

1900 – 1948

- 1901:** Establishment of **Jewish National Fund (JNF)** to purchase land for Jewish settlement in the Holy Land.
- 1903:** **Second Aliyah** begins (till 1914) with **Labor Zionism** bringing thousands of Jews from Eastern Europe
- 1909:** Founding of **Tel Aviv**, the first modern Jewish city, and the establishment of **Degania**, the first kibbutz.
- 1917:** **Balfour Declaration** is issued by Britain, supports establishment of a **Jewish national home** in Palestine.
- 1918:** British forces capture **Jerusalem** during World War I, ending Ottoman control over the region.
- 1919:** The **League of Nations** supports the establishment of a British **Mandate** in Palestine, including the Balfour Declaration's provisions for a Jewish homeland.
- 1919:** **Third Aliyah** begins (till 1923), with thousands of Jewish immigrants arriving from Eastern Europe.
- 1921:** Formation of the **Haganah**, a Jewish defense organization, following Arab riots in Jaffa.
- 1922:** **League of Nations** ratifies the **British Mandate**, emphasizing Jewish immigration and settlement.
- 1922:** The **Hebrew University of Jerusalem** is founded, becoming a center of Jewish learning and research.
- 1929:** The **Hebron Massacre** occurs during Arab riots; 67 Jews are killed, and many Jewish communities in Hebron are evacuated.
- 1931:** Founding of the **Irgun**, a Jewish paramilitary organization, to support armed resistance.
- 1933:** **Fifth Aliyah** begins (1933–1939), driven by rising antisemitism in Europe, particularly Nazi Germany.
- 1936:** The **Arab Revolt** (1936–1939) begins, protesting Jewish immigration and British policies in Palestine.
- 1937:** The **Peel Commission** recommends partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states; Arabs reject it.
- 1939:** Britain issues the **White Paper**, severely restricting Jewish immigration, despite the worsening plight of Jews in Europe.
- 1941:** Formation of **Palmach**, strike force of the Haganah, to prepare for self-defense during World War II.
- 1945:** End of World War II; Holocaust survivors begin seeking refuge in Palestine, challenging British immigration restrictions.
- 1947:** Discovery of the **Dead Sea Scrolls** near Qumran, offering insights into Second Temple Judaism.
- 1947:** The **United Nations Partition Plan** (Resolution 181) proposes separate Jewish and Arab states; Jews accept it, Arabs reject it.
- 1948:** **State of Israel** is proclaimed on **May 14**, following withdrawal of British forces; the **Arab-Israeli War** begins the next day with 5 Arab states attacking Israel from all sides.
- 1948:** **Israel Defense Forces (IDF)** is formed by merger of the Haganah, **Irgun**, and other militias.
- 1948:** Revival of **Hebrew** as a spoken language culminates in its establishment as an official language of Israel, alongside Arabic and English