

WAR AND TERRORISM

Israel 101: Pages 12-13

Rationale and Goals

This unit focuses on the wars and major terrorist events that have been a part of Israel's history. The main goals are:

- To give a sense of the continuity and frequency of ongoing terrorism and wars against Zionists and Israel, to allow students to be able to put these incidents in chronological order, and to differentiate between the various terrorist attacks and wars.
- To emphasize that Israel's military actions have always been defensive, that neither Zionists nor Israelis have sought wars. The Rabin quote at the top of the page captures Israeli attitudes.
- To illuminate how Israel's enemies have changed yet remained similar.

Discussion Questions

- What were the major causes for each of the "wars and terrorism"? Did those causes for war change over time?
- Israel has claimed that its wars were "defensive" wars against aggression by Arab states or terrorist groups. Under what circumstances do you think a nation has a right to go to war? What steps would you take before choosing the option of war?
- Tension soared as Israel tried to decide whether to launch a preemptive attack in 1967, and General Rabin himself suffered a temporary breakdown as he agonized about whether to give the okay to the preemptive attack. What would you have done? What factors would you have considered in making that decision? Looking back, did Israel make the right decision to launch a preemptive attack in 1967?
- When did the Haganah originate and what was its original purpose? What options did Jews in the Palestine Mandate have to respond to the terrorism of 1920-1939?
- Return to the maps in *Israel 101* (pages 6 and 7), and discuss how each of these wars/chains of terrorist events affected Israel's borders. How much did relinquishing land that it had conquered affect how Israel and its neighbors got along?
- Why is the 1948 War called Israel's War of Independence? Do you think Ben-Gurion and other Zionist leaders made the right decision in declaring a state, even though they knew it would lead to five Arab nations attacking them? (It is interesting that when the leaders were making their decision, Ben-Gurion asked his chief of staff if Israel could win a war if all these Arab states attacked. The answer: If we can put together very quickly the arms we've been forced to hide, if we can get more arms and material from Europe, if we can get more manpower (presumably from refugees finally able to come), then we have a 50-50 chance of winning.) What decision would you have made under such circumstances? Why do you think Ben-Gurion made the decision he did? What were the pros and cons?
- What nations helped Israel in each of its wars? What nations allied against Israel? What role did the UN play?
- Israel has not had a major war with another Arab state since 1973. Subsequently, Israel's conflicts have been with terrorist organizations like the PLO, Hamas, and Hezbollah. However, these groups have received support from Arab states. How has this shift affected Israel's strategic options and image in the world?
- What do you think would have happened to Israel if it had lost any of these wars? What were its enemies' intentions?

Activities

Activity 1

Comparing Israel's Wars

Preparation:

Estimated Time: 1-2 class periods • ***Materials:*** Event Report Template (see following page) for students, paper and pencils.

Lesson Plan: This activity can be used as a motivator or as a summary to the unit.

Background: Along with fulfillment of the nearly 2,000-year-old dream to reestablish a modern Jewish state came the tragedy of wars and terrorism that Israel has had to face from before its inception to the present day. The purpose of this activity is to help students compare the different wars to see the similarities and differences between them.

Activity:

Research: Divide the students into research groups. Each group will focus on one or more of the 18 events reviewed on pages 12-13 and will fill out the Event Report Template you can find on the next page.

Making a Timeline: Have each group post its Event Report in chronological order in the form of a timeline that extends from 1910 to 2008.

Discussing the Events: Have each team present its activity. Discuss the similarities and differences between these events. Do the students see any patterns? What questions do they have? How might they find the answers?

Wrap-Up: Since before its inception, Israel has had to confront wars and terrorism on a regular basis. While it has had to pay a high price, Israel continues to seek peace with its Arab neighbors, as later units indicate.

<i>Event Report Template</i>	
Name of Event	
Date(s) of the Event	
Who initiated it and why?	
Who were Israel's allies?	
Who were the allies/supporters of Israel's enemies?	
Description	
Outcome	
Related questions I'd like to answer	

<i>Event Report Template</i>	
Name of Event	
Date(s) of the Event	
Who initiated it and why?	
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Activities

Activity 2

Analyzing the Impact of Wars and Terrorism with Maps

Preparation:

Estimated Time: 1 class period • **Materials:** Paper and pencil, *Israel 101*, reference materials

Lesson Plan: Students will evaluate and compare the impact of the various wars and terrorism. They will use the *Israel 101* maps on pp. 2-3, 7, and 17 to get a better understanding of those wars and their aftermath and integrate the information from the maps with the listing of wars and terrorism.

Background: Israel's size and geographic position have made it fear that defeat in any war would mean its destruction. Since the establishment of the Mandate, Israel has continually faced either wars or terrorism. Often, after major wars launched by neighboring states against Israel had ended, Israel would face terrorist campaigns that were supported by many of these same states. How did the wars and/or terrorism change the boundaries of the Mandate and of Israel, and how did changing the boundaries affect whether there were more wars and/or terrorism? This activity will help students answer these questions.

Activity

- Explain the background above. Instruct students to take the “wars and terrorism” list and place each entry's occurrence under the appropriate map on p. 7.
- After students have completed this exercise, conduct a general class discussion, raising the following questions:
 - Look at the maps on pages 2-3 and 17. How do these maps help explain why Israel's geographic position has made security a paramount concern? How would you feel and what would you do if your state were the only democratic state in the U.S. and all the surrounding 49 states were hostile dictatorships that wanted your state to be destroyed?
 - Look at the map on pp. 2-3. Which countries have led the main wars against Israel, and how have they changed over the past six decades? Which terrorist groups have led attacks against Israel, and which countries have supported them?
 - How did terrorism affect borders or territorial changes?
(*Note to teachers:* For example: Terrorism in 1920-21 led to division of the Mandate, with 80 percent going to an exclusively Arab state that became Jordan. Terrorism from Lebanon led Israel to maintain a small security zone in southern Lebanon between 1982 and 2000. Ongoing terrorism from the Palestinian Authority kept Israel from completely withdrawing from the West Bank.)
 - How did major wars (1948, 1967, and 1973) affect borders or cause territorial changes?
 - How did border or territorial changes affect terrorism and/or war? Given the results of Israeli withdrawal from territory, do you think withdrawals lead to less terrorism and more security for Israeli civilians?

Activities

Activity 2

(Note to teachers: Terrorism and wars against Israel predated the 1948 War and the 1967 War when Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza, the Sinai and the Golan Heights. Since Israel ceded the Sinai to Egypt in the 1979 peace treaty, there have been no major state actor wars against Israel. In contrast, Israel's withdrawal from its security zone in southern Lebanon and from Gaza in 2005 led to more terrorism.)

- What is the difference between terrorism and war? Do you notice any relationship between terrorism and war? Does terrorism precede and tend to spark war or does it generally follow the wars—or both? Which do you think is more devastating to Israel and to chances for peace—all-out war between state actors or terrorism?
- Some observers have argued that the wars and terrorism against Israel have nothing to do with territory but rather are driven by the refusal to accept an independent Jewish State on any land, no matter how small it is. Would you agree or disagree with this statement, and why?

Wrap-Up: Since 1920, Jews in Mandate Palestine and then Israel have confronted terrorism and major wars intended to destroy the Jewish State. Territorial changes have not seemed to affect the incidences of terrorism, though Israel ceding the Sinai in the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty has produced a cold peace with Egypt. There was only a miniscule territorial change when Jordan and Israel made peace in 1994. Negotiators are still searching for a land-for-peace formula that will help bring peace to the region.

Resources

Internet

More detailed overview of wars in Israel. See sections entitled “Independence,” “1956 Sinai Campaign,” “1967 Six-Day War,” “From War to War” (War of Attrition), “1973 Yom Kippur War,” “1982 Operation Peace for Galilee,” and “Terrorism.”
www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/History/HISTORY-The+State+of+Israel.htm#six

Massacres instigated by Grand Mufti Haj Amin al-Husseini 1929–www.zionism-israel.com/Palestine_Massacre_riots_of_1929.htm

Great Arab Revolt 1936-39

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/riots36.html

www.zionism-israel.com/dic/Arab_Revolt.htm

War of Independence

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/1948_War.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/Israels+War+of+Independence+-+1947+-+1949.htm

Fedayeen terrorist raids–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/Fedayeen.html

Sinai/Suez War of 1956–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/Suez_War.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/The+Sinai+Campaign+-+1956.htm

Formation of Fatah–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/Fatah.html

Palestine Liberation Organization–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/plo.html

Major terror attacks against Israel and Israeli targets abroad (1952-1989)

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/terror1952_1989.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+before+2000/Which%20Came%20First-%20Terrorism%20or%20Occupation%20-%20Major

Map and summary of events preceding Six-Day War–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/67map1.html

Six-Day War (1967)–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/67_War.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/The+Six-Day+War+-+June+1967.htm

War of Attrition (1967-70)–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/war_of_attrition.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/The+War+of+Attrition+-+1968-70.htm

List of Middle East terrorist incidents (1968-73)–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/incidents.html

Terror attacks on Israeli embassies and representatives abroad (1969-2004)

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+before+2000/Major%20Terror%20Attacks%20against%20Israeli%20Embassies%20and

Munich Massacre (1972)

www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/Terrorism/munich.html

Yom Kippur War (1973)–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/73_War.html

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/The+Yom+Kippur+War+-+October+1973.htm

Lebanon War–www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/History/Lebanon_War.html (see first section of text)

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/Operation+Peace+for+Galilee+-+1982.htm

Resources

First Intifada 1987-1992—www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/intifada.html

Persian Gulf War (1991)—www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/Gulf_War.html
www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/History/Modern+History/Israel+wars/The+Gulf+War+-+1991.htm

Israel's contributions to Persian Gulf War—www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/US-Israel/gulf_war_&_Israel.html

Terror attacks within Israel 1993-99—www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+before+2000/Fatal%20Terrorist%20Attacks%20in%20Israel%20Since%20the%20DOP%20-S

Second “Al Aqsa” Intifada (2000-2005)—www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Peace/intifada2.html

Palestinian violence and terrorism since September 2000

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+since+2000/Palestinian+violence+and+terrorism+since+September.htm

www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Palestinian+terror+since+2000/Victims+of+Palestinian+Violence+and+Terrorism+sinc.htm

Evolution of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF)—www.zionism-israel.com/Haganah.htm

Key People

Menachem Begin—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/biography_begin.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/begin.html

David Ben-Gurion—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/biography_david_bengurion.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/ben_gurion.html

Moshe Dayan—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/biography_moshe_dayan.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/Dayan.html

Levi Eshkol—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/biography_levi_eshkol.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/eshkol.html

Golda Meir—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/golda_meir_biography.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/meir.html

Yitzhak Rabin—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/Rabin_biography.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/rabin.html

Ariel Sharon—www.zionism-israel.com/bio/sharon_biography.htm
www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/sharon.html

Yasser Arafat—www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/biography/arafat.html

Books

Bard, Mitchell G., ed. (2001). *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* (American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise).

Collins, Larry and Lapierre, Dominique (1972). *O Jerusalem!* NY: Simon and Schuster).

Resources

Kurzman, Dan (1970). *Genesis 1948: The First Arab-Israeli War by*. (New American Library, Inc.).

Oren, Michael, (2002) *Six Days of War*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Historical Fiction

Uris, Leon (1958). *Exodus* (NY: Doubleday).

Wouk, Herman (1993). *The Hope* (Boston: Little Brown & Co).

Film (Video/DVD)

One Day in September a documentary on the Munich massacre

Section on 1948 War in *Pillar of Fire*

The 1948 War, Steven Spielberg Jewish Archive. (Excellent short summary of impact Declaration of State and of the 1948 War with original footage.) w3.castup.net/jfa/filmsscreen.asp?ai=148&ar=CMID23220

