



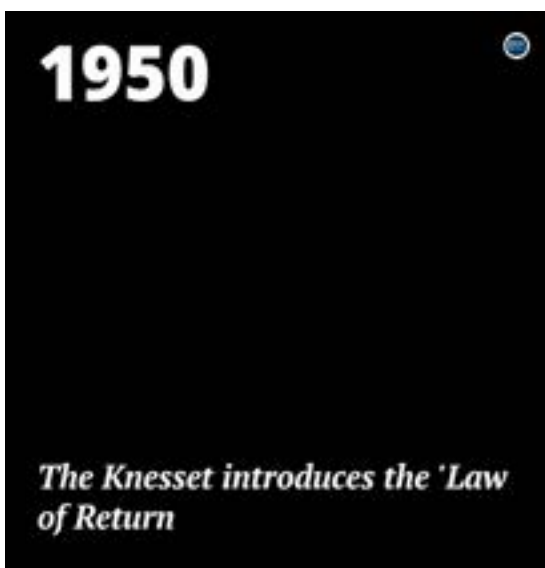
75 YEARS OF ISRAELI HISTORY





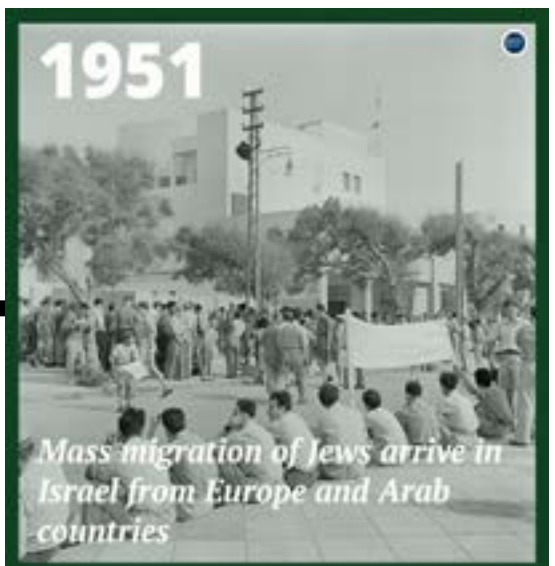
On the 14th of May 1948, the Israeli declaration of Independence was signed and came into effect as the British mandate expired. It established the Jewish state's independence and this date is still celebrated as a national holiday across Israel to this day.

Israel joined the United Nations in 1949. This was an important part of being recognized by the international community. Despite an enduring anti-Israel bias, Israel remains a member to this day.



The Law of Return, granting every Jew in the world the right to settle in Israel, was passed by the Knesset on July 5, 1950.

By 1951 almost 700,000 migrants had arrived looking for a safe homeland, almost doubling the population from that at Independence. The people arriving were overwhelmingly refugees who had been displaced by the Holocaust or fled from hostile states in the Middle East and North Africa.





In 1952 Israel and West Germany signed what became known as the Luxemburg agreement, outlining reparations for Jewish losses of livelihood and property during the Nazi regime and the cost of Israel taking in such a high number of Jewish refugees.

The World Holocaust Memorial Centre, Yad Vashem, is dedicated to the memory of the approximately 6 million Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust.



Armed Palestinian terrorists attacked a civilian passenger bus and killed 11 passengers. Only 4 people survived, two with life changing injuries.

In 1955, four of the seven 'Dead Sea Scrolls' were obtained by Israel. The scrolls are ancient Jewish and Hebrew texts that were discovered in the Northern shore of the Dead Sea between 1948 and 1956.





In reaction to Nasser's Egypt nationalising the vital Suez Canal, Israel invaded the Sinai. Initial Israeli success was followed by a politically disastrous Anglo-French intervention, and withdrawal under US pressure.

Temperatures cooled over the Suez Crisis and British, French and Israeli forces withdrew from the Sinai peninsula.



Negev Nuclear Research Centre was founded in 1958. The centre was made with French assistance and has long been a source of national pride.

David Ben-Gurion won his 4th consecutive General Election, with his left-wing Mapai party taking 47 of 120 Knesset seats. The Israeli election system is designed to build coalitions and create consensus.





Prime Minister Ben-Gurion met with President Eisenhower in Washington DC for the first time in 1960. The two men reportedly spoke for over two hours in the White House, cementing what has become a strong and longstanding friendship between the two nations.

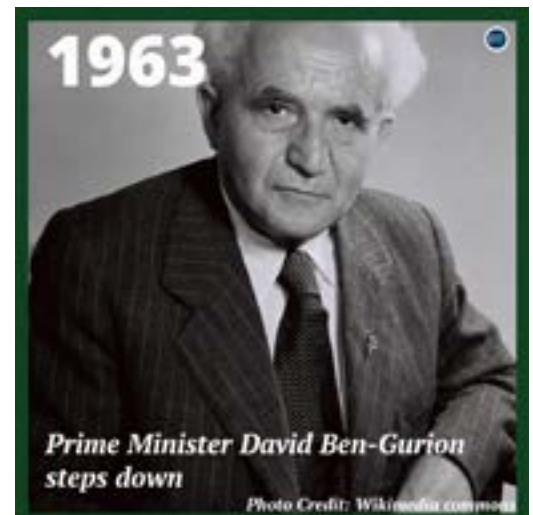


Haifa University became Israel's 4th University. Notable alumni include Olympic and Paralympic athletes, members of the Knesset and prominent philanthropists.

Adolf Eichmann was one of the major organizers of the Holocaust, managing the deportation of Jews to Nazi ghettos and extermination camps across Europe. In 1961 he was put on trial, convicted and executed for his crimes in Jerusalem.



Ben-Gurion is widely considered one of Israel's founding fathers, and was the first person to sign the declaration of independence. He served as prime minister 1948-1954 and then 1955-1963 before retiring from political life in 1970.



1964

*Palestinian Liberation Organisation
founded in East Jerusalem*

The Palestinian Liberation Organisation is a nationalist Palestinian group seeking to establish a Palestinian state, founded by Yasser Arafat in 1964. Originally using exclusively terrorist methods, the PLO participated in the Oslo accords in the 1990s and now leads the Palestinian Authority.

In 1965 Israel and West Germany normalised relations. This was an important step, allowing both countries to create lasting trade, security and strategic ties.

1965



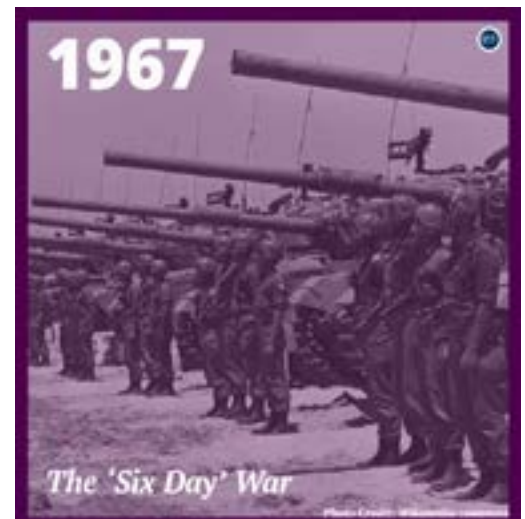
1966



The Knesset building was opened in 1966 and is one of the few single house legislative chambers in the world. All Israeli citizens over the age of 18 can vote in legislative elections

In 1967, following an Egyptian troop build up and closure of the Straits of Tiran, Israel launched a stunning pre-emptive strike, defeating the militaries of Egypt, Syria and Jordan within just six days, and capturing East Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank, the Sinai and the Golan Heights. The status of the West Bank continues to be at the heart of the Middle East conflict.

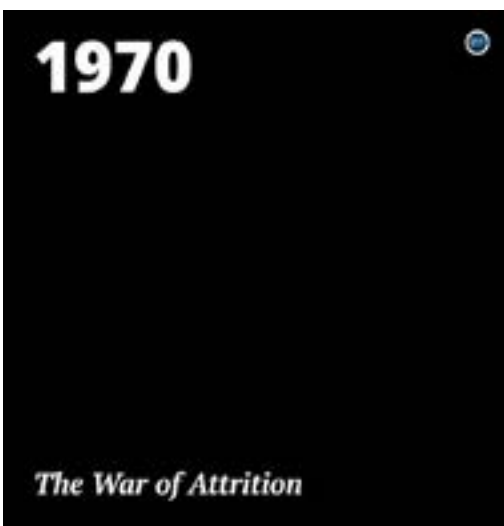
1967





The PFLP terror group hijacked a flight from London to Israel in 1968 and held the Israeli passengers and crew hostage. 12 passengers and the entire crew were held hostage for 40 days and were exchanged for 16 convicted Arab prisoners.

In 1969 Israel elected its first female Prime Minister, only the 3rd woman PM in the world, Golda Meir, who was described as the 'Iron Lady' of Israeli politics. Meir had previously been a cabinet minister under Ben-Gurion and served as Prime Minister until 1974.



The War of Attrition was a military campaign conducted by Egypt in 1970 designed to wear Israel down through a long and exhausting engagement.

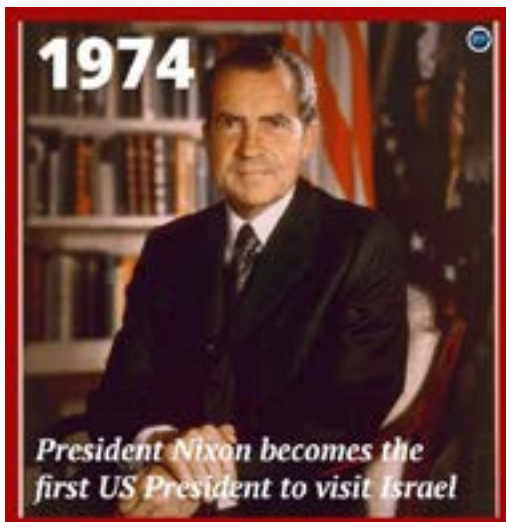
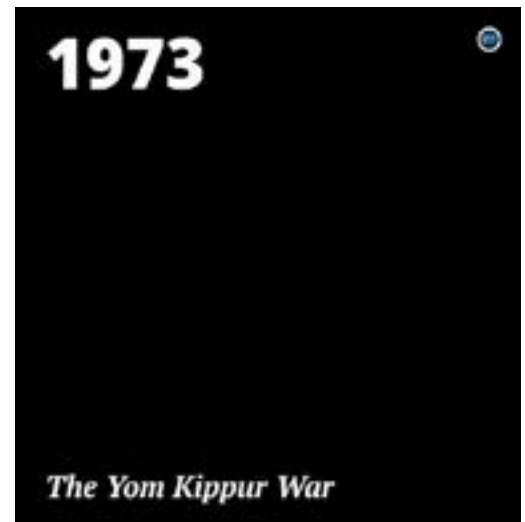
In 1971 Golda Meir sat down with President Nixon in the US to discuss increasing Soviet aggression in the middle east.





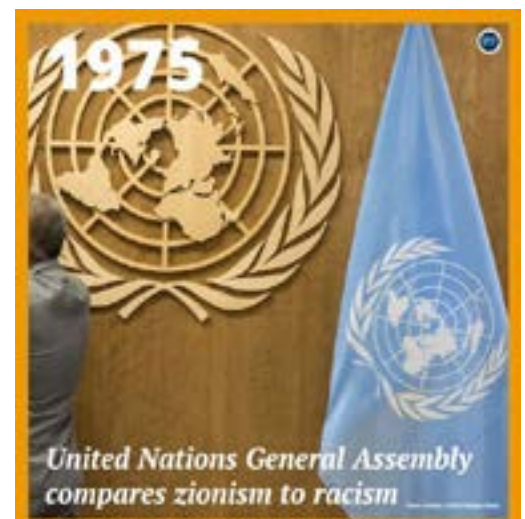
The Palestinian terrorist group Black September targeted the 1972 Israeli Olympic team and 11 Israelis and a West German police officer were killed. The attack had a profound effect on the Olympic Games and led to increased security for athletes.

The Yom Kippur War saw Israel initially taken by surprise by an attack by Egypt and Syria aimed at reversing the 1967 territorial gains in the Sinai and Golan, but eventually prevailing.



Nixon became the first US President to visit Israel in 1974, forging personal and political relationships with officials and then Prime Minister Golda Meir. This strong US-Israel relationship has continued to the present day.

In a United Nations General Assembly Resolution, backed by the Soviet Union, Zionism was compared to racism. Whilst the resolution has since been revoked, the UN has continued show an anti-Israel bias.





In one of the most celebrated counter-terrorism operations ever, Israeli commandos rescued 102 hostages held after the hijacking of an Air France flight from Tel Aviv by the PFLP terrorist group at Entebbe airport in Uganda.

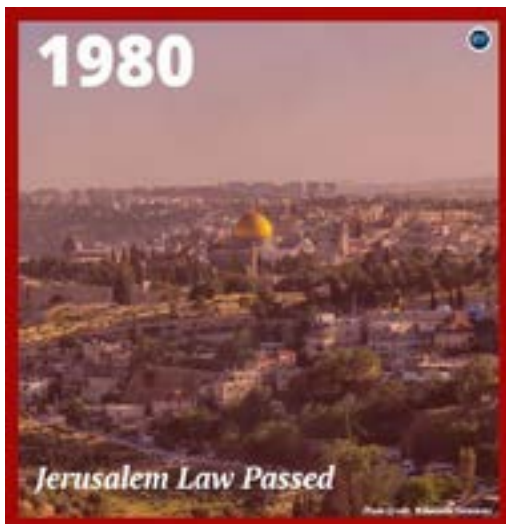
Anwar Saddat, Egyptian President, became the first Arab leader to visit Israel in 1977. This meeting was a stepping stone to the peace treaties to come. Here he is pictured alongside Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Begin.



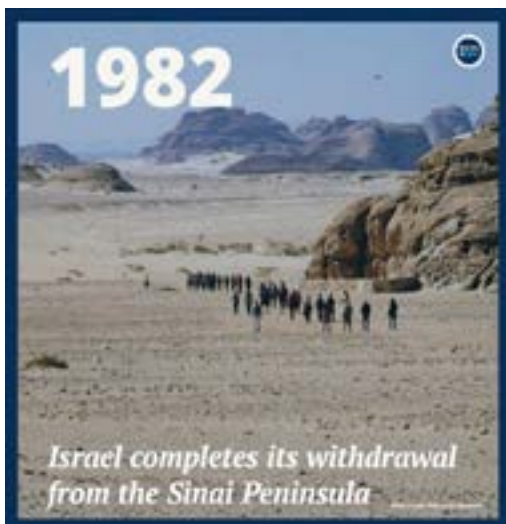
The Camp David Accords were a framework for peace signed by Egyptian President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin following secret negotiations led by the United States and Jimmy Carter.

The Camp David Accords set the stage for further peace agreements to resolve years of military violence and escalation between Israel and Egypt. Begin and Sadat would be awarded a Nobel peace prize for their efforts to achieve peace.





The Knesset passed the Basic Law: Jerusalem, Capital of Israel, which the Israeli Supreme Court has interpreted as the effective annexation by Israel of East Jerusalem.

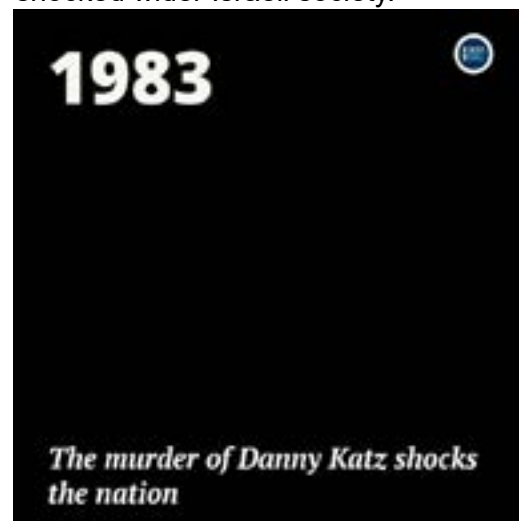


Israel completed its withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula in 1982, in accordance with the Egyptian–Israeli Peace Treaty

In 1981 Israel carried out Operation Opera. Israeli F-16 aircraft severely damaged Osirak, an Iraqi nuclear reactor under construction near Baghdad, which Israel believed was central to Saddam Hussein's nuclear weapons programme.



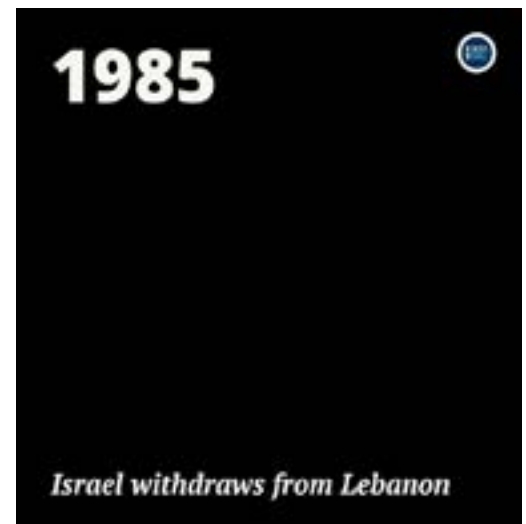
In 1983 a Palestinian terrorist killed 14 year old Danny Katz when he was walking through his neighbourhood. The perpetrators were later caught, but the brutality of the attack on a child shocked wider Israeli society.





Shimon Peres was elected as Prime Minister in 1984, overseeing the stabilisation of the Israeli economy. Peres would go on to be the Knesset's longest serving member, remaining in the legislature for 48 years, and to serve as President.

Israel withdrew its forces from most of Lebanon in 1985, retreating to a security zone on the Litani River. Israel had invaded Lebanon in 1982 to strike at PLO bases in Beirut.



Whilst Israel has never confirmed their existence, in 1986 details of classified Israeli nuclear weapons were revealed by the Sunday Times.

The First Intifada was a sustained series of protests and violent riots carried out by the Palestinians motivated by frustration over the post-1967 occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. The violence lasted for over 5 years.





In 1988 a bus carrying workers to the Dimona nuclear research centre was hijacked by Arab terrorists who held 11 passengers hostage, executing two. Many of the passengers were working mothers earning the incident its nickname.

Ahmed Yassin founded the Palestinian terrorist organisation Hamas in 1987 and served as the organisation's spiritual leader. In 1989 he was arrested and sentenced to life imprisonment by Israeli law enforcement.



The end of the Cold War and opening of the USSR's borders saw nearly 200,000 Soviet Jews make aliyah (immigrate) to Israel in one year. Eventually 979,000 would move to Israel.

The Madrid Conference of 1991 was an attempt by the international community to revive the Israeli-Palestinian peace process through a conference sponsored by the US and Soviet Union.





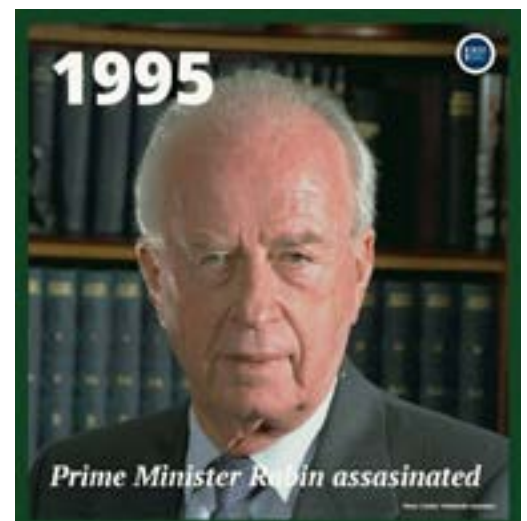
A suicide car-bomb exploded at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 and injuring 242. Most of the victims were Argentinian civilians, including many children. Islamic Jihad, linked to Iran, claimed responsibility.

The first Oslo accords were signed in 1993 in Washington D.C., marking the start of the peace process aimed at resolving the conflict. The agreements resulted in the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO and creation of the Palestinian Authority.



PM Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a peace treaty establishing mutual diplomatic relations, settling broad land and water disputes. The treaty had been secretly negotiated since 1987 and was facilitated by President Clinton.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated at the end of a rally in support of the Oslo Accords in Tel Aviv. The assassin was an Israeli ultra-nationalist and opposed Rabin's peace initiative.





Benjamin Netanyahu was elected as Prime Minister for the first time in 1996. Now the longest serving Prime Minister, Netanyahu remains a controversial figure to this day, having served as PM 1996-1999, 2009-2021 and since 2022.

The Island of Peace Massacre happened in 1997 whereby a Jordanian soldier opened fire at a large group of Israeli school girls on a class trip, killing 7 of them.



The Wye River Memorandum ended the stalemate of direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiation, facilitated by President Clinton and supported by the EU.

Barak was Israel's most highly decorated soldier before entering politics and was first elected in 1999.



2000

Camp David Summit

The Camp David Summit was a meeting between Clinton, Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Arafat at the presidential retreat in Maryland. Sadly, the summit ended without an agreement.

2001 was marked by an appalling series of mass casualty suicide bombings by Palestinian terrorists in Israel, including the killing of 21 Israelis in the Dolphinarium Disco attack and 15 in the Sbarro restaurant attack.

2001

The Second Intifada suicide bombings

2002

The Passover Massacre

The wave of suicide bombings in the Second Intifada continued through 2002, including the Passover Massacre when a Hamas terrorist killed 30 Israelis at a Passover dinner in the Park Hotel, Netanya.

The first segment of the security barrier in the West Bank was completed in 2003. Whilst politically controversial, it contributed to a dramatic decrease in suicide bombings and other terrorist attacks.

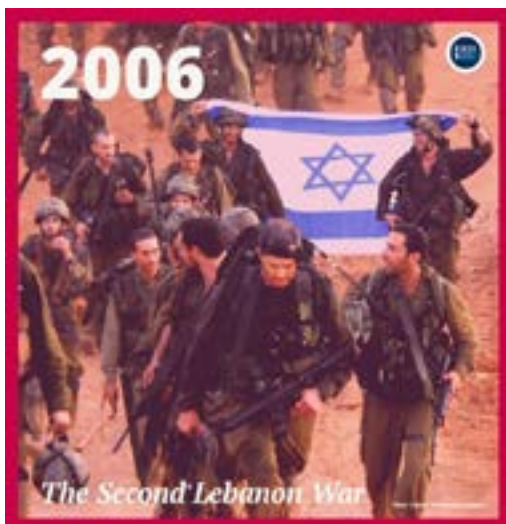
2003

Completion of the first segment of security barrier



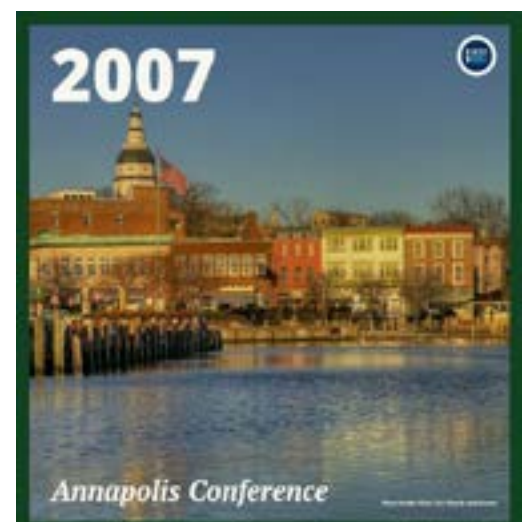
Prime Minister Ariel Sharon won Knesset approval for Israel to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza strip, including relocating 8,000 Israeli settlers from 21 communities.

The summit at Sharm el-Sheikh ended the second intifada as PA President Abbas declared violence would end and in return PM Sharon agreed to release 900 Palestinian prisoners and withdraw the IDF from West Bank towns.



The Second Lebanon War was a 34 day conflict, following an escalation in violence with Hezbollah fighters raiding the border and firing rockets at Israeli border towns. It has long been considered the beginning of the Iran-Israel proxy conflict.

The Annapolis Conference was the first time that a two-state solution was articulated as the only mutually agreeable way forward to resolve the conflict. Mahmoud Abbas, Ehud Olmert and representatives from the UN, China, the Arab League and Russia were in attendance at the event hosted by George W Bush.



2008

Operation Cast Lead Commences

Israel initiated Operation Cast Lead, 22 days of fighting between the IDF and Hamas in Gaza, in an effort to bring an end to escalating rocket and mortar attacks from Gaza against Israeli civilian targets.

Pope Benedict XVI visited Israel in 2009! As part of the trip, the Pope condemned Holocaust denial and called for cooperation between Palestinians and Israelis.

2009

Pope Benedict XVI visits Israel

2010

President Kastav convicted of rape

President Kastav was convicted of rape and obstruction of justice in 2010. Even before the #MeToo movement rocked the international community, Israel has taken the rights of women and sexual violence seriously.

The Iron Dome became operational in 2011. The missile defence programme is a source of national pride and has successfully kept Israeli citizens safe from Hamas rocket attacks for over a decade.

2011

The Iron Dome becomes operational

2012

Operation Pillar of Defense

In 2012 Israel undertook Operation Pillar of Defense, an 8 day campaign in the Gaza Strip with the goal of disrupting Hamas' rocket attacks.

President Obama visited Israel for the first time in 2013, laying wreaths at the grave of assassinated PM Rabin and meeting with students to discuss Israel's future.

2013

President Obama visits

2014

Operation Protective Edge

Operation Protective Edge was a 7 week conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, in an effort to stop escalating Hamas rocket attacks against Israeli civilian targets.

Former PM Ehud Olmert was convicted and jailed for corruption charges for taking bribes while he was mayor of Jerusalem and minister of trade and industry.

2015

*Former PM Ehud Olmert
convicted of accepting bribes*



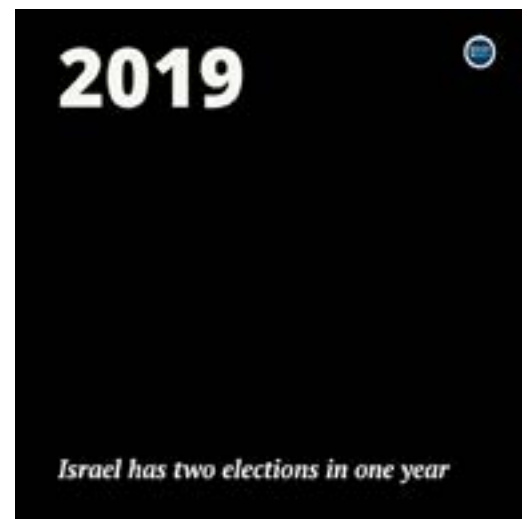
Over 180 people were injured and almost 600 homes were destroyed. The cause was a combination of arson and poor management of the surrounding natural habitats.

President Trump recognised Jerusalem as the capital of Israel in 2017. The US embassy has since been moved to the city but this incurred international criticism.



Netta Barzilai won Eurovision for Israel in 2018 in Lisbon, becoming the fourth Israeli winner of the competition since Israel joined the contest in 1973.

There were two legislative elections in 2019, held in April and another in September as the governing coalition failed to reach an agreement on national service for the ultra-orthodox.





In 2020 Israel signed the Abraham Accords, paving the way for stronger relationships and peace between the Arab world and Israel.

Israel has proven itself to embrace medical and technological innovation and had the fastest vaccine roll out in the world to slow the infection rate across the country.



In August Israel launched Operation Breaking Dawn in response to threats from Palestinian Islamic Jihad with airstrikes against the Gaza Strip.

There have been mass protests throughout the spring of 2023 against the proposed judicial reforms.

