



THE ISRAEL DEMOCRACY INSTITUTE



2024

Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they attained to statehood, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the Book of Books. After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their dispersion, never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration in it of their political freedom. In this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their ancient homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [Hebrew] (coming to Eretz-Israel in violation of restrictive legislation) and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community controlling its own economy and culture. Brave but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, and earning its place as an independent nationhood. In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish nation, the late Dr. Theodor Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national self-determination in their own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed

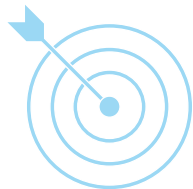


› OUR MISSION



The Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) is an independent, nonpartisan “think-and-do tank,” dedicated to strengthening the foundations of Israeli democracy. The Institute harnesses rigorous applied research to educate decision makers and help shape policy, legislation and public opinion.

› OUR GOALS



- Bolster the values and institutions of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state in the spirit of Israel’s Declaration of Independence.
- Improve government performance so as to strengthen public trust in the democratic system and contribute to sustainable economic growth.
- Cultivate social cohesion and solidarity, political participation, shared values, and a common civic denominator among the different communities making up the mosaic of Israeli society.



OUR 3 STAGE MODEL OF OPERATION



RESEARCH

Conduct excellent applied research to generate actionable proposals for reform.



DEBATE

Convene relevant stakeholders for a rigorous, practical debate on these proposals.



IMPACT

Work with partners in government, civil society, the business sector, and the media to advance our policy recommendations and ensure their implementation in the field.

2009

In recognition of its singular contributions to Israeli public life, the State of Israel bestowed upon IDI its highest honor: The Israel Prize for Lifetime Achievement—Special Contribution to Society and State



RECENT POLICY IMPACT

Produced and disseminated a framework for an **agreed constitutional arrangement** as an alternative to the planned judicial overhaul

Helped shape President Herzog's "**People's Directive**"—a historic compromise proposal to end Israel's constitutional crisis

Shaped government decisions to reduce the exemption age for ultra-Orthodox men, increase funding for technological training programs, and **establish a new IDF unit specializing in ex-Haredi soldiers**

Designed a new government-sponsored Gap Year Program for **unemployed Arab youth** and contributed to **inclusion of mixed cities** in a major government plan for investment in the Arab sector

The government adopted the recommendations of an interagency task force led by IDI containing a plan for **Israel's economy in 2050 and transition to renewable energy**

Established the Joan and Irwin Jacobs Center for **Shared Society under the leadership of former President Reuven Rivlin**



IDI PLAN FOR POST-WAR RENEWAL ➔



A **constitutional framework and a bill of rights** to enshrine the separation of powers and protect the civil liberties of all Israelis



A plan for **streamlining government and reforming the civil service**



A new paradigm for **integration of the ultra-Orthodox and Arab communities**



A proposal for **regulation of social media**



A **new model of service for the IDF** designed to meet postwar manpower needs and achieve more equal sharing of the burden



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Land of Israel was the birthplace of the Jewish people. Here their spiritual, religious and political identity was shaped. Here they first attained a state of freedom, created cultural values of national and universal significance and gave to the world the eternal Book of Books. After being forcibly exiled from their land, the people kept faith with it throughout their Dispersion and never ceased to pray and hope for their return to it and for the restoration of their political freedom. Impelled by this historic and traditional attachment, Jews strove in every successive generation to re-establish themselves in their homeland. In recent decades they returned in their masses. Pioneers, ma'pilim [Hebrew] - immigrants coming to Eretz-Israel in defiance of restrictive legislation] and defenders, they made deserts bloom, revived the Hebrew language, built villages and towns, and created a thriving community contributing its own economy and culture, loving peace but knowing how to defend itself, bringing the blessings of progress to all the country's inhabitants, working towards independent nationhood. In the year 5657 (1897), at the summons of the spiritual father of the Jewish State, Theodore Herzl, the First Zionist Congress convened and proclaimed the right of the Jewish people to national rebirth in its own country. This right was recognized in the Balfour Declaration of the 2nd November, 1917, and re-affirmed in the Mandate of the League of Nations which, in particular, gave international sanction to the historic connection between the Jewish people and Eretz-Israel and to the right of the Jewish people to rebuild its National Home. The catastrophe which befell the Jewish people - the massacre of millions of Jews in Europe - was another clear demonstration of the urgency of solving the problem of homelessness by re-establishing in Eretz-Israel the Jewish State, which would open the gates of the homeland wide to every Jew and confer upon the Jewish people the status of a fully privileged member of the comity of nations. Survivors of the Nazi holocaust in Europe, as well as Jews from other parts of the world, continued to migrate to Eretz-Israel, undaunted by difficulties, restrictions and dangers, and never ceased to assert their right to a nation of their own. By their energy, freedom and honest toil in their national homeland. In the Second World War, the Jewish community of this country contributed its full share to the struggle of the freedom- and peace-loving nations against the forces of Nazi wickedness and, by the blood of its soldiers and its war effort, earned its place to be reckoned among the peoples who founded the United Nations. On the 29th November, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in Eretz-Israel; the General Assembly required the inhabitants of Eretz-Israel to take such steps as were necessary on their part for the implementation of that resolution. This recognition by the United Nations of the right of the Jewish people to a State is irrevocable. This right is the natural right of the Jewish people to be masters of their own fate, like all other nations, in their own land.



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