



FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES  
*Charles University in Prague*

# The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Demography, Ethnicity, Race

# Organizational matters

- Hopefully Zoom next time
- Weekly assignments back to Monday evening
  - Foreshadowing of debates during the sessions
- Final paper proposals
  - Any questions?

# Coronavirus in Israel



# Coronavirus in Palestine

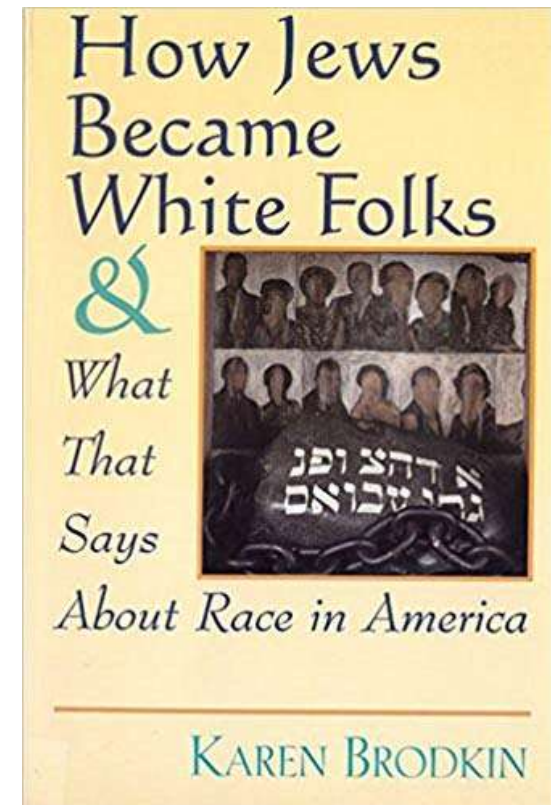
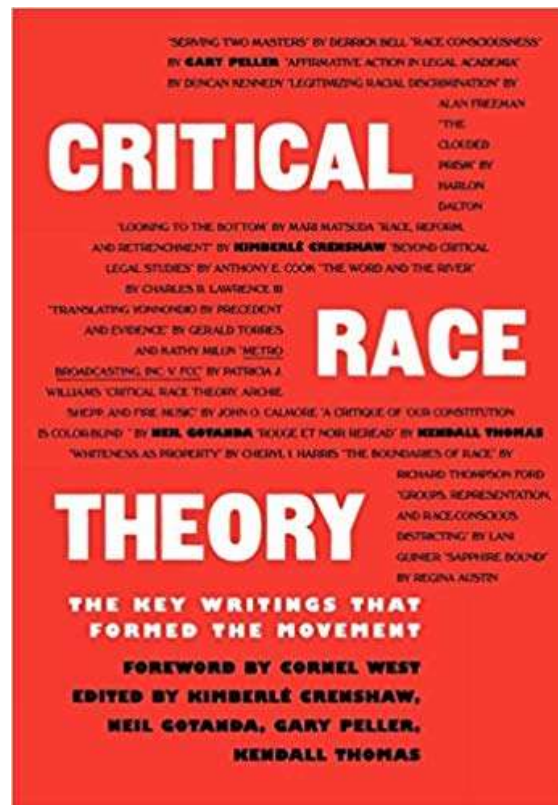
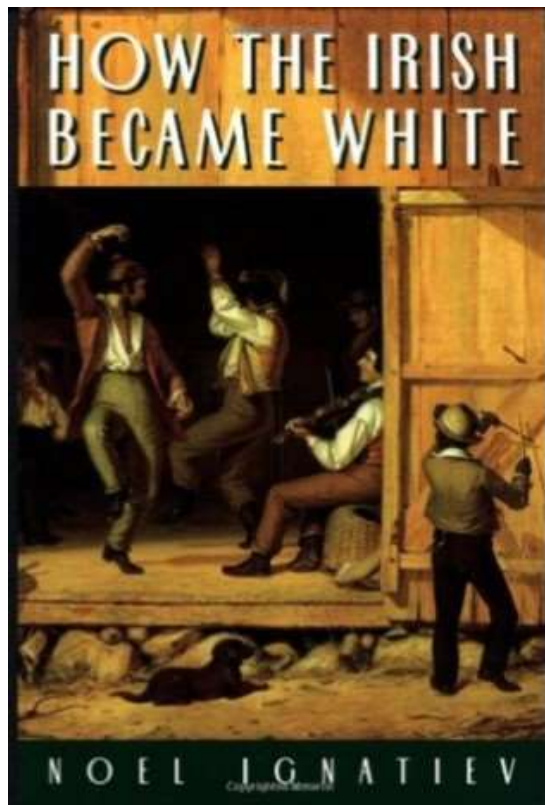


Ethnicity, race, identity

# Who is a Jew?

- Are Jews a nation? An ethnic group? A religious group? A race?
- What is ethnicity? What is race?

# Critical Race Studies



A first-time English visitor of Ireland in mid-19<sup>th</sup> century:

“I am haunted by the human chimpanzees I saw along that hundred miles of horrible country... But to see white chimpanzees was dreadful; if they were black, one would not feel it so much, but their skins, except where tanned by exposure, are as white as ours.”

(quoted in Loomba 1998, 109)



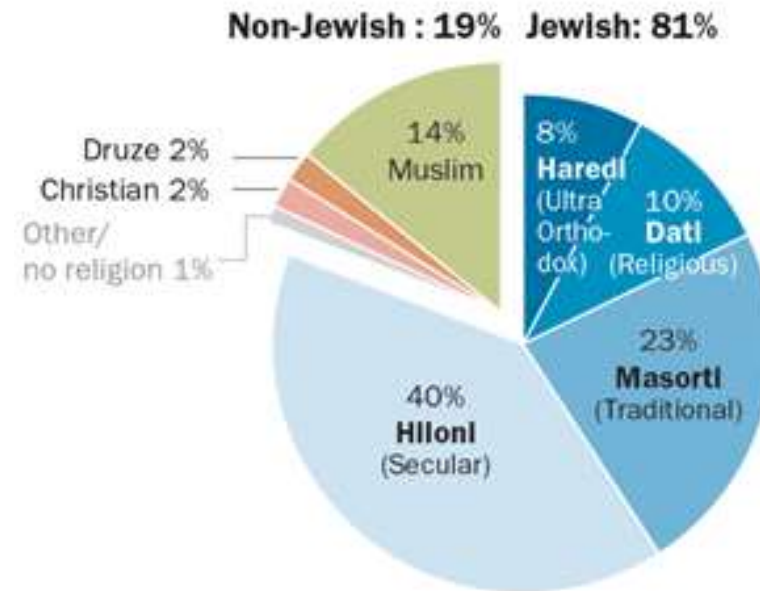
- Refusal of biological determinism
- “Race” is a social and political fact - belonging is socially constructed
- Looks into how are these categories actually enacted in practice

# Demographic trends in Israel/Palestine

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## Israel's diverse religious landscape

*% of Israeli adults who identify as ...*



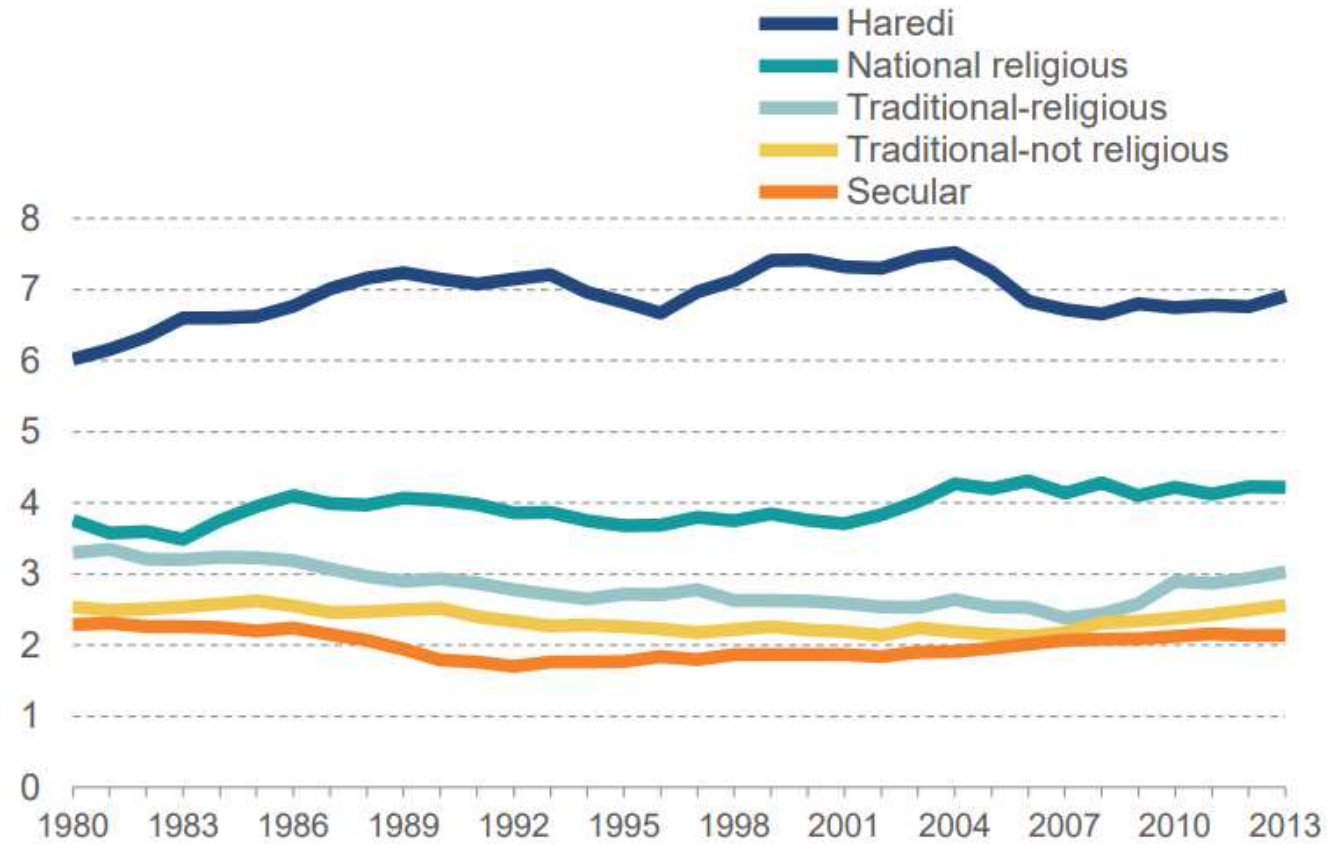
Source: Survey conducted October 2014-May 2015. A small proportion of Jewish respondents (<0.5%) did not specify their subgroup.

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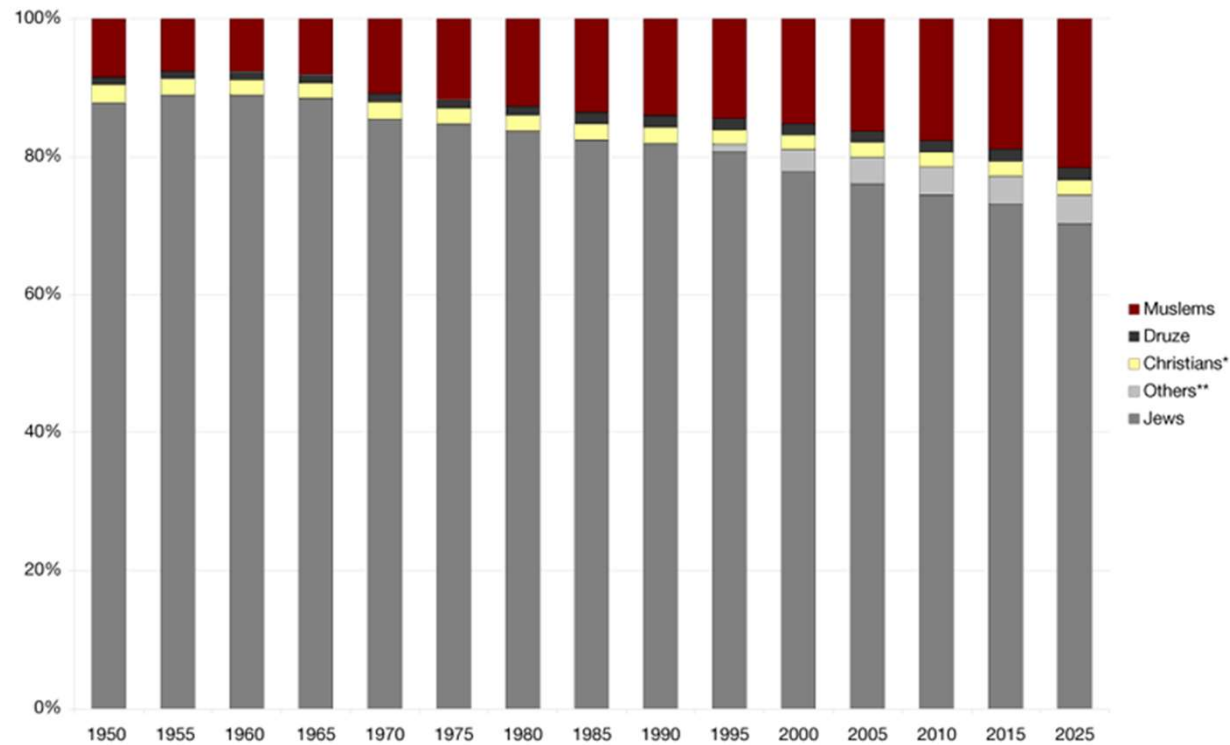
## Total fertility rate, 1980-2013

By religiosity



Source: Hleihel, 2017

**Fig. 8: Population of Israel by religious affiliation since 1950 (from 2010 on: forecast, medium model)**



Source: Central Bureau of Statistics

\* until 1994: incl. Persons with other/not stated religious affiliation

\*\* mainly family members of jewish immigrants from the former USSR

<http://focus-migration.hwwi.de/Israel.5246.0.html?&L=1>

## Projected Population of Palestinians and Israelis in Historic Palestine, Selected Years

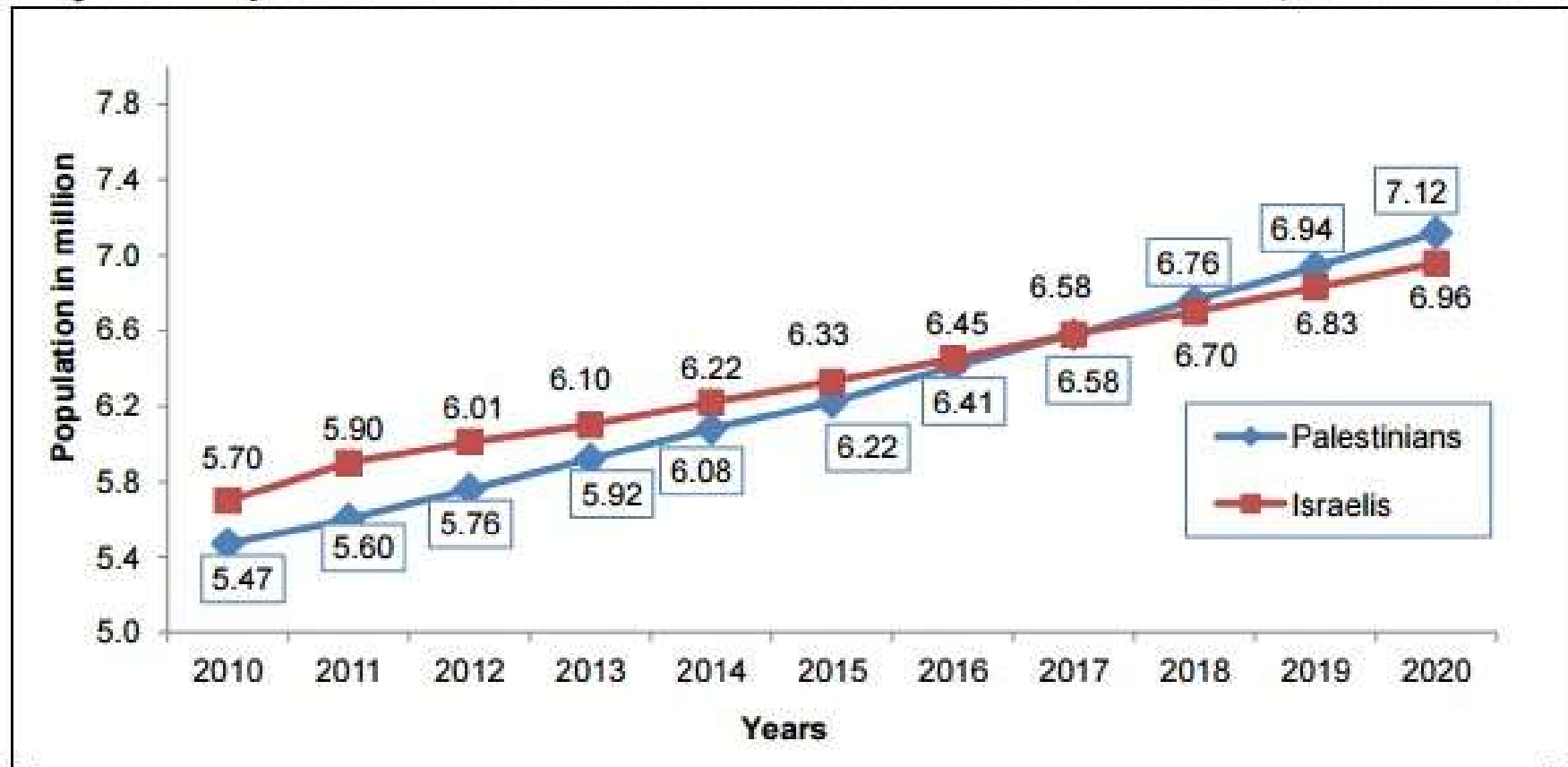
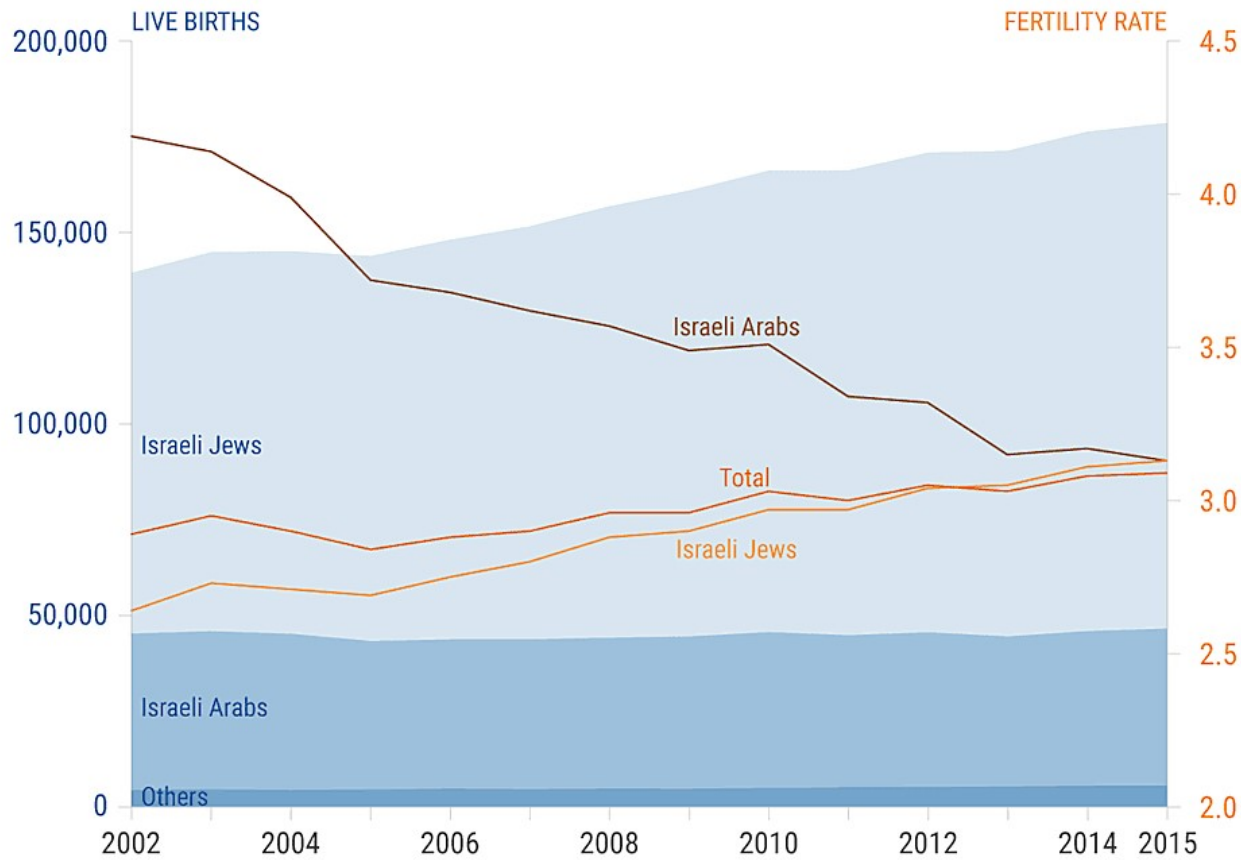


Table by Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/6-58-million-each-palestinians-claim-theyll-be-as-numerous-as-jews-in-historical-palestine-next-year/>

## ISRAELI BIRTHS AND FERTILITY RATES



Source: Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics

© 2017 Geopolitical Futures

<http://rodmartin.org/demographics-israeli-palestinian-conflict/>

## Fertile Territory

Childbearing rates among Israeli Jews are converging with those of Palestinians and Israeli Arabs. Births per woman:



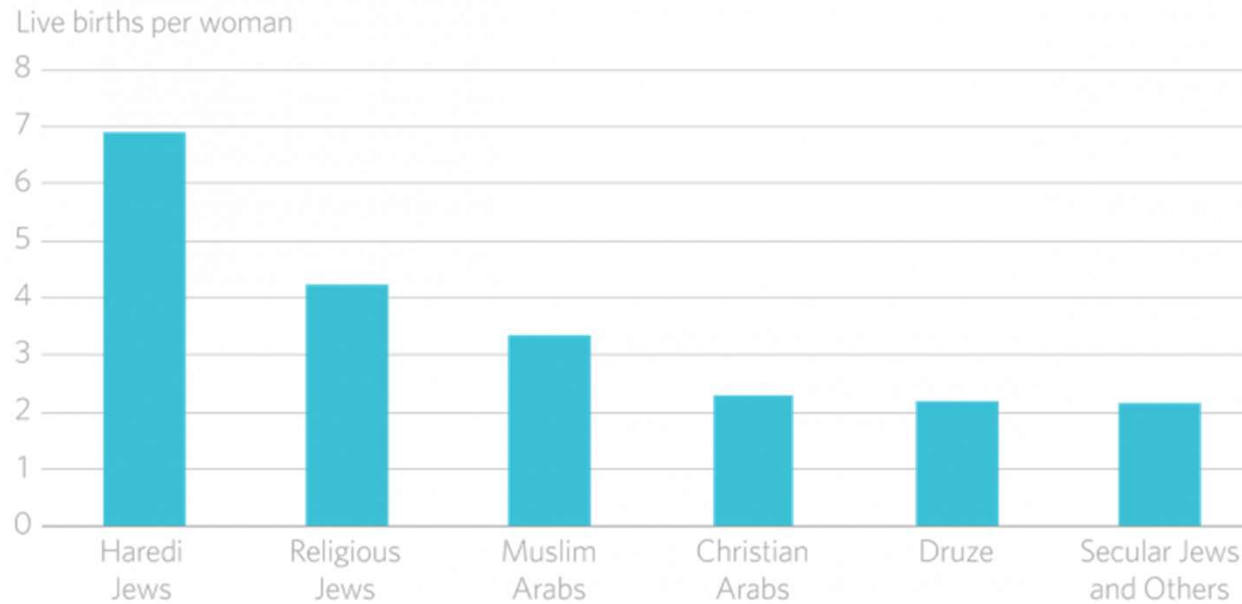
Sources: Israeli statistics bureau; Palestinian statistics bureau

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

## Fertility Rate

Haredi and religious Jews, with their large families, far outpace other demographic groups when it comes to birth rates.

2014 figures



Source: Israel Central Bureau of Statistics

Copyright Stratfor 2018

<https://worldview.stratfor.com/article/israel-confronts-its-changing-demographics>

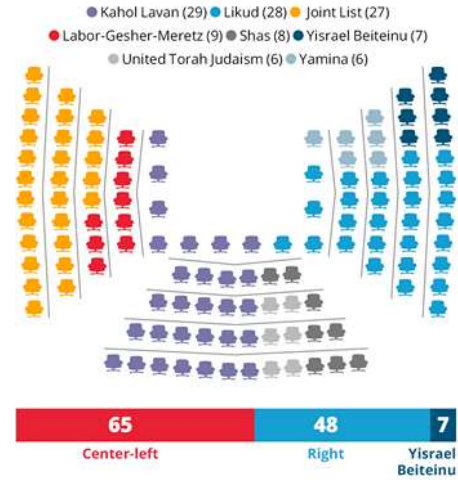


<https://vimeo.com/223715289>

## What happens if Israel gives West Bank Palestinians the vote

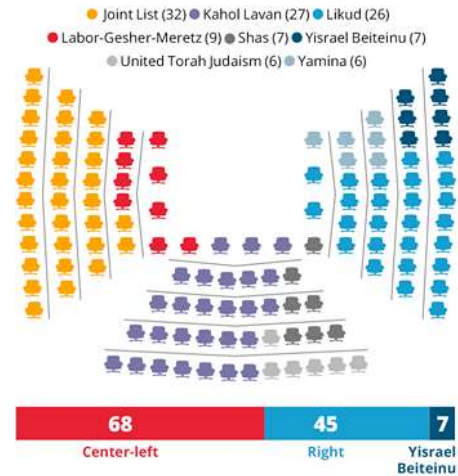
### 40% turnout

in West Bank and East Jerusalem



### 60% turnout

in West Bank and East Jerusalem



# Demographic concerns

- Based on the texts for today, is it reasonable to talk about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a demographic one?
- To which extent can demographic worries explain the Israeli policies?

How do these rationales translate themselves into specific policies and daily practices in Israel-Palestine?

- Based on the readings, what are some of the manifestations of the demographic concerns on the part of the Israeli authorities?

- Racial profiling
- Different opportunities regarding obtaining citizenship
- Family unification



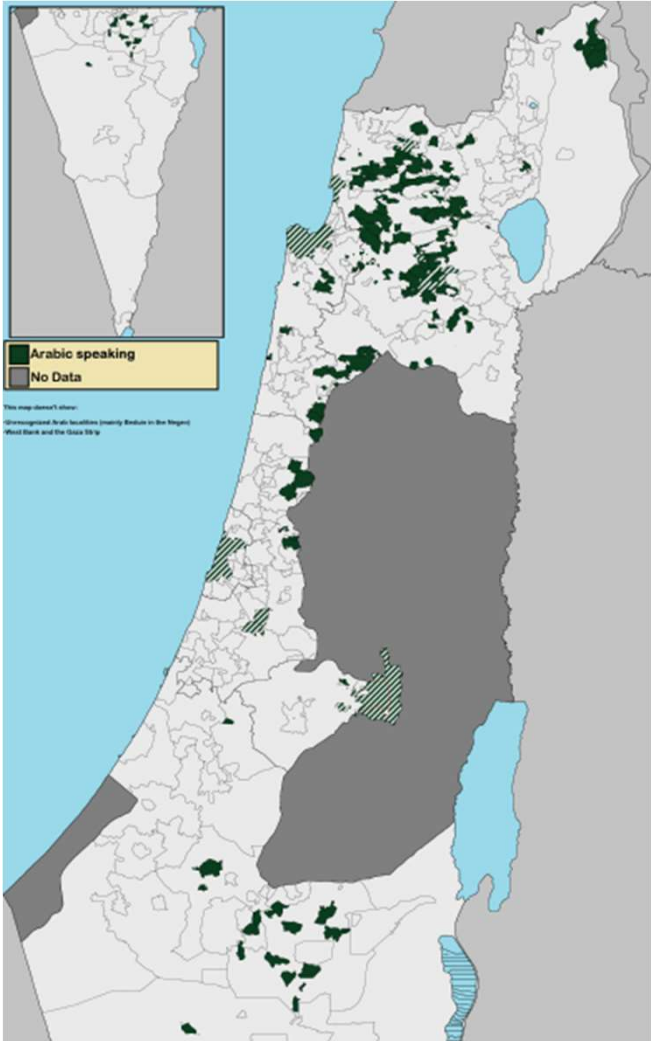
- Do you find the Israeli policies based on demographic projections reasonable and adequate?

- Would it be okay to bar someone criticizing the US as a state based on dispossession of Native Americans from entering it?

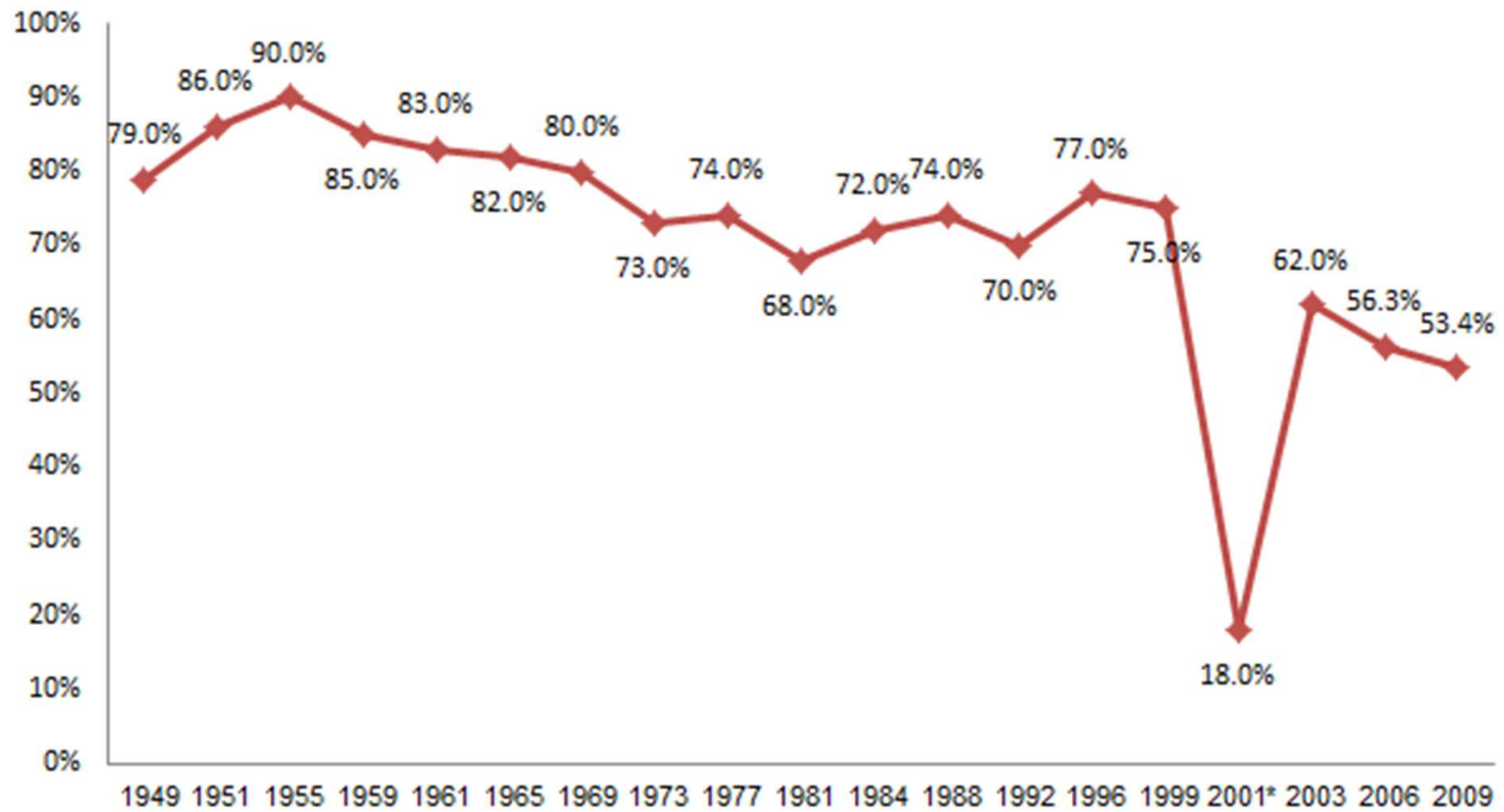
- Efforts to maintain Jewish majority in order to maintain democracy vs these efforts as discriminatory and non-democratic in the first place?



# Palestinians in Israel



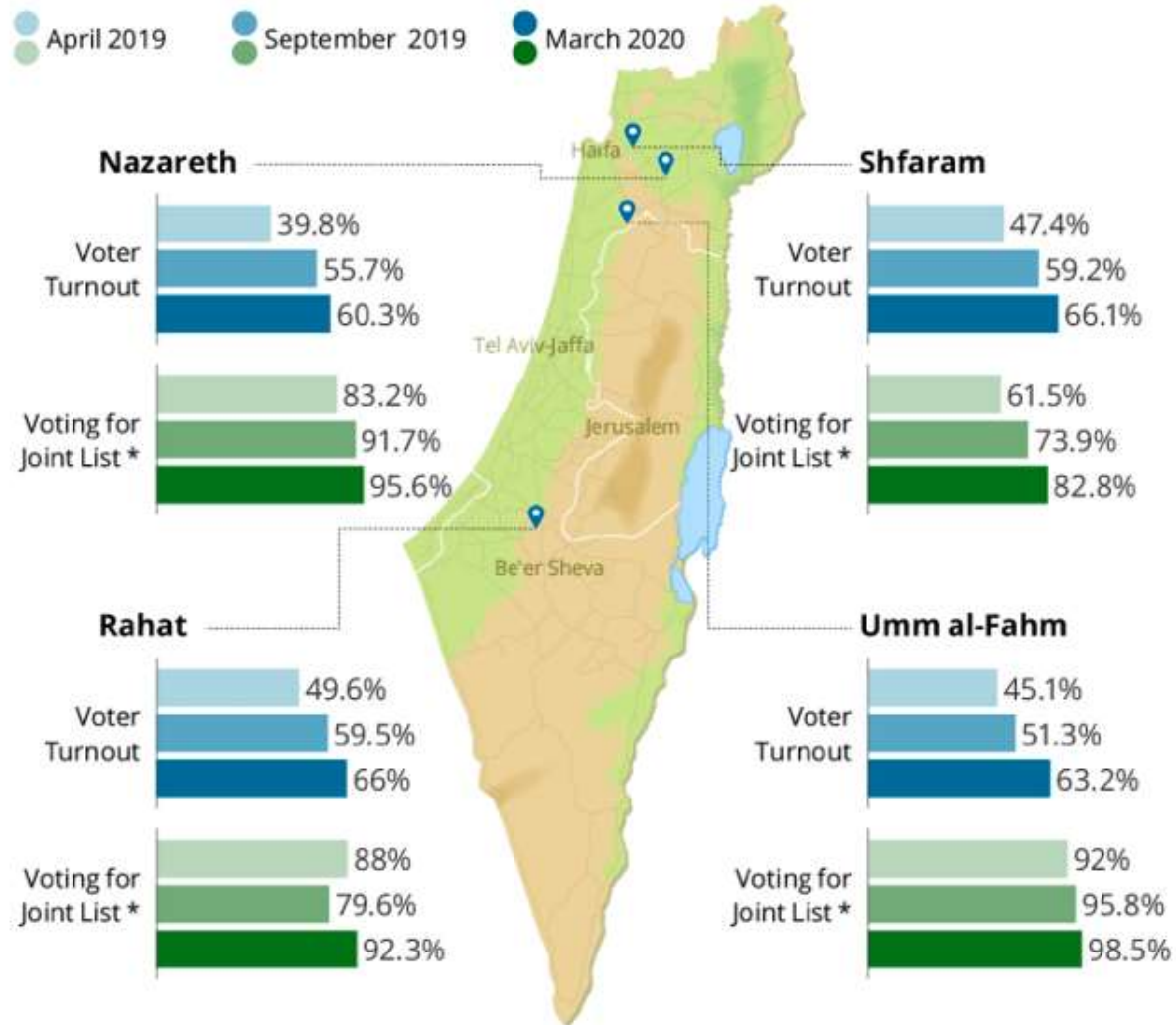
# Voter turnout



# The 2019 and 2020 elections

- Higher voter turnout – 64.7% in March, the highest in 20 years
- Discontent with the Trump's deal, State Nation Law, Netanyahu racist remarks
- Support for the Arab parties by leftist Jewish Israelis

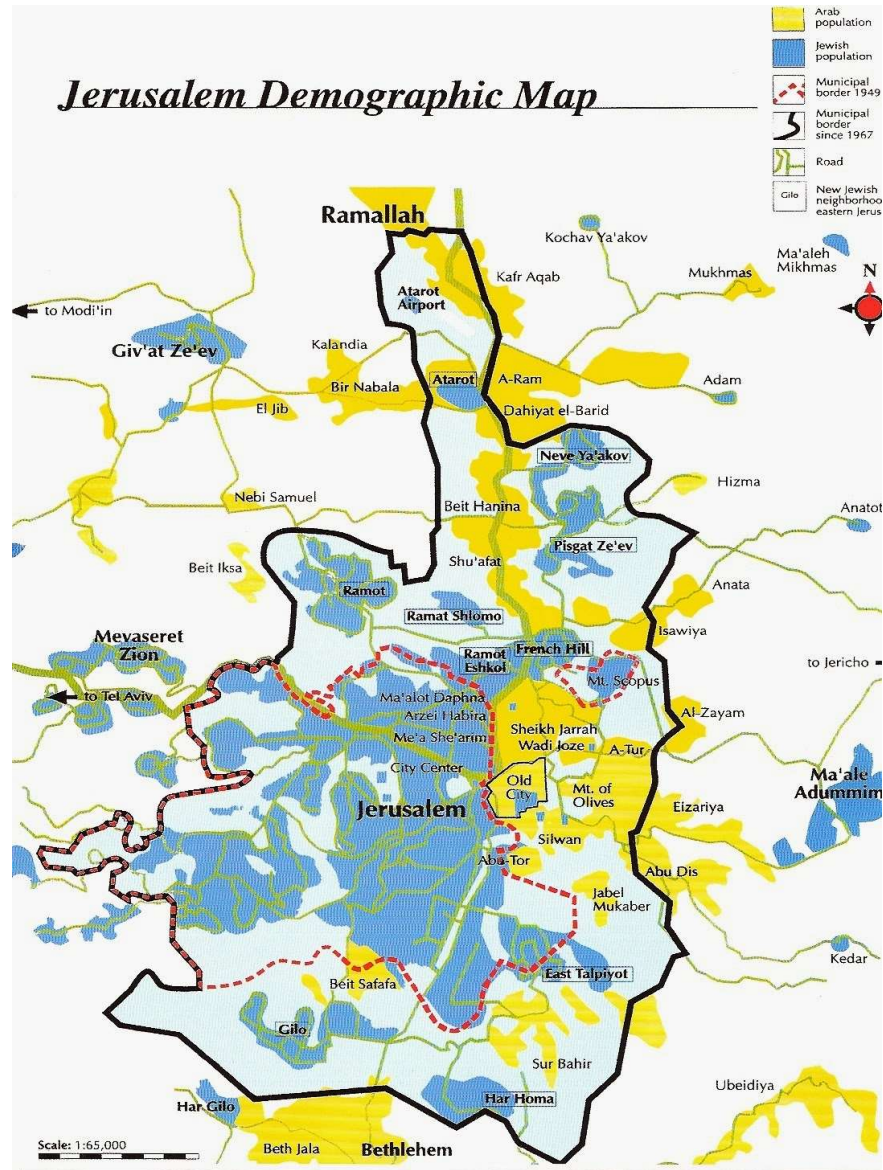
## How four Arab cities voted in Israel's election



\*In the April election, the Arab-led parties ran as two separate slates

Arab voter turnout and support for Arab-led parties during the last three Israeli elections Credit: Haaretz

# East Jerusalem



# Christians



# Druzes



# Bedouins

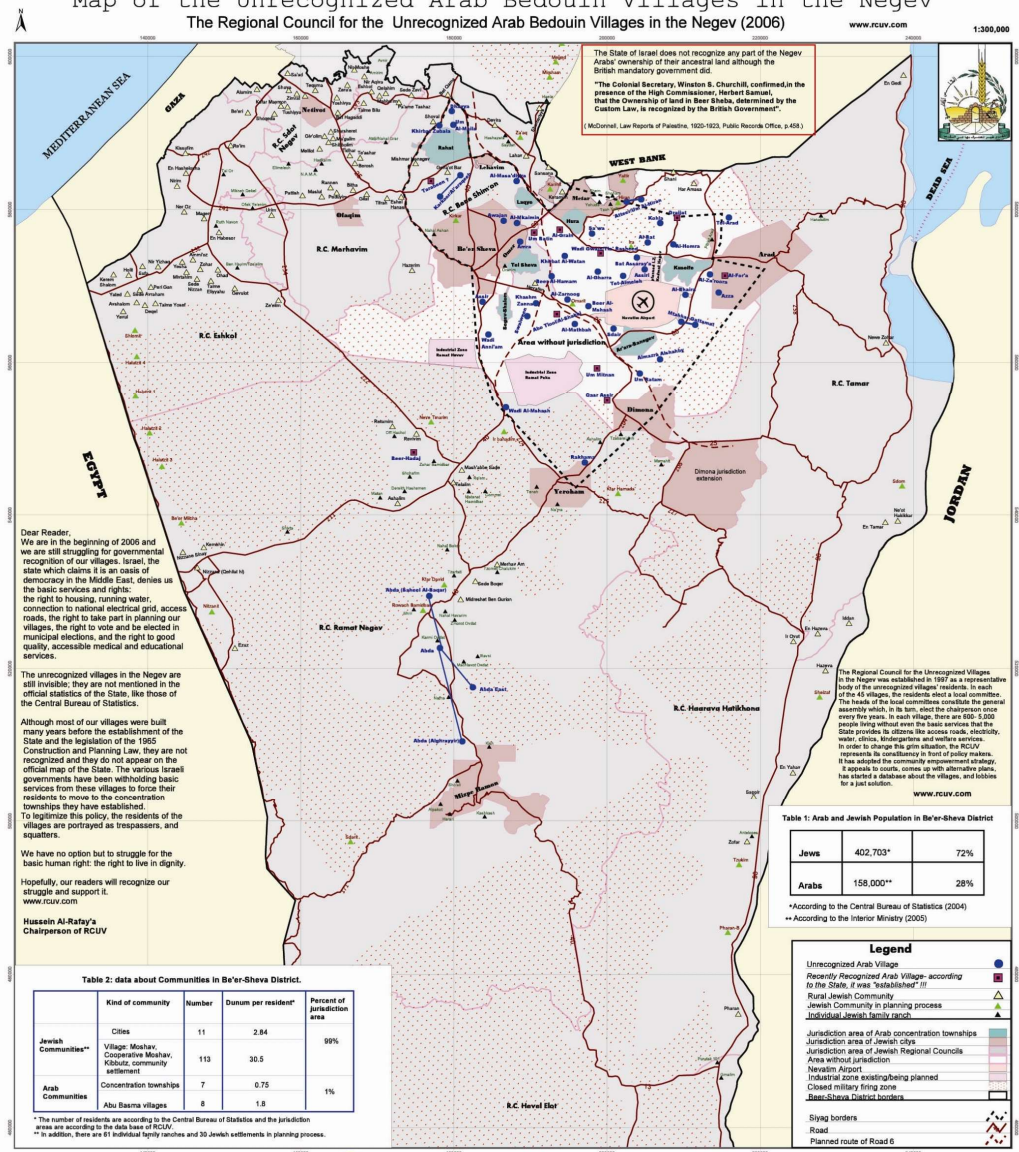




- Do you consider the discussion of the Israeli policies towards the Bedouin communities relevant for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
- Do you see any rationales/practices/policies crossing the Green Line?

# Map of the Unrecognized Arab Bedouin Villages in the Negev

## The Regional Council for the Unrecognized Arab Bedouin Villages in the Negev (2006)



The State of Israel does not recognize any part of the Negev Arabs' ownership of their ancestral land although the British mandatory government did.

"The Colonial Secretary, Winston S. Churchill, confirmed in the presence of the High Commissioner, Herbert Samuel that the Ownership of land in Beer Sheva, determined by the Custom Law, is recognized by the British Government".

(McConnell, Law Reports of Palestine, 1920-1923, Public Records Office, p.493.)

Dear Reader,  
We are in the beginning of 2006 and we are still struggling for governmental recognition of our villages. Israel, the state which claims it is an oasis of democracy in the Middle East, denies us the basic services and rights: the right to housing, running water, connection to national electrical grid, access roads, the right to take part in planning our villages, the right to vote and be elected in municipal elections, and the right to good quality, accessible medical and educational services.

The unrecognized villages in the Negev are still invisible, they are not mentioned in the official statistics of the State, like those of the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Although most of our villages were built many years before the establishment of the State and the legislation of the 1965 Construction and Planning Law, they are not recognized and they do not appear on the official map of the State. The various Israeli governments have been withholding basic services from these villages to force their residents to move to the concentration townships they have established. To legitimize this policy, the residents of the villages are portrayed as trespassers and squatters.

We have no option but to struggle for the basic human right: the right to live in dignity. Hopefully, our readers will recognize our struggle and support it. www.rcuv.com

Hussain Al-Rafay'a  
Chairperson of RCUV

The Regional Council for the Unrecognized Villages in the Negev was established in 1997 as a representative body of the unrecognized villages' residents. In each of the 45 villages, the residents elect a local committee, the heads of the local committees constitute the general assembly which, in its turn, elects the chairman once every five years. In each village, there are 600-5,000 people living without even the basic services that the State provides its citizens like access roads, electricity, water, clinics, kindergartens and health centres. In order to change this grim situation, the RCUV represents its constituents in their everyday matters. It has adopted the community empowerment strategy, it appeals to courts, comes up with alternative plans, has started a database about the villages, and lobbies for a just solution. www.rcuv.com

Table 1: Arab and Jewish Population in Be'er-Sheva District

Jews	402,703*	72%
Arabs	158,000**	28%

\*According to the Central Bureau of Statistics (2004)  
\*\*According to the Interior Ministry (2005)

Table 2: data about Communities in Be'er-Sheva District.

Kind of community	Number	Dunum per resident*	Percent of jurisdiction area
<b>Jewish Communities**</b>			
Cities	11	2.84	99%
Village: Moshav, Cooperative Moshav, Kibbutz, community settlement	113	30.5	
<b>Arab Communities</b>			
Concentration townships	7	0.75	1%
Abu Basma villages	8	1.8	

\*The number of residents are according to the Central Bureau of Statistics and the jurisdiction area are according to the data base of RCUV.  
\*\* In addition, there are 81 individual family ranches and 30 Jewish settlements in planning process.

**Legend**

- Unrecognized Arab Village
- Recently Recognized Arab Village- according to the State, it was "established" !!!
- Rural Jewish Community
- Jewish Community in planning process
- Individual Jewish family ranch
- Jurisdiction area of Arab concentration townships
- Jurisdiction area of Jewish cities
- Jurisdiction area of Jewish Regional Councils
- Area without jurisdiction
- Neveim Airport
- Industrial zone existing/being planned
- Closed military firing zone
- Be'er-Sheva District borders
- Siyag borders
- Road
- Planned route of Road 6

# There is no justification for the Praver Plan

**Goes against**

the legacy of Zionist institutions

**Is not in-line**

with local principles of property ownership

**Exacerbates**

social problems

**Harms**

Jews and Bedouins

The Bedouins make up **30%**



of the population of the Negev

and claim **5.4%**



of its land



The government is planning on spending

**8-6 billion shekels**

of taxpayer money to exacerbate the problems of employment, poverty and crime in the Negev

In 1920, the Bedouins owned approximately **3 million dunams in the Negev\***



Today, even if all their claims were accepted, the Bedouins would inhabit **650 thousand dunams**

More information at: [rhr.org.il](http://rhr.org.il)

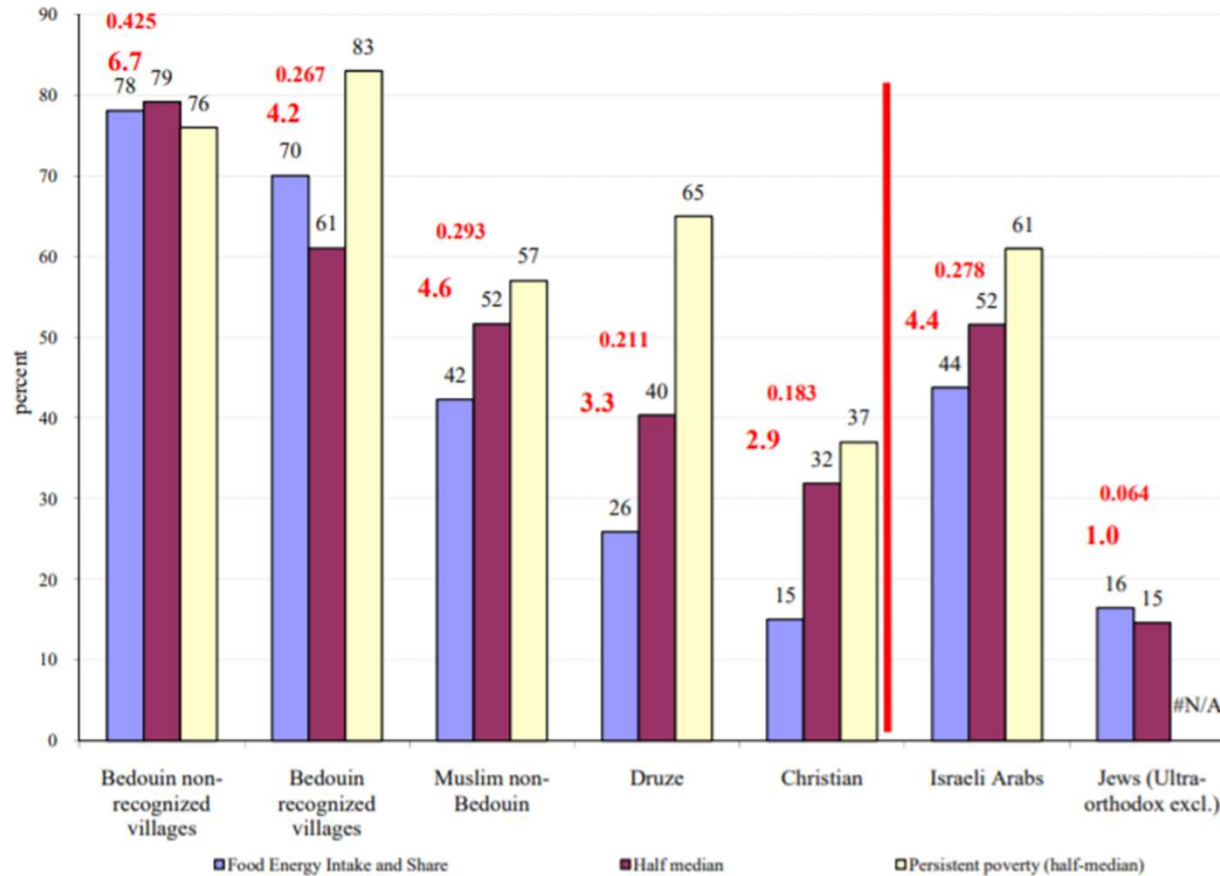


\*according to a land survey conducted by the Israel Land Development Company

Design by: Yaet Katzir

### Chart 1: The dimensions of poverty in the Arab society in Israel

(The Half Median and Basic Consumption expenditure – FES - Approaches, Including Arabs in Non-Recognized Villages)\*

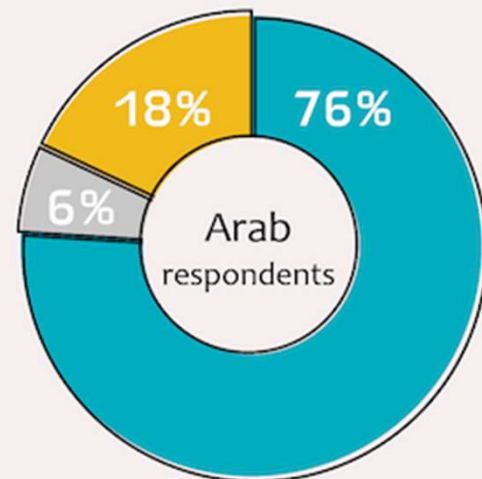
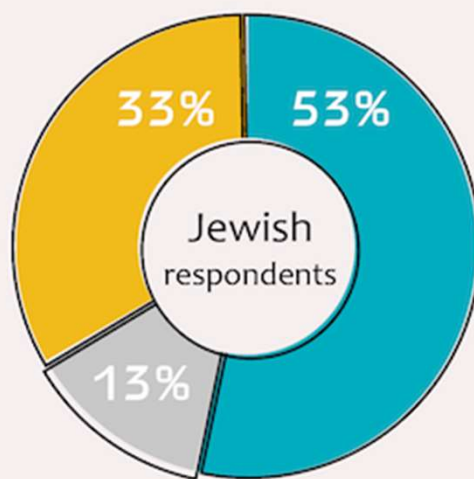


<http://www.geog.bgu.ac.il/fastSite/coursesFiles/bedouins/bader-article.pdf>

# How do Jews and Arabs get along in Israel?

In your day-to-day life, how are relations between Jews and Arabs?

● Usually positive    ● Usually negative    ● I don't interact with Jews/Arabs



**+972**

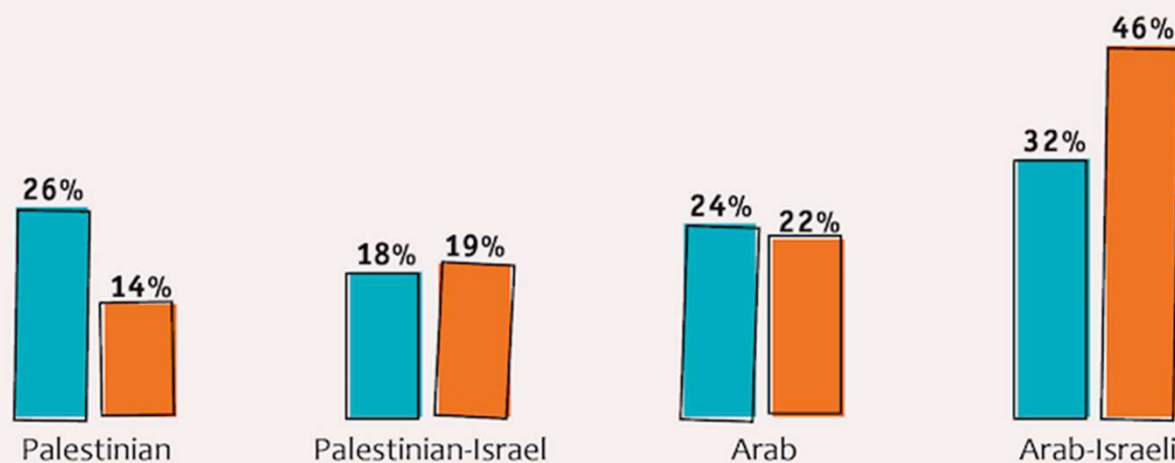
שיחה  
מקומית

Local Call poll on Jewish-Arab relations in Israel. Conducted in March-April 2019 by New Wave Research, under the supervision of Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin and David Reis. Sample of 414 Arab and 411 Jewish citizens of Israel; margin of error of 3.5%.

## How do Arab citizens of Israel define themselves?

● 2014

● 2019



**+972**

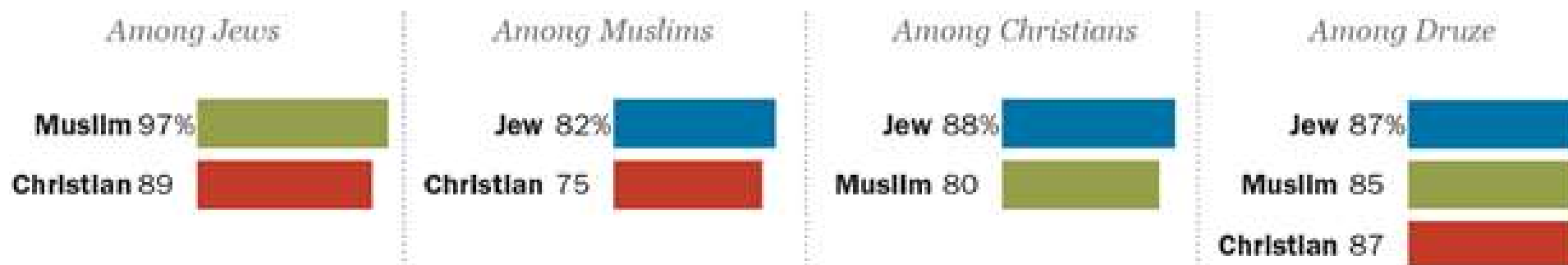
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## Muslims, Christians, Druze, Jews frown upon intermarriage between their communities

*% of Israeli Jews/Muslims/Christians/Druze who say they would be "not too" or "not at all" comfortable with the prospect of their child marrying a ...*



Source: Survey conducted October 2014-May 2015. These questions were not asked in reference to intermarriage with Druze.

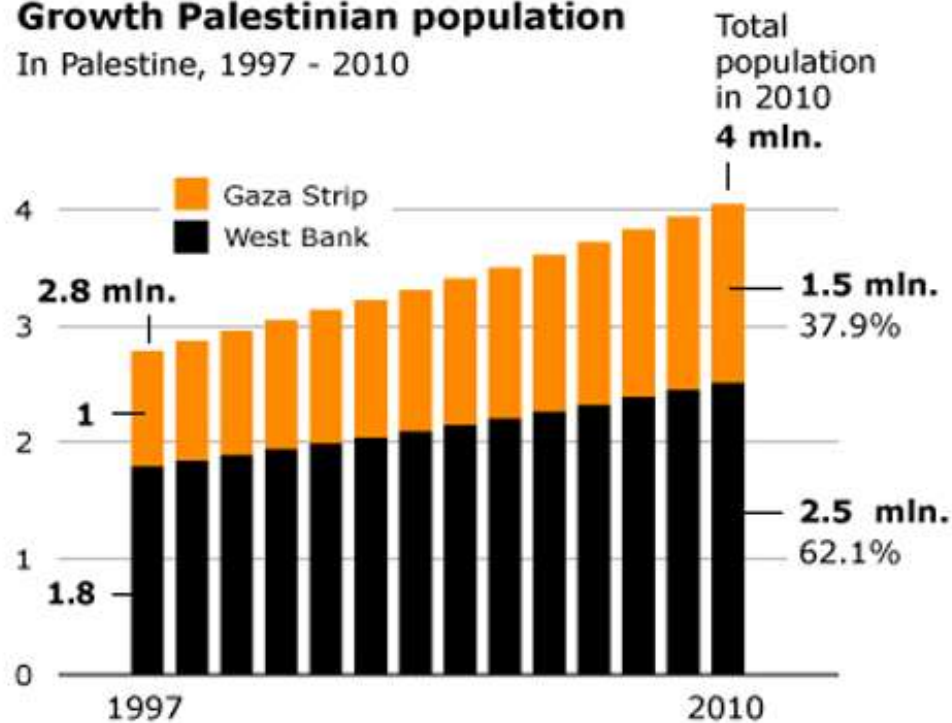
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# Palestinian Diaspora

## Growth Palestinian population

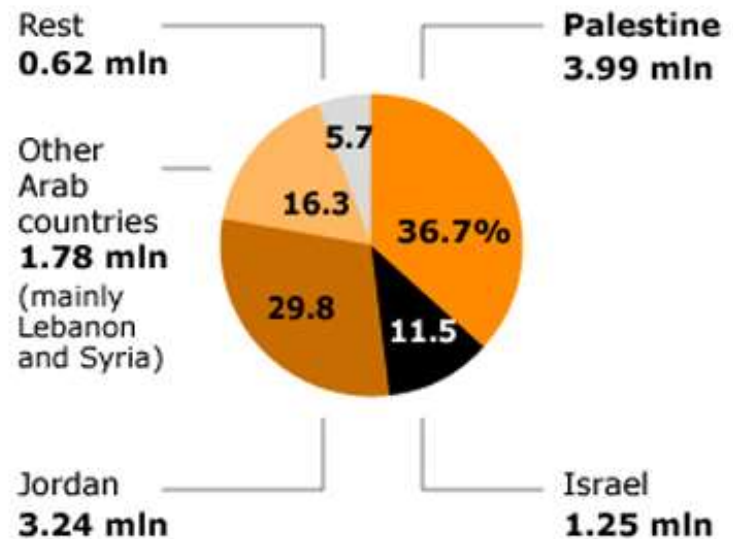
In Palestine, 1997 - 2010



Source: Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS)

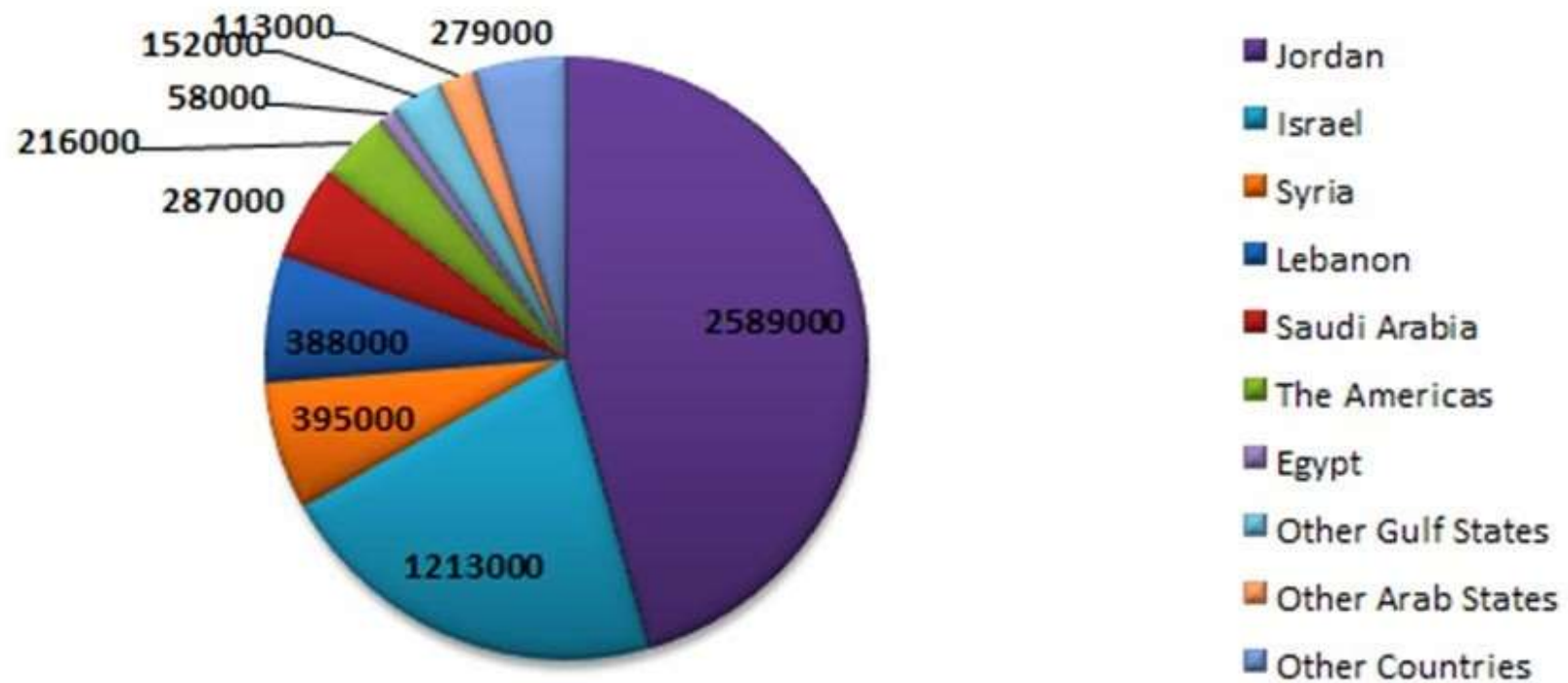
## Palestinian people worldwide

In 2009



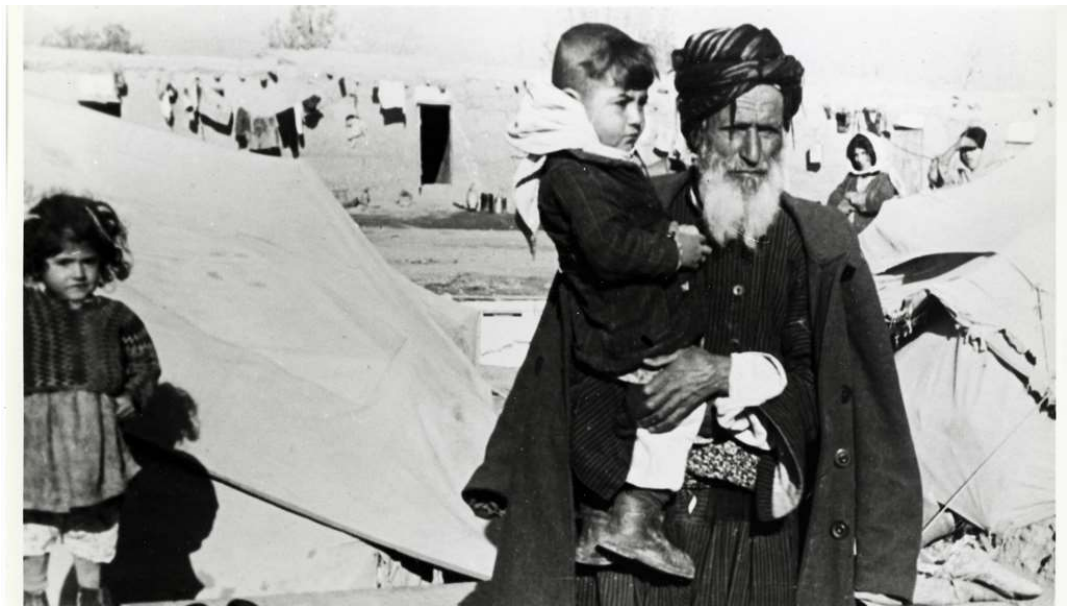


## Palestinian people living outside the West Bank and the Gaza strip



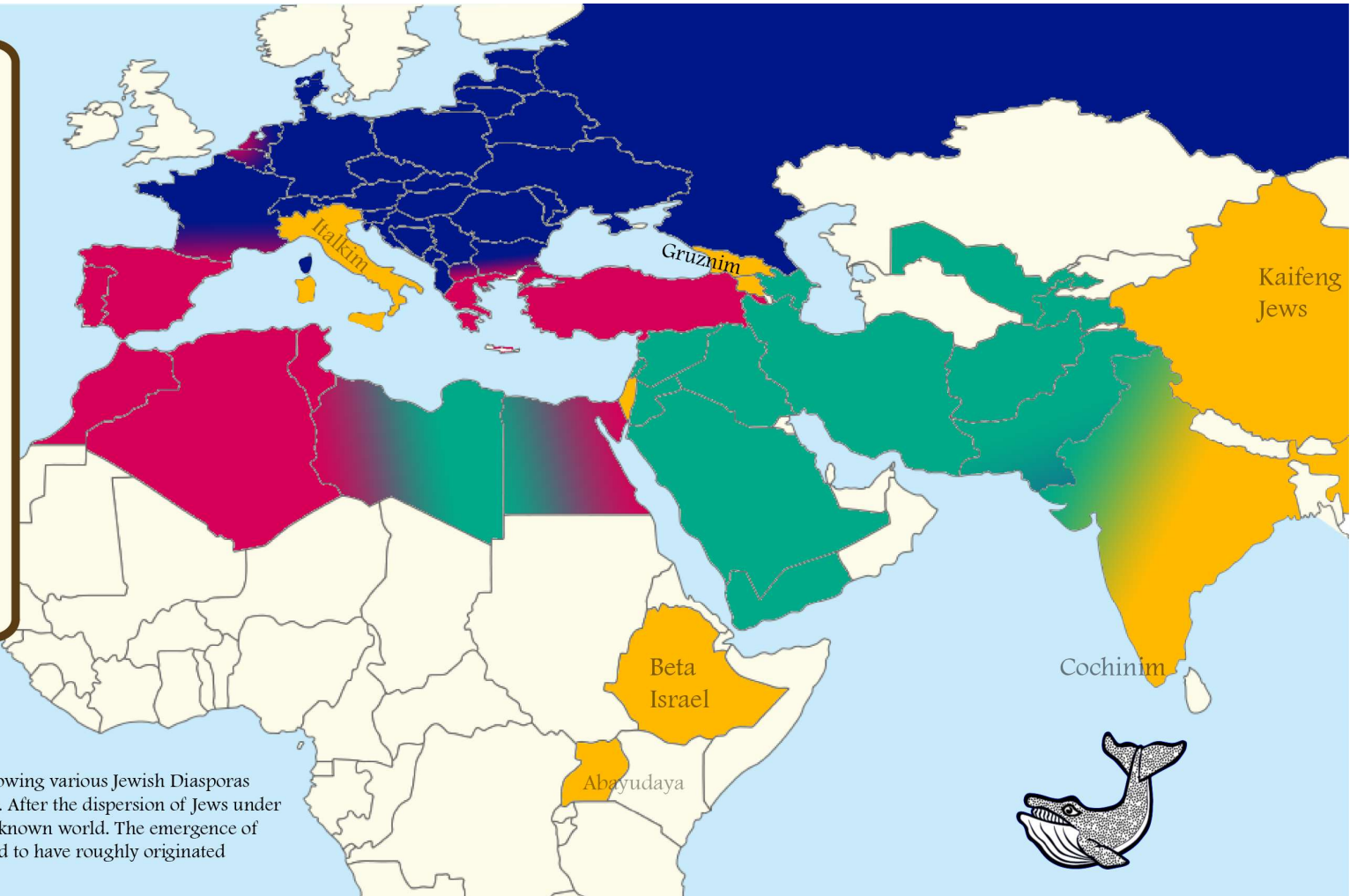
Jewish People(s)

# Ashkenazim and Mizrachim



# LEGEND

-  Ashkenazi  
(means Germanic Jews)
-  Sephardic  
(means Iberian Jews)
-  Mizrahi  
(means Eastern Jews)
-  Independent Grouping



## Map of Jewish Ethnic Origin Countries

These cultural and ethnic groups slowly arose following various Jewish Diasporas from Ancient Israel and other Jewish communities. After the dispersion of Jews under Roman rule, many settled in different parts of the known world. The emergence of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jewish identity is believed to have roughly originated around 800 c.e.





# Ethiopian Jews



# Ethiopian Israelis will be able to donate blood without restrictions

Decades-long ban preventing Jews from Ethiopia giving blood over HIV/AIDS fears to be lifted July 1

By JTA

11 January 2017, 10:39 am | 1

[f](#) [t](#) [in](#) [✉](#) [📄](#) 110 shares







A DECADES-OLD SCANDAL RESURFACES

## When Israeli doctors allegedly tested Yemenites for 'Negro blood'

Lawmakers reexamine 20-year-old testimonies alleging medical experiments on new immigrants in 1950s, but make no demand for further action

By [MARISSA NEWMAN](#) | 16 June 2017, 6:28 am | 3



# African refugees



- Based on the article by Ziv, how do Israeli attitudes towards the refugees from Eritrea and Sudan relate to issues discussed above?
- What are the arguments in favor of strict policies vis-à-vis the asylum seekers?
- How would you relate these practices to the Jewish history?
- Do you consider this case unique in the global context?

- Is demography the overarching framework explaining the development of Israeli policies beyond the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?