



Finally, during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, particularly upon the founding of Israel, these millennia-old Jewish communities were ethnically cleansed by Arab rulers.

Over 850,000 Jews from Arab countries were forced to flee their homes and communities rapidly, frequently with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

These exiles—mostly people of color—were welcomed home by the Jewish State, which was under increased military and economic pressure from the same Arab League nations that had emptied their nations of its Jews.

These Jews joined others who hailed from a diverse number of cultures and nations like India, Ethiopia, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, China, and another 100 others.

Anyone who visits Israel sees a mosaic of people representing different nations, ethnicities, backgrounds, as well as religions, like Christians, Muslims, Bahai and Druze, all of which—uniquely in the Middle East—are afforded equal rights and opportunities.

Today, around 20% of Israeli citizens are Arabs or Arabic-speaking. Many of these Arab Israelis are the descendants of migrants from neighboring countries who arrived during the late 19th Century in response to booming economic conditions. This influx of Arabs was stimulated by employment opportunities, higher wages, and better living conditions due to agricultural and commercial development brought by mass Jewish immigration.

In 1948, the Arab population in Israel numbered around 156,000, while today there are 1.9 million Arab Israelis, rendering accusations of genocide against Palestinians absurd.

Indeed, as a result of living in the Jewish State, Israel's Arabs have a longer life expectancy, higher literacy rate and standard of living than the overwhelming majority of Arabs living in other nations in the region.

As an example, Christian Arabs are one of the most educated communities in Israel, with the highest rates of educational attainment among all religious communities, including Jewish. Despite the fact that Arab Christians only represent 2% of the total Israeli population, they account for 17% of the country's university students, and for 14% of its college students.

Israeli Arabs are also integrated and content living in Israel. According to a recent poll, around two-thirds of Arabs in Israel are proud to be Israeli and 70% of Israeli Arab citizens felt that it was possible to identify as Palestinian yet feel loyal to Israel.

Arab citizens of Israel have their own elected members of Israel's parliament, religious authorities who are officially recognized by the state and provided with stipends, their own separate religious court system, and Arabic is an official language.

In addition, Israel provides religious freedom to a wide range of faiths, making a home for Muslims, Druze, Bahai and Christians, among others. Each community is accorded full respect and equality.

In fact, it could be reasonably argued that the only Arabs in the region who have

editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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full and unfettered right to open and transparent elections and the right to choose their elected representatives are the almost two million Arab citizens of Israel who make up almost a quarter of the total population.

Since Israel's establishment, Arab citizens are provided with preferential treatment and have been exempted from compulsory service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) out of consideration for their family, religious, and cultural affiliations with the Arab world.

Some Arabic-speaking communities, like the Druze, Bedouin and increasing numbers of Christian Arabs, do serve loyally in the IDF, and more and more Arab citizens of Israel choose to serve and contribute to the State of Israel through a myriad of ways, whether social, cultural, academically or medically, where one fifth of the country's doctors are Arab Israelis.

I hope as you discuss the Israel and the Middle East conflict, you will point out to friends, family, colleagues and your elected representatives that Israel is the most diverse country in the Middle East— a democratic haven for all its citizens, whether Jewish, Christian, Bahai, Druze or Muslim. It is also the region's only multicultural society, one that is free, fair, open and equal for all, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity or sexual identity.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—which explains the sad, but true reasons Palestinians continue to fail at forming their own nation state.

Best regards,

Bernard Lev

Contributor, Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Some American and European politicians argue that Israel's intention to apply sovereignty to the militarily critical Jordan Valley would inhibit formation of a Palestinian state. Nothing is further from the truth. The Palestinians don't have a state—despite numerous offers of land for peace by Israel—because the Arab group simply hasn't mustered an adequate strategy, political unity or leadership. They're simply unable to say yes. To clarify this point, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[What's Stopping a Palestinian State?](#)" I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which will run in *USA Today*, the *Washington Post*, and other media nationwide. It spells out specific reasons the Palestinians have failed to create a sovereign state and why it's time for the world—and Israel—to move on. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Pence and President Trump. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider giving a donation now, as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the

U.S. Congress and President Trump stay committed to realistic policies in relation to Israel, Iran and the entire Middle East.

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Facts and Logic  
About the Middle East  
PO Box 3460  
Berkeley, CA 94703

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