



**CALIFORNIA CONTENT
STANDARD 10.9.6**

The Creation of the Israeli State

Specific Objective: Understand how the forces of nationalism developed in the Middle East, how the Holocaust affected world opinion regarding the need for a Jewish state, and the significance and effects of the location and establishment of Israel on world affairs.

Read the summary to answer questions on the next page.

Zionism

The political movement known as **Zionism** developed in the late 19th century. Zionists sought to unite Jews around the world and settle them in a new Jewish nation-state. Zionists sought . . .

- to bring together Jews, who were scattered around the world
- a nation-state where Jews could live free from persecution

Most Zionists believed the new state should be created in Palestine the original homeland of the Jews, before the Diaspora—or scattered migrations—began, during the ancient Roman Empire. By the turn of the twentieth century, communities of Zionists in Palestine were working to create a Jewish homeland. Palestine was then a British mandate. In the **Balfour Declaration** (1917), the British promised to support the Zionists, but could not work out a plan to create a Jewish state within Palestine. Great Britain suggested **partitioning** Palestine (dividing it into parts).

The State of Israel

The World War II Holocaust, which resulted in the deaths of six million Jews, created broader international support for Zionism. In 1947, the United Nations called for the partition of Palestine into a Jewish state and a Palestinian state, effective the next year.

Israel on the World Stage

Israel is surrounded by Muslim countries—all of which opposed its creation. It has been in a state of near-constant war with its neighbors since the day it became a nation. Israeli-Palestinian conflict has caused increasing violence in recent years.

The United States and Western Europe remain Israel's main supporters. Israel has also been of strategic interest because it was generally considered the Middle East's only democratic nation—and thus an ally of the West. Meanwhile, much of the Middle East has experienced growing unrest between secular governments and Islamic traditions.



PRACTICE

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Directions: Choose the letter of the *best* answer.

Use the map to answer questions 1–4.



- 1 Israel possessed land bordering the Suez Canal in**
- A 1955.
 - B 1965.
 - C 1975.
 - D 1985.

- 2 The acquisition of the Golan Heights caused the *greatest* conflict between Israel and**
- A Egypt.
 - B Lebanon.
 - C Saudi Arabia.
 - D Syria.

- 3 The West Bank is separated from the Mediterranean Sea by**
- A the Dead Sea.
 - B Israel.
 - C Jordan.
 - D Lebanon.

- 4 About how wide is Israel at its widest point?**
- A 10 miles
 - B 70 miles
 - C 140 miles
 - D 250 miles

- 5 The state of Israel was created by**
- A Great Britain.
 - B Palestine.
 - C The United Nations.
 - D the Balfour Declaration.

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