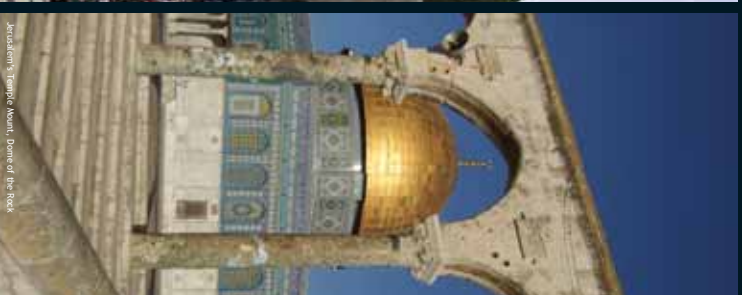






Jerusalem, The Massacre



Jerusalem's Islamic Mount, Dome of the Rock



Jerusalem, The Old City



Nazareth, The Church of the Annunciation, The Basilica



Hatifa, Site of the Sab



Nazareth, The Church of the Annunciation, The Basilica



Arcade, Ministry of the Cross



Nazareth, The Church of the Annunciation, The Basilica



Nazareth, The Church of the Annunciation, The Basilica

60 Years of Israeli Society

Diversity and Unity in Israeli Society



Caring for the Collective Environment

Yad Sarah: A Chance to Be Healed

Yad Sarah makes free or low-cost home care possible for sick, disabled and elderly people. It is well-known for lending medical equipment for free. With 104 branches throughout Israel run by some 6,000 volunteers and funded only by donations, Yad Sarah saves the Israeli economy over \$300 million a year in medical costs. Yad Sarah exemplifies the unity of Israeli society and the Jewish tradition of mutual responsibility for all. Helping one out of every two Israeli families, Yad Sarah shares its self-help and volunteer model with many countries.

Kadima

The Kadima Youth Home Network is comprised of 16 group homes serving 730 children at-risk from distressed families, who are referred by welfare authorities. The children participate in enrichment, social, and academic activities with mentors.

Tzalul Environmental Association

Tzalul is Israel's leading environmental organization, with the goal of protecting Israel's seas and rivers through conservation, activism, research, and education. It is responsible for saving the coral reef in the Gulf of Eilat from the adverse effects of pollution. Tzalul's chairman, Benjamin Kahn, was named one of *Time Magazine's* Heroes of the Environment.



The Israel Defense Forces – Universal Service

The Israel Defense Forces

The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) is Israel's primary form of national security – the strongest military force in the Middle East and one of the strongest in the world. Under Israel's mandatory draft, there is a nearly universal military service, where all 18 year olds join the IDF and contribute. Men are drafted for three years and women for two years. The IDF brings together all sectors of Israeli society. In 2000, a new policy was passed in the IDF that allows women to potentially perform any role or job in the IDF and be subject to treatment and assessment equal to men in the same service. The recruitment of officers from among the enlisted, the academic and leadership opportunities and the involvement of the IDF in social service programs all accentuate the societal role of the IDF.



Open Mind - Education in Israel

Israeli educational institutions include schools that teach primarily in Hebrew, and ones that teach in Arabic. These two educational systems serve the Jewish and Arab populations that live within Israel. Educational institutions for both cultures include frameworks and methods that cater to various religious sects within the communities.

The Israeli school system has assisted in integrating hundreds of thousands of immigrants over the past two decades, while continuing to raise its academic standards. The educational systems invest vast resources in an effort to provide more equal access to opportunity for disadvantaged portions of the population. High school graduation rates have risen and drop-out rates have fallen over the past decade.

Eight universities for research and higher education operate within Israel, alongside 49 academic colleges. As of 2006, 245,000 students attend these universities with medicine and law being the most studied fields. In Israel, the percentage of those between the ages of 25-64 who hold an academic degree is 29%, which is the second highest in the world and similar to that of the United States of America



Celebrating Tolerance- Modern Holidays and festivals

"SAGOL" – Love and Meditation Festival

Sagol (Purple Festival) is a biennial festival in Israel taking place on the beach of the Mediterranean Sea. People from all over the world gather to participate in the many spiritual and new-age activities offered. It is a festival for the spiritually minded, featuring a wide range of meditation workshops, movement and body awareness, yoga, tantra, shamanism, art, workshops for women and children's activities, all oriented toward self-growth and self-improvement. Sagol represents the deep longing of Israel for spirituality in varied forms, and has become a platform for those seeking spiritual essence and awakening in Israel.

The Holiday of Holidays Festival (Chag Ha'Chagim)

The annual Holiday of Holidays Festival in the city of Haifa draws thousands of visitors to the neighborhood of Vadi Nisnas. In December 2008, the festival will be staged for the 14th year, in celebration of the varied cultures and religions that make up Haifa. The Festival's goal is to promote tolerance by using culture and art to educate and to highlight the different communities that co-exist in the city: Jews, Arabs and Christians. The Festival celebrates all three religions and their major holidays including Chanukah, Christmas and Ramadan

The Ethiopian 'Sig' Holiday

This holiday is celebrated by the Jewish-Ethiopian community in honor of the rebuilding of the *Beit HaMikdash* (The Great Temple), and of the right and privilege to come to Israel. The holiday is a day of fasting that takes place 50 days after Yom Kippur. The majority of the day is spent praying, and a big feast is held in the late afternoon. In recent years, the youth organization Bnei Akiva has developed the custom of marching in song and dance toward the Western Wall. The Sig holiday became an official Israeli holiday on January 30, 2008

Did You Know?

	1980	1990	2006
Total Population	3,921,700	4,821,700	7,116,700
Civilian labor force	1,318,100	1,649,900	2,809,700
School population	1,200,700	1,451,300	2,129,200
Percentage of the population (15+) with 13 years or more of formal schooling	19.2	25.3	41.8

Population by Religion
 Jews: 75.8%
 Muslims: 16.5%
 Christians: 2.1%
 Druze: 1.7%
 Not classified by religion: 3.9%

Population Distribution
 Urban localities: 91.8%
 Rural localities: 8.2%
Moshavim (In English: *Villages*): 3.3%
Kibbutzim (In English: *Communal Villages*): 1.7%

Largest cities by population
 Jerusalem: 733,300
 Tel Aviv-Yafo: 384,400
 Haifa: 266,300
 Rishon LeZion: 222,000
 Ashdod: 204,200

Number of Immigrants by Continent, 1948-2005
 Europe: 1,811,402
 Africa: 497,439
 Asia: 429,160
 America and Oceania: 242,703
 Unknown: 31,572

Number of Immigrants by Year of Immigration
 1948-1951: 688,000
 1952-1959: 272,000
 1960-1969: 374,000
 1970-1979: 346,000
 1980-1989: 154,000
 1990-1999: 956,400
 2000-2006: 222,000

Education
 University Students Receiving Bachelors Degrees by Field of Study (Total 122,650 students in 7 universities)
 Humanities: 23.6%
 Social Sciences: 23.3%
 Science and Mathematics: 16.6%
 Engineering: 13.6%
 Medicine: 9.9%
 Business and Administration: 7.2%
 Law: 4.4%
 Agriculture: 1.4%



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