

Foundation of the State of Israel

Framing This Unit

The establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 was reported in newspapers all over the world. Reading the coverage of the event shows us how the editors of each newspaper related to the news and what the readers learned about the event.

In this unit students will discover how the news was reported in the new state's first week. Then they will announce the historic event using today's media.

Discussion

- What is the format of a newspaper report? (refer to length, photographs, titles, subtitles, writing style)
- What is the difference between an opinion article and a reporting article?
- What are some features of newspaper headlines?
- What type of design is used to announce a very significant event?
- What kind of information do you think is included in a report of a dramatic event?
- What might have been the headline announcing the establishment of the State of Israel?

Group Activity

In groups, analyze the front page of a different newspaper.

Assign a newspaper from the NLI Historical Jewish Press Catalogue to each group OR teach the students how to search the NLI Historical Jewish Press Catalogue and let them choose their own newspaper.

- Give each group large Post-it notes of one color. (A different color for each group)
- Each group studies the newspaper from the day that the State of Israel was established.
- Each group writes the name of the newspaper and the headline of each article relating to the creation of Israel on a different Post-it note and sticks the notes to a wall or whiteboard.

They should group the headlines by topic: e.g., all headlines declaring the establishment of the state are grouped together, all headlines about the United States' recognition of the State of Israel are grouped together, etc.

Discussion

- What did you learn about the establishment of the State of Israel and the events surrounding it from the newspapers?
- Which different topics did the headlines refer to?
- Who was the audience of each of the newspapers examined?

- Which stories were in all of the newspapers examined?
- Which story was unique to a specific paper?
- Why do certain stories appear in all of the newspapers?
- Why do some newspapers report on something that the others do not?
- How were important events announced in 1948?
- What media outlets were there?
- How is news disseminated today?
- What types of media outlets are popular?

Creative Activity

Announce the Creation of the State of Israel Using Modern Media

Based on your understanding of how to report dramatic events and the changes that have occurred in the media since 1948, you will create your own reports on the establishment of the State of Israel.

Choose one of the following activities:

- **Create your own newspaper**

Create a front page of a newspaper announcing the establishment of the State of Israel. Suggested website: [Makemynewspaper](#). Click [here](#) for tutorials.

- **Announce the establishment of the State of Israel on social media**

Announce the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948 as if it had happened today by creating fake posts on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), etc.

Primary Sources in This Lesson



Cover Page of Ma'ariv, May 14, 1948
Jewish Press, The National Library of Israel
and Tel Aviv University

THE LARGEST JEWISH NEWSPAPER ON THE PACIFIC COAST—BY FAR—SINCE 1897

B'nai Brith Messenger

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WORLD HAILS NEW ISRAEL STATE

שלום לך עם ישראל חיו
שלום לכם אחינו ואחיותינו—החיל היהודי—ס בארץ
המה אבות, הקומרים על המשטר, להגנת העם והמולדת, כנר
אורנו וקרי אלהינו. המקום יגן עליכם בכל פגע, וישמכם
ככל אסון, ויביילכם מכל משול
שלום לכם ראשי ישראלי, הקומרים בראש הממלכה
היהודית בארץ ישראל! הבהור בטרון ובירושלים ישלח לכם
עזרתו מקודש, לנצל את ממלכת ישראל בכל החפצות הקודש,
והיו פליחים על דרכים לכונן את בית חיינו בארצנו
הבורכה, במקום מלכות ישראל על כבודנו. בימים ובימינו
המושג יהודה וישראל ישכון לבטח בארץ ישראל. כי נחם
ה' עמו ואל ישראל.
יחי העם הישראלי חחי ארץ ישראל!
חחי ממלכת ישראל עד עולם!

L. A. Jewry In Salute to Israel State

Wednesday evening the Los Angeles Kehillah filled the Hollywood Bowl to overflowing to commemorate the coming into being of the Republic of Israel. They came to give thanksgiving, to reaffirm their solidarity with the fighting Israelis, and to promise their full financial support.

HAGANAH HERO

The more than 25,000 who gathered that evening not counting the thousands turned away, came to hear Benven Dattai, legendary hero of World War II now a Commander in Haganah, and others. Dattai pointed out the fact that those present were the chosen in the line of seventy generations, to see the fulfillment of almost 2,000 years of hope and prayer.

The mammoth rally was under the auspices of the American for Haganah and had the endorsement and backing of the Los Angeles Community Council, the Zionist Emergency Council and all other groups contributing to the development of the Jewish State.

PROGRAM

Proceedings were opened by Charles Brown, President of the Jewish Community Council, who spoke for the UJWF. Eddie Cantor served as Chairman, introducing the various speakers and artists who lent their efforts to the occasion.

After the presentation of the colors by the Los Angeles County Council Jewish War Veterans, the flag of Israel was presented by the youth of Haganah, and the blue and white colors of Israel took its place beside the Stars and Stripes of its sister republic.

Hadasanah was represented by Mrs. Anna Prinzmetel, who maintained, "We cannot take time to celebrate. Hadasanah pledges itself to the Yishuv."

Gustave L. Goldstein, President of the Southern Pacific Region of ZO.A, declared that the Republic of Israel is not concerned with material strength or power, but to make the contribution to the world in the spirit of the visions of Isaiah and Ezekiel.

Rabbi Osher Zilberstein, representative of the Orthodox Rabbinate of Los Angeles, at microphone, invokes blessings for the ship carrying first major local shipment of supplies for Israel. Ceremonies were conducted at Terminal Island last Friday while new state was being born. Left to right: Theodore Straling, Charles Brown, Samuel Brander, Sid Levine, Rabbi Zilberstein, Abraham Barmack and Nelson Prince of Columbia Broadcasting System.

Bon Voyage!

Rabbi Osher Zilberstein, president of the Orthodox Rabbinate of Los Angeles, at microphone, invokes blessings for the ship carrying first major local shipment of supplies for Israel. Ceremonies were conducted at Terminal Island last Friday while new state was being born. Left to right: Theodore Straling, Charles Brown, Samuel Brander, Sid Levine, Rabbi Zilberstein, Abraham Barmack and Nelson Prince of Columbia Broadcasting System.

Dr. CHAIM WEIZMANN

Weizmann Chosen President Of Jewish Republic of Israel

TEL AVIV (WNS).—Dr. Chaim Weizmann, veteran Zionist leader, has been elected President of Israel's Provisional Government at a special session of the 37-member National Council here. While announcement of the election was made, the infant Jewish republic was being attacked by several Arab states from three directions. But, Moshe Shertok, Foreign Minister, declared that the picture was hopeful despite Arab pressure.

Tel Aviv, as the week opened, suffered its 9th and 10th air attack by Egyptian craft. Damages and casualties were slight and Jewish circles stated that reprisal raids on Egyptian cities would soon come.

The army of new-born Israel reported the capture of the Arab port city of Acre, to the north of Haifa, that it had struck ten miles into Lebanon where it blew up a strategic bridge.

In a two-day battle for Narim, southernmost Jewish settlement in the Negev, 31 Egyptians had been killed, according to a Haganah report which also stated that 200 enemy soldiers had been killed and wounded at Milliya, near Israel's northeastern border. A Syrian army communiqué later said that the Arabs had recaptured Milliya.

A report from Cairo stated that the Egyptian Government, anticipating an early end to the United States embargo on arms shipments to Palestine, announced that waters off Israel now are dangerous to all shipping. This included that mine-laying may have been begun in addition to patrol operations by the Egyptian navy.

Besides Egypt, Syria and Iraq have sent planes into action against Israel. Syria reported that "Arab planes" had bombed Tiberias on the sea of Galilee, and the Jewish settlement of Hararava, in northern Palestine. Cairo reports stated that Egyptian forces were 27 miles south of Tel Aviv and had captured the coastal town of Al Majdal. Arab circles in Cairo, however, admitted that Egyptian forces had not yet attacked the well-fortified Jewish settlements, saying that the remnants of Egyptian strength would then.

Irgun Zvai Leumi, Jewish underground army, alleged that it had begun operations in the southeast of Tel Aviv from Natson, a partitioned locality north of the city. Jewish circles reported that any Jewish coastal reports that of Tel Aviv came from Arab attacks had been staged inside the territory of Israel.

GREETINGS TO ISRAEL!

(The above greetings to the new Jewish Republic of Israel in Hebrew was written especially for the B'nai Brith Messenger by Rabbi S. M. Neches, dean of the Western Jewish Institute, and the translation of which reads as below—Editor.)

GREETINGS to you, State of Israel for the People of Israel. Sovereignty of Israel! Greetings to you, the People of Israel! Greetings to you, our brothers and sisters—heroic army leaders—there in the beloved land of our fathers, who are standing on the watch for the defense of the nation and the country; for our land and the sites of our God. May the Lord watch over you, save you from any misfortunes and from any misdeeds.

Greetings and peace to you, heads of the thousands of Israel who are guiding the destinies of the State of Israel in the Land of Israel. He who hath chosen Zion and Jerusalem shall give you His help to guide the destiny of the State of Israel with all the strength and glory for your success on your way in the firm establishment of the house of our life and our blessed country.

In your days and in our days Judah be saved and Israel dwells securely in Eretz Israel. For the Lord has comforted His people and has redeemed Israel. Long live the people of Israel! Long live the State of Israel! Long live the Sovereignty of Israel! As is the wish of your brothers and sisters, the whole house of Israel in all the places of their habitation.

Los Angeles Jewish Leaders Hail Birth of Jewish State

Los Angeles' Jewry's organizational leaders, stirred by the historic, epic making last few days with respect to the proclamation of a free, independent Jewish Republic of Israel, already recognized by two great powers, the United States and Russia, in common with leaders of Jewry and the liberal element in American life have joined in hailing this great event and its significance not only for the Jewish people but for the peace of the world.

FROM THE COUNCIL.

Charles Brown, president of the Los Angeles Jewish Community Council, representing almost every faction of Jewish life in Los Angeles stated that "our dreams and hopes of nearly two thousand years have at last been fulfilled. Divine Providence has elected this tragic hour, when hundreds of thousands of our fellow Jews are rotting behind barbed wires . . . in being deliverance to our people.

"The Jews of America are proud of the Jews of the State of Israel, proud of the heart-breaking labor that has turned barren desert into fruitful gardens, proud of these determination and courage against terrific odds. Such a people willing to die in a holy and just cause, will win and, in their hour of triumph, will be the saviors of the world.

—Turn to Page Seventeen.

"World Hails New Israel State," B'nai Brith Messenger, May 21, 1948
Jewish Press, The National Library of Israel and Tel Aviv University

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THE PALESTINE POST

JERUSALEM
 SUNDAY, MAY 16, 1948

PRICE: 25 MILLS
 VOL. XXIII, No. 6714

**THE PALESTINE
 POST**

THE SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT
 has returned to The Palestine Post
 office, Hassidai Street,
 Jerusalem, Tel. 4233.

STATE OF ISRAEL IS BORN

The first independent Jewish State in 19 centuries was born in Tel Aviv as the British Mandate over Palestine came to an end at midnight on Friday, and it was immediately subjected to the test of fire. As "Medinat Yisrael" (State of Israel) was proclaimed, the battle for Jerusalem raged, with most of the city falling to the Jews. At the

Most Crowded Hours in Palestine's History

Between Thursday night and this morning Palestine went through what by all standards must be among the most crowded hours in its history.

For the Jewish population there was the anguish over the fate of the few hundred Haganah men and women in a Kfar Etzion base of settlements near Hebron. Their

same time, President Truman announced that the United States would accord recognition to the new State. A few hours later, Palestine was invaded by Moslem armies from the south, east and north, and Tel Aviv was raided from the air. On Friday the United Nations Special Assembly adjourned after adopting a resolution to appoint a med-

Jews Take Over Security Zones

The battle for Jerusalem, which began when the British forces withdrew on Friday morning, continued all day Friday and yesterday. The crackle of small-arms fire and explosions of mortar shells

later but without taking any action on the Partition Resolution of November 29.

Yesterday the battle for the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was still under way, and two Arab villages were taken. In the north, Acre town was captured, and the Jewish Army consolidated its positions in Western Galilee.

Egyptian Air Force Sniffires Bomb Tel Aviv; One Shot Down

Kol Israel, the Tel Aviv, A countryside blackout was ordered by Air Raid Precaution Headquarters in Tel Aviv.

Mr. David Ben Gurion, the Prime Minister, broadcast from Tel Aviv to the

U.S. Recognizes Jewish State

WASHINGTON, Sunday. —Ten minutes after the termination of the British Mandate on Friday, the White House released a formal statement by Pres-

Proclamation by Head of Government

The creation of "Medinat Yisrael", the State of Israel, was proclaimed at midnight on Friday by Mr. David Ben Gurion, until then Chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive and now head of the State's Provisional Council of Government.

The first act of the Council

"State of Israel is Born," Palestine Post, May 16, 1948
 Jewish Press, The National Library of Israel and Tel Aviv University