currently enrolled in Israel's seven accredited universities and other institutions of higher learning. Recently, more than 30,000 adults annually are taking courses, either through the Open University or in various other programmes designed to upgrade skills or offer basic knowledge.

Social Services:

During 35 years of statehood, Israel has enacted a broad range of social legislation. Every Israeli is guaranteed a basic minimum income, and all those unable to provide for their own needs are eligible for social assistance. At the same time, emphasis is on rehabilitation services to help people to help themselves. The number of families receiving social assistance has declined from 44,000 in 1955 to 23,500 in 1982.

The National Insurance Institute provides social security benefits, including family allowances graded in favour of families with many children. Unemployment insurance, disability payments, maternity benefits and old-age pensions are available to all workers.

A unique programme for the social and physical rehabilitation of disadvantaged neighbourhoods, Project Renewal, combines efforts of government agencies, Diaspora communities and local residents in facilitating practical solutions for long-standing problems.

Health Services in Israel:

In 1948, Israel's 66 hospitals provided 4,620 beds; today, 35 years later, 27,500 beds are available in 145 hospitals throughout the country. Israel's doctor-to-population ratio of 1:415 is one of the highest in the world. Over 90 percent of Israel's population receives comprehensive medical care through one of the country's voluntary health insurance schemes.

Economy:

From a semi-agricultural economy 35 years ago, Israel has rapidly developed into a modern industrial state, whose GNP has increased more than tenfold. Today Israel is almost self-sufficient in food supply and its production for export is shifting to technology-based industries. Finance, transportation, communications, construction and other facilities are highly developed to serve the country's growing economy.

Industry:

From \$28 million in 1949, Israel's net export of goods has climbed to some \$4.8 billion in 1982. Today more than 90 percent of all export goods are industrial products, including polished diamonds, processed foods, textiles, chemicals and plastics. Recently, over 25 percent of Israel's industrial output has been high-technology electronic equipment, much of which was developed as a result of close collaboration between Israel's scientific research centres and local manufacturers. About half of Israel's exports go to European countries and about 20 percent to the United States.

Agriculture:

Israel's agricultural economy has been traditionally based on citrus. However, virtually every kind of farm produce has been introduced since the founding of the state. Intensive cultivation in fields and hot-houses as well as revolutionary developments in irrigation and harvesting have made Israel a world leader in agricultural production. Since 1948, the area of land under cultivation has increased from 408,000 acres to 1,075,000 (more than half of which are under irrigation), while Israel's farm output has grown from \$130 million in 1949 to about \$600 million in the 1980's.

Tourism:

The tourist industry earned some \$900 million in 1982, a year in which more than a million visitors came to Israel, attracted by the country's geographical diversity, archaeological and religious sites, and almost unlimited sunshine. About 60 percent of the annual influx of tourists comes from Europe and some 30 percent from the United States.

In 1982, about 23,000 tourists came from Lebanon and Egypt, in addition to the 100,000 from Arab lands who have entered Israel annually via the Jordan bridges since they were opened in 1968.

Culture and the Arts:

Israelis read more extensively than any other people; 3,700 books are published annually, as are more than 700 newspapers and magazines. Concert halls are found throughout the country and the per capita subscription to performances by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra is the highest in the world. Dance, drama and all kinds of visual arts are created and widely appreciated. Some 90 museums record more than 10 million visitors each year, while 25 official outdoor sites and 180 national parks and nature reserves welcome about 6.5 million people annually.

Towards Peace:

Five times in 35 years Israel has been compelled to go to war to defend its right to exist. The 1978 signing of the Israel-Egypt peace treaty marked the beginning of a new era in the region. After decades of futile conflict, some ways appear to have opened up at last for the gradual development of peaceful and mutually fruitful relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours. The current negotiations between Israel and Lebanon hopefully will take the process towards peace one step further.

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Two Israeli soldiers were wounded by small arms fire and bazookas fired from an ambush at an IDF patrol west of Eian Zahlata, in central Lebanon. The wounded men were evacuated to a Haifa hospital by helicopter while army units searched the area, using flares during the night. Israel Radio said that since February, six Israeli soldiers had been killed and over 30 wounded in 26 incidents in Lebanon.

NEW YORK (WNS) -- A near capacity crowd of 2,500 people, many of them survivors of Nazi concentration camps and others who fought in ghetto resistance movements during World War II, gathered at Temple Emanu-El here for the annual ceremonies marking Yom Ha-Shoah and the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Many of the speakers focused on the need to remember the story of the Holocaust and to retell the heroic deeds of the ghetto fighters.

AMERICAN Tax Accounting
 Larry L. Voight
 1806 South Main
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
 (702) 384-9887

PLAN A WEDDING OVERNIGHT
500 WEDDING GOWNS IN STOCK

MELAIRE offers you fall and winter merchandise arriving daily as featured in National Ads Bridal Service Gifts Portraits by infinite images and

The most beautiful selection of formals from \$45 to \$200

Mel Alore
BRIDAL & FORMAL SHOP
 1131 E. TROPICANA
 University Plaza
 736-2887
 Established for 18 Years

Sizes 3-20 in stock
 We order to size 44 in bridal gowns & formals
 We manufacture our own beautiful bridal hats, mantillas and veils

Tall girls note, we order extra lengths
 Childrens Party Frocks sizes 3-14
 Festive Holiday Gowns arriving Daily

OUR TUX DEPARTMENT
 features
PALMBEACH and AFTER SIX
 Both Rentals & Sales



40 ACRES
\$35,000 PER ACRE FOR SALE OR TRADE
10 ACRES MINIMUM
ALL OR PART - ZONED R-2
EASTERN & WINDMILL
OWNER LICENSEE CALL
SALLIE OR JOHN 454-1102