

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL

NATIONHOOD AND JERUSALEM

- Israel became a nation in 1312 BC, two thousand years before the rise of Islam.
- Arab refugees in Israel began identifying themselves as part of a Palestinian people in 1967, two decades after the establishment of the modern State of Israel.
- Since the Jewish conquest in 1272 BC the Jews have had dominion over the land for one thousand years with a continuous presence in the land for the past 3,300 years. The only Arab dominion since the conquest in 635 CE lasted no more than 22 years. For over 3,300 years Jerusalem has been the Jewish capital. Jerusalem has never been the capital of any Arab or Muslim entity. Even when the Jordanians occupied Jerusalem, they never sought to make it their capital, and Arab leaders did not come to visit.
- Jerusalem is mentioned over 700 times in the Tanach, the Jewish Holy Scriptures. Jerusalem is not mentioned once in the Koran.
- King David founded the city of Jerusalem. Mohammed never came to Jerusalem.
- Jews pray facing Jerusalem. Muslims pray facing Mecca.

ARAB AND JEWISH REFUGEES

- In 1948 the Arab refugees were encouraged to leave Israel by Arab leaders promising to purge the land of Jews. Sixty-eight percent left without ever seeing an Israeli soldier. The Jewish refugees were forced to flee from Arab lands due to Arab brutality, persecution and pogroms.
- The number of Arab refugees who left Israel in 1948 is estimated to be around 630,000. The number of Jewish refugees from Arab lands is estimated to be roughly the same.
- Arab refugees were intentionally not absorbed or integrated into the Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100 million refugees since World War II, theirs is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands. Jewish refugees were completely absorbed into Israel, a country no larger than Wales.

THE ARAB – ISRAELI CONFLICT

- The Arabs are represented by eight separate nations, not including the Palestinians. There is only one Jewish nation.
- The Arab nations initiated all five wars and lost.
- Israel defended itself each time and won.
- Fatah has not removed the call for the destruction of the State of Israel from its constitution.
- Israel has given the Palestinians most of the West Bank land, autonomy under the Palestinian Authority, and has supplied them with weapons.

- Under Jordanian rule, Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship.
- Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites have been preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.

U.N. RECORD ON ISRAEL AND THE ARABS

- Of the 175 Security Council resolutions passed before 1990, 97 were directed against Israel.
- Of the 690 General Assembly resolutions voted on before 1990, 429 were directed against Israel.
- The U.N. was silent while 58 Jerusalem Synagogues were destroyed by the Jordanians.
- The U.N. was silent while the Jordanians systematically desecrated the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives.
- The U.N. was silent while the Jordanians enforced an apartheid-like policy of preventing Jews from visiting the Temple Mount and the Western Wall.

PALESTINIAN HISTORY

The official *Palestine Ministry of Information* has undertaken a complete re-write of the history of Jerusalem. It is described as “an old Arab city built 5,000 years ago over (Al Dohor) hill known today as Al Tur, overlooking Silwan village south-east of Al-Aqsa Mosque”. The chronology of the city begins:

Jebusite Arabs 4500 BC
Canaanite Arabs 2500 BC
Israelites (when conquered by King David) 1000 BC.

Under ‘The Western Wall’ we find:

“The Al-Boraq Wall: It is part of the exterior facade of the western wall of Al-Aqsa Mosque. ‘Al-Boraq’ is the name of the creature on which Prophet Mohammed made his ascension to heaven and which was tied to this wall, which is called by Jews the ‘Wailing Wall’.

“Some Orthodox religious Jews consider it as a holy place for them, and claim that the wall is part of their temple which all historic studies and archaeological excavations have failed to find any proof for such a claim.”

“In order to undermine the foundations of Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Israeli government has converted it into a religious shrine for Jews, prohibiting non-Jews to enter it, except for a limited number of tourists”.

CFI Communications, PO Box 2687, Eastbourne, BN22 7LZ
Tel: 0845 230 3067 (local rate) or 01323 410810 • Fax: 01323 410211
Prayerline: 0845 230 3068 (local rate) or 01323 439840
email: info@cfi.org.uk • website: www.cfi.org.uk
Registered Charity no. 1101899