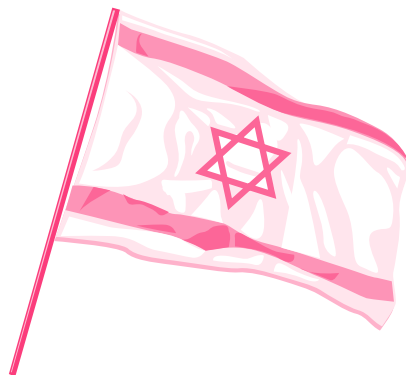




WHEN ISRAEL IS IN THE NEWS

Very few days pass without there being some mention of events in the Land of Israel in the first few pages of the newspaper. Below is a glossary of terms one is likely to encounter in following the news.

✧ *The West Bank* – That portion of land on the western side of the Jordan River which was occupied by Jordan at the conclusion of the Israel War of Independence (1948-49). Corresponding roughly to biblical Judea and Samaria, the West Bank includes approximately one-third of the total land-mass of today's State of Israel. The Six-Day War (1967) resulted in Jewish control of this entire area, though it is still heavily Palestinian (the name given to Arab people living in Israel) in population.



✧ *The Green Line* – The demarcation of land belonging to Israel as outlined by the Security Council of the United Nations on August 11, 1949 as part of the armistice ending the war between Israel and five Arab nations: Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq which resulted in the Independent State of Israel.

✧ *The Territories* – That area outside of "the Green Line" (boundaries of Israel established in 1949), including land occupied by Israel following the 1967 Six-Day War: the West Bank (formerly under control of Jordan), the Golan Heights (formerly under control of Syria), and the Gaza Strip (formerly under control of Egypt).

✧ *Settlements* – Any new Jewish housing development and community in "the Territories." Most of the Jews establishing the settlements are Orthodox families who believe they are justified in living in these areas by virtue of biblical entitlement. Their presence is provocative to Palestinians who claim prior ownership and resent Israeli control over what are, for some, ancestral homelands.

✧ *Intifada* – The Palestinian "uprising" which began in 1987 and consisted mainly of acts of terrorism and civil disobedience designed to

pressure the Israeli government to withdraw from “the Territories.” In the period 1987-93 the Intifada claimed the lives of 1500 Palestinians and 400 Israelis, in addition to many more injuries and enormous property damage. Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman, Yasir Arafat, officially suspended the “uprising” in 1993, but a new period of Intifada-like “Days of Rage” began in late September of 2000.

WHAT’S IN A NAME?

The name, Palestine—as it is applied commonly to the region between the Jordan River on the east and the Mediterranean Sea on the west, the Lebanese Mountains to the north and the Gulf of Aqaba to the south—is actually derived from one group of people who lived in a small part of this area in ancient times, the Philistines. The Philistines, whose five coastal city-states (Gath, Gaza, Ekron, Ashkelon, and Ashdod) were centers of industry, technology, and military might, were perennial enemies of the Jewish people. It is not coincidental that the geographical name stemming from Israel’s arch-enemies has become the favorite title of the Land of Israel for those who would like to see the Jews driven into the Sea.

EIGHT IS NOT ENOUGH!

Jewish law requires that in order for a religious service, such as morning prayers, to be held, there must be a quorum of at least ten

Jewish males above Bar Mitzva age present. This quorum is called a *minyan* and the term has come to be used synonymously for “prayer meeting.” The origin of the minimum number ten is debated, with many suggesting it comes from Numbers 14:27 where God refers to the ten evil spies as a “congregation,” thus defining a congregation as ten or more men. The minyan has gone “hi-tech,” with Jewish men from across the U.S. gathering in a computer “chat-room” for morning prayers, this to the disapproval of some rabbinical authorities who say that a minyan is only reached by ten or more being in the same place, not the same “cyber-space”!



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