



## Israel at 66: Why Are We Here & What Have We Accomplished

### Talking Points

The State of Israel is a modern day miracle. In 66 years, the Jewish State has accomplished the seemingly impossible: With so few natural resources and in the face of constant existential threats, this tiny nation has brought the world more technological, medical and agricultural advancements and innovation than almost any other nation.

#### How have Israelis accomplished so much with so little?

To discover their secret, watch Jerusalem U's documentary film *Israel Inside* (10 minute version) at the link below, which explores the character strengths that have enabled Israelis to overcome immeasurable challenges and build a flourishing nation. Watch *Israel Inside* at <http://youtu.be/TDqo8mu5u8U>.

*"Every country, emphatically including every one of the many Arab countries, can be said to exist at the expense of another...Indeed, Jews have more concurrent rights to their land than any other people on this earth can claim: aboriginal rights, divine rights, legal rights, internationally granted rights, pioneering rights, and the rights of that perennial arbiter, war."*

- Ruth Wisse, "If I Am Not for Myself"

#### Should we even ask the question: "What right do the Jewish People have to a state in the Land of Israel?"

This is one of the most fundamental questions in Israel advocacy. Some may find this question superfluous, perhaps even offensive. After all, no one challenges the right of Canada or China or Saudi Arabia to exist - why should Israel be constantly required to justify her existence?

This is a valid point. Still, for our own internal conviction, it is important that we appreciate the basis for Israel's right to exist as a nation state. By integrating all the many rights of Israel's existence, we can make a strong case for the legitimacy of the State of Israel - certainly compared to most countries in the world.

Israel's basic **historical/aboriginal**, **pioneering** and **international** rights to nation statehood:

- The first 1900 years of Jewish history take place in the Middle East (including Israel).
- The Jewish people freed Palestine from its status as a perpetual colony since biblical times. The only time the Land was not colonized was when it was under Jewish rule.
- From the 13<sup>th</sup> century BCE to 70 CE, almost 500 years, the Jewish people were primarily a sovereign nation or autonomously governed in the Land of Israel.
- The Jewish people have 3000+ years of continuous Jewish presence, growth and development in the Land of Israel – continuing today.



- No nation state in the world was created in a perfect immaculate way - with no injustices made, no wars fought, no people displaced. The same is true of the State of Israel. To expect Israel's establishment to have been without flaw is hypocritical and unjust.

*"Nobody does Israel any service by proclaiming its 'right to exist.' Israel's right to exist, like that of the United States, Saudi Arabia and 152 other states, is axiomatic and unreserved. Israel's legitimacy is not suspended in midair awaiting acknowledgement... There is certainly no other state, big or small, young or old, that would consider mere recognition of its 'right to exist' a favor, or a negotiable concession."*

- Abba Eban, former Foreign Minister & Israel's first Ambassador to the UN

## Recommended Reading:

Hertz, Allen Z. *Aboriginal Rights of the Jewish People*. American Thinker, 2011,  
[http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/10/aboriginal\\_rights\\_of\\_the\\_jewish\\_people.html](http://www.americanthinker.com/2011/10/aboriginal_rights_of_the_jewish_people.html).

Senor, Dan & Singer, Saul. *Startup Nation: The Story of Israel's Economic Miracle*. New York, NY: Twelve, 2009.

Yakobson, Alexander & Rubenstein, Amnon. *Israel and the Family of Nations*. London: Routledge, 2009.