

Israel's Timeline: From Ancient to Contemporary Times

Ottoman Empire to Beginning of Modernity

ca. 1516 – 1897

The Age of the Ottoman Empire and the Renaissance

1516	Ottoman Empire succeeds the Mamluks. Thirty Jewish communities exist at the time in Haifa, Sh'chem (Nablus), Hebron, Ramleh, Jaffa, Gaza, Jerusalem, and many more in the Galilee.
1516 - 1564	Jewish courtiers in Istanbul, such as Don Garcia Mendes and Don Joseph Nasi formulate development projects for reviving the Holy Land. Jerusalem, Tiberias and above all, Safad, became centers of Jewish spiritual and commercial activity. Jews develop a number of branches of trade, especially in grain, spices, olives and cloth. Safed's 1555 population of 8000 grows to 30,000 by the end the 17 th century.
1564	Code of Jewish law (Shulhan Arukh) published in Land of Israel
1569	Yitzhak Luria's ideas give rise to a new form of Jewish mysticism called the Qabala in Safad.
1577	A Hebrew printing press is established in Safad
1619	Shah Abbasi of Persia increases persecution against Jews, forcing many to practice Islam, but they secretly remaining Jews.
1660	Ottoman Muslim authorities incite Arab Muslims to massacre Jews of Safad and Jerusalem.

The 18th and 19th Centuries

ca. 1750	Wahhabi movement takes root in Arabian Peninsula.
1759	Massive earthquake destroys Safad, killing 2000 people including almost 200 Jews.
1784-1885	Sir Moses Montefiore funds creation of numerous agricultural settlements in Eretz Israel.
1798	Battle of the Pyramids in Egypt between Napoleon's army and the Mamluks.
1799	Napoleon's army advances to Palestine and captures Haifa. Akko is successfully defended by the British.
1801-1804	Wahhabis capture Makka and Medina, raid Karbala.

1812-1875	Author, socialist and early Zionist Moses Hess.
1821-1891	Leon Pinsker, well known early Zionist
1840	Blood libel in Damascus, Syria leads to worldwide protest.
1845-1934	Zionist leader Baron Edmond James de Rothschild.
1855	First non-Muslim visitor is permitted to enter Temple Mount (the Muslim Haram al Sharif) since 1187 CE.
1858-1922	Eliezer Ben-Yehuda: founder of the movement to revive Hebrew as a modern spoken language.
1860	First neighborhood built outside Jerusalem's walls is the Jewish neighborhood of Mishkenot Sha'ananim.
1860-1904	Theodore Herzl, founder of the modern Zionist movement.
1860-1945	Henrietta Szold, founder of Hadassah, the American Woman's Zionist Organization.
1864	Leon Pinsker writes <i>Autoemancipation</i> where he argues for the creation of a Jewish homeland where Jews can be "autoemancipated" rather than wait for the sufferance of non-Jewish powers.
1866	Jews become a majority in Jerusalem.
1878	Petah Tikvah founded by Orthodox Jews, but abandoned in 1881 after Arab attacks. Reestablished in 1883.
1881	Ottoman government allows non-Ottoman Jews to settle throughout Ottoman Empire.
1882	Ottoman government allows Jews to visit, but not settle, Palestine.
1884	Ottoman government closes Palestine to non-Ottoman Jewish business, but not to Jewish pilgrims.
1888	European powers pressure Ottomans to permit non-Ottoman Jews to settle in Palestine, if they do not do so in large numbers.
1891	Grand Duke Sergei Alexandrovich orders the expulsion of Muscovite 20,000 Jewish families. Cossacks rampage through Jewish homes.
1892	Ottomans forbids sale of state land to non-Ottoman Jews in Palestine.
1896	Theodor Herzl publishes <i>Der Judenstaat</i> , "The Jews' State," signifying the emergence of modern political Zionism.
1897	First Zionist Congress convened by Theodor Herzl in Basle, Switzerland, Zionist Organization Founded.