

# Timeline for War of Independence

1918-1948 British Mandate in Palestine

1937 Peel Commission report on partitioning Palestine

**November 29 1947 United Nations votes on Partition Plan, to create a Jewish and an Arab state**

November 30 War of Independence breaks out, local Arabs fight

Attacks on convoys to Jerusalem, Gush Etzion, communities in the Galilee

January 16 1948 Massacre of the thirty-five en route to Gush Etzion

February 22 Ben Yehuda bombing

March 11 Jewish Agency bombing

April 2 Beginning of Castel battles

Late April Haganah takes Haifa

May 10 Haganah takes Tzfat

May 13 Gush Etzion falls

**May 14 /5 Iyar 5740 British High Commissioner leaves Palestine, Israel declares statehood**

May 15 Arab nations declare war on Israel, Kibbutz Nirim holds off Egyptian attackers

May 28 Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem falls, IDF officially formed

May 29 Egyptians turned back at Ad Halom

June 1 After repeated failures to take Latrun, Israel constructs the Burma Road

September Battles over in Jerusalem

**March 10 1949 Haganah takes the Negev till Eilat, the war is over**

November First soldiers interred in new Mount Herzl cemetery

# First Years: Challenges and Triumphs

## The Law of Return 1950

Every Jew has the right to come to this country as an Oleh.

Aliyah shall be by Oleh's visa.

An Oleh's visa shall be granted to every Jew who has expressed his desire to settle in Israel, unless the Minister of Immigration is satisfied that the applicant --

is engaged in an activity directed against the Jewish people; or

is likely to endanger public health or the security of the State.

A Jew who has come to Israel and subsequent to his arrival has expressed his desire to settle in Israel may, while still in Israel, receive an Oleh's certificate.

The restrictions specified in section 2 (b) shall apply also to the grant of an Oleh's certificate; but a person shall not be regarded as endangering public health on account of an illness contracted after his arrival in Israel.

Every Jew who has immigrated into this country before the coming into force of this Law, and every Jew who was born in this country, whether before or after the coming into force of this Law, shall be deemed to be a person who has come to this country as an Oleh under this Law.

The Minister of Immigration is charged with the implementation of this Law and may make regulations as to any matter relating to such implementation and also as to the grant of Oleh's visas and Oleh's certificates to minors up to the age of 18 years.

### Total number of new immigrants per year:

1948: 101,819 (majority:Europe)

1949: 239,576 (majority:Europe,Yemen)

1950: 170,215 (majority:Europe,Iraq)

1951: 175,129 (majority:Iraq, Europe)

1952: 24,369 (majority:North Africa)

1953:11, 325 (majority:Morocco)

1954: 18,370 (majority:Morocco)

1955: 37,478 (majority:Morocco)

1956: 56,234 (majority:Morocco)

1957: 71, 224 (majority:Europe, Egypt)

1958: 27,082 (majority:Europe, Iran)

## Witnesses and Prosecutor

“When I stand before you here, Judges of Israel, to lead the Prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I am not standing alone. With me are six million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point an accusing finger towards him who sits in the dock and cry: “I accuse.” For their ashes are piled up on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka, and are strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout the length and breadth of Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is not heard. Therefore I will be their spokesman and in their name I will unfold the awesome indictment.” Gideon Hausner

## A Window to the Mediterranean

### חלון לים התיכון

I promised to write when I left you but I didn't write for a long time  
Now I miss you so much such a pity you are not here with me  
After I arrived in Jaffa hopes were born out of despair  
I found my self a room and a half on the roof of a deserted house  
I have a folding bed if the three of us want to sleep  
You the kid and I against a window looking out to the Mediteranean Sea

And may be from so far away there is a one to a milion chance  
And may be from so far away happiness is sneaking through the window

The end of December 1950 out side there is war between the winds  
Suddenly we had snow fall so white and reminds me what I already forgot  
The wound is still open but if you were here with me  
I would have simply tell you what ever a letter will not say  
If you want you have a home here and you will have me a lot  
Kid's laughter coming to the house  
And a window looking out to the Mediterranean Sea

## Hana Mash Hu Al Yaman (Here is not Yemen)

Land of wheat and barley, grape and olive  
Fig and pomegranate, date and home

Where will I stake a home?  
(You have a tent for now)

Or at least a small shack  
(Along with four other families)  
And here I will raise a family  
(Don't let them take your daughter)  
I'll find myself a job with an income  
(Either in cleaning or working the earth)  
And I will learn the language  
(Lose the accent)  
With time I'll feel like I belong  
(Here is not Yemen)  
Where will I stake a home?  
(You have a tent for now)  
Or at least a small shack  
(Along with four other families)

Land of wheat and barley, grape and olive  
Fig and pomegranate, date and home

I came to you a stranger  
You saw me as primitive  
I came to you fleeing  
I saw you as a last resort

## Miriam Peretz on Accepting the Israel Prize 2018

בְּאַחַד הַלֵּילוֹת שֶׁל קִיץ 1963, הוֹדִיעַ אָבִי כִּי הַלֵּילָה יָבוֹא הַמְּשִׁיחַ. לְשָׂאֵלְתִי כִּי־צַד אֲזַהֶה אוֹתוֹ עֵנָה הוּא יִלְבַּשׁ חוֹלְצָה פְּתוּחָה, מַכְנָסִיִּים קְצָרִים וְיִנְעַל סַנְדָּלִים" פִּגְשָׁתִי אֶת הַמְּשִׁיחַ! אֶת שְׂלִיחַ הַסּוֹכְנוֹת הַיְהוּדִית שֶׁהוּצִיא אוֹתָנוּ מֵהַמְּלָאָח בְּקִזְבְּלִנְקָה, שֶׁם גָּרְתִּי עַד הַיּוֹתֵי בֵּת 10, וְהֵבִיא אוֹתָנוּ לְיִרוּשָׁלַיִם – לְמַעַבְרַת חֲצָרִים בְּבָאָר שֶׁבַע, שֶׁבָּה חֵיִיתִי עַד שְׁנַת 1969. חֵיִינוּ לֵלֵא גַז, לֵלֵא מִקְרָר, הַיּוֹ מִיטוֹת עֲשׂוּיֹת מִבְּרִזֵּל וְקִשְׂיֵי קְלִיטָה וְשִׁפָּה חֲדָשָׁה אֲבֵל הַיִּיתָה גַם שִׁמְחָה גְדוֹלָה עַל שֶׁזְכִּינוּ לַהֲגִיעַ לָאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל. לְמַדְתִּי לָאֵהוֹב אֶת הָאָרֶץ דֶּרֶךְ שִׁירָה בְּזָכוֹת רַדִּיּוֹ שֶׁקִּיבֵּל אָבִי בְּעִבּוּדוֹתָיו כַּמְטָאטָא כְּבִישִׁים. בְּכָל יוֹם רְבִיעִי, חֵיפִיתִי בְּחֶרֶד קוֹדֶשׁ בַּפֶּתַח הַצָּרִיף שֶׁלְנוּ, בִּידֵיִי מַחְבֵּרֶת וְעִיפָרוֹן, נְכוֹנָה לְכַתּוֹב אֶת מִילוֹת הַשִּׁירִים שֶׁלִּימַד אִפִּי נֹצֵר בְּתוֹכְנִיתוֹ. כִּךְ הֵיכַרְתִּי אֶת הַחֶרְמוֹן דֶּרֶךְ "מְלָכוֹת הַחֶרְמוֹן", אֶת בֵּית לַחֵם דֶּרֶךְ "רְאֵי רַחֵל רְאֵי" וְאֶת עַמְקֵי יִזְרְעֵאל דֶּרֶךְ "שִׁיר הָעַמְקֵי."