



# ISRAEL

## Pocket Facts

Produced by

**StandWithUs**

# Regional Map



Israel is  $\frac{1}{800}$   
the size of the  
Arab world.



**Lebanon**

Cyprus

Golan Heights

**Israel**

Gaza

West Bank

Suez Canal

Sinai

Gulf of Aqaba

**Turkey**

**Syria**

**Iraq**

**Iran\***

**Kuwait**

**Bahrain**

**Qatar**

**Egypt**

**Saudi Arabia**

**UAE**

**Oman**

**Sudan**

**Yemen**

**Djibouti**

**Somalia**

**Comoros**

\*Iran is not an Arab country, but it is a Muslim theocratic republic that sponsors terrorism.



# Israel's Size

Israel's territory is 8,019 square miles.

## New Jersey

8,729 sq. mi.



## California

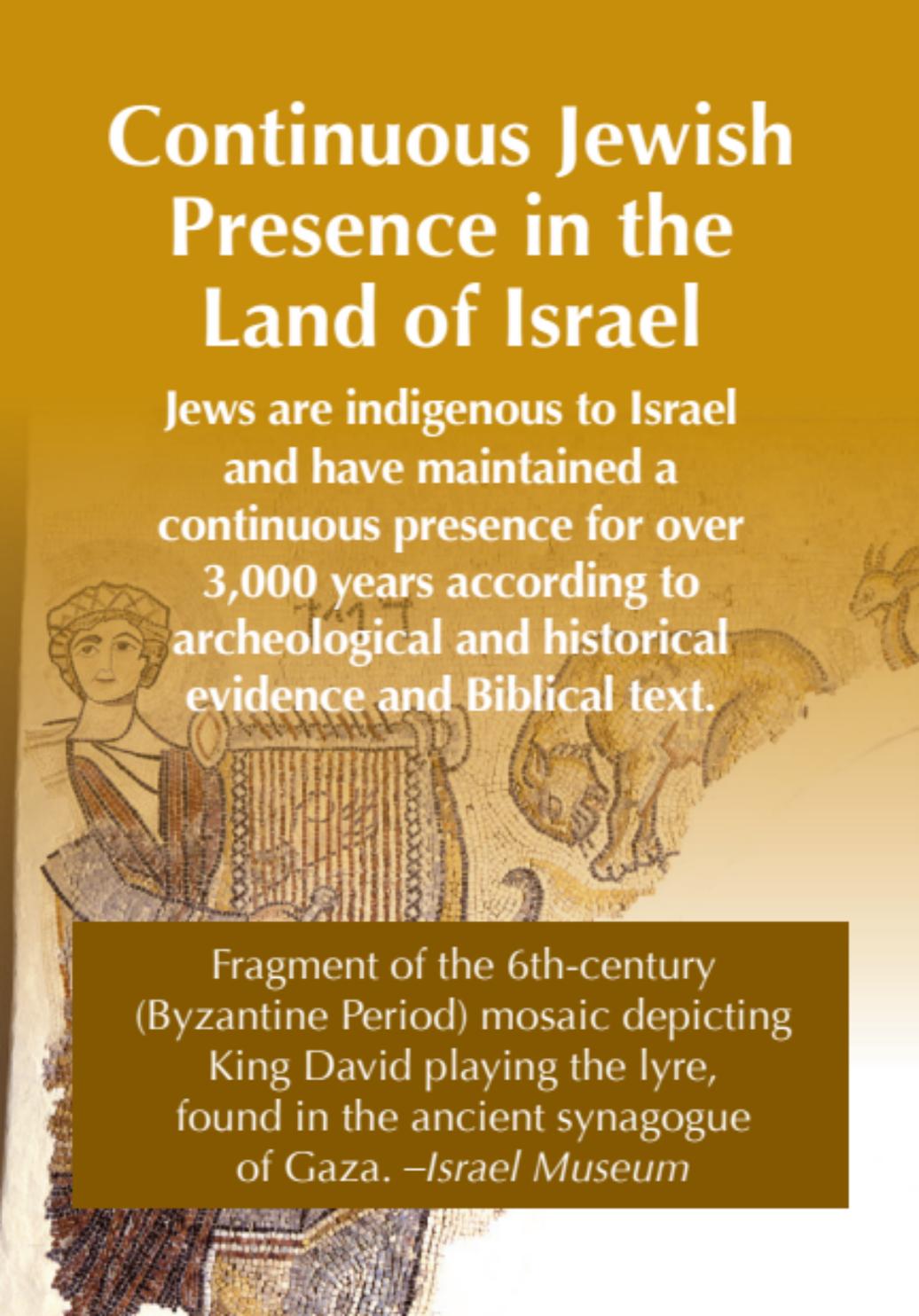
158,302 sq. mi.



Israel is smaller than New Jersey, which is 8,729 square miles. Israel can fit into the state of California 19 times.

# Continuous Jewish Presence in the Land of Israel

Jews are indigenous to Israel and have maintained a continuous presence for over 3,000 years according to archeological and historical evidence and Biblical text.

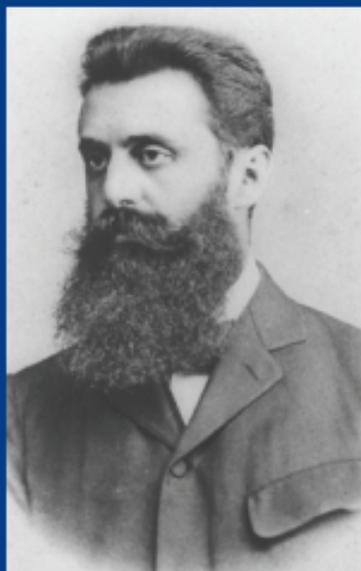


Fragment of the 6th-century (Byzantine Period) mosaic depicting King David playing the lyre, found in the ancient synagogue of Gaza. –*Israel Museum*

# Zionism:

## The Rebirth of a Nation

Zion is an age-old name for Jerusalem and the land of Israel. Zionism is the national liberation movement of the Jewish people who sought to restore their freedom and independence in their ancestral homeland.



Theodore Herzl founded the modern Zionist movement in 1897, but the dream of restoration and return had always been at the core of Judaism and Jewish identity. That's why Jews were the majority in Jerusalem in the 19th century.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sir Martin Gilbert, "Jerusalem: A Tale of One City," *The New Republic*, Nov. 14, 1994 [www.mefacts.com/cache/html/wall-ruling\\_/11362.htm](http://www.mefacts.com/cache/html/wall-ruling_/11362.htm); Dore Gold, *The Fight for Jerusalem*, p. 120



“It is manifestly right that the scattered Jews should have a national center and a national home and be reunited, and where else but in Palestine, with which for 3,000 years they have been intimately and profoundly associated?”

*–Winston Churchill, 1920*

“Who can challenge the rights of the Jews in Palestine? Good Lord, historically it is really your country.”

–*Yusef Diya al-Khalidi, Mayor of Jerusalem, 1899*



Jews on Mount of Olives, 1893

# Religious Majorities in Countries Around the World

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56	Islamic
49	Roman Catholic
20	Protestant
12	Eastern Orthodox
4	Hindu
1	Jewish

# World Religions

**Christianity:** 2 billion people

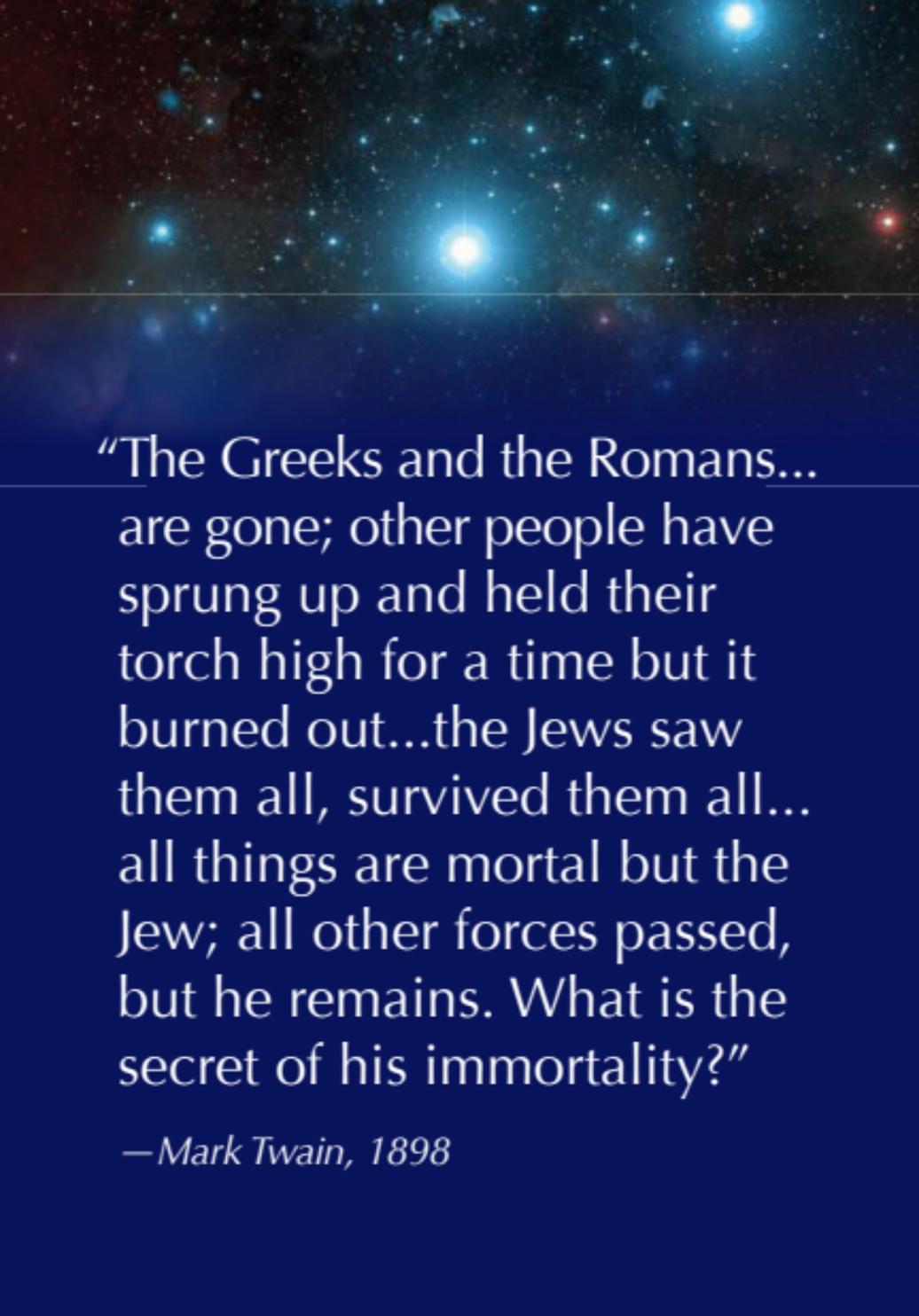
**Islam:** 1.3 billion people

**Hinduism:** 900 million people

**Buddhism:** 360 million people

**Judaism:** 14 million people





“The Greeks and the Romans...  
are gone; other people have  
sprung up and held their  
torch high for a time but it  
burned out...the Jews saw  
them all, survived them all...  
all things are mortal but the  
Jew; all other forces passed,  
but he remains. What is the  
secret of his immortality?”

—Mark Twain, 1898

“Jews prefer being prisoners in Jerusalem to enjoying the freedom they could acquire elsewhere. ...The love of the Jews for the Holy Land which they lost...is unbelievable.”

*–Jesuit Father Michael Naud on his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 1674*



# Restoring the Jewish Homeland

In the mid-1800s, a new energy seized the Jews living in Israel, then called "Palestine." With help from philanthropists like Sir Moses Montefiore and donations from ordinary Jews around the world, Jews branched out from their cities and began purchasing land and building farms, villages, and schools.

By 1854, Jews were the largest religious group in Jerusalem; by 1870, they were once again the majority of the city's population.

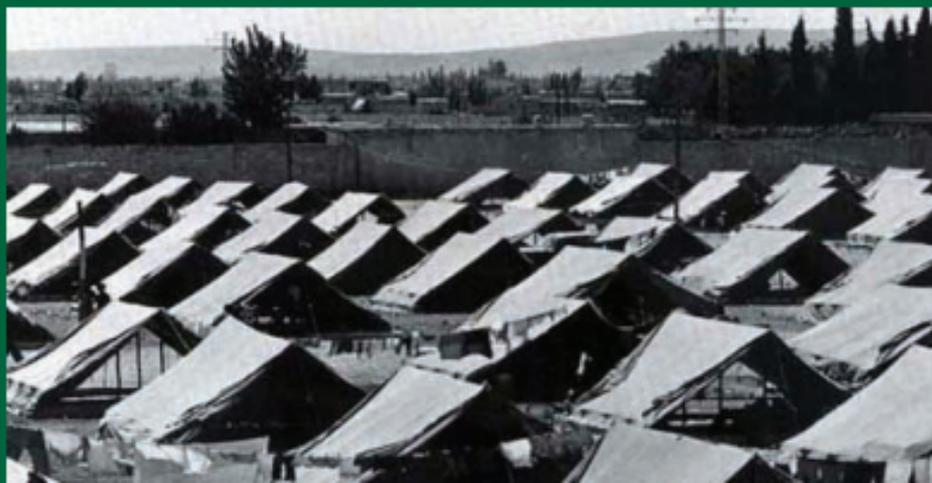
# Tel Aviv

Tel Aviv celebrated its  
100-year anniversary in 2009.



# Jewish Refugees from Arab Countries

After Israel's rebirth in 1948, over 850,000 Jews fled the rising persecution or were expelled from Arab and Muslim lands. They became homeless even though some of their communities were over 2,000 years old. Even though Israel was a fledgling country of approximately 650,000 inhabitants, Israel began absorbing not only survivors of the Holocaust but also Jews fleeing from Arab countries.



# Declining Jewish Population in Middle Eastern Countries

	<b>1948</b>	<b>2004</b>
<b>Algeria</b>	140,000	Less than 100
<b>Egypt</b>	75,000	Less than 100
<b>Iran</b>	100,000	11,000
<b>Iraq</b>	150,000	Approx. 35
<b>Lebanon</b>	20,000	Less than 100
<b>Libya</b>	38,000	0
<b>Morocco</b>	265,000	5,500
<b>Syria</b>	30,000	Less than 100
<b>Tunisia</b>	105,000	1,500
<b>Yemen</b>	55,000	200

In the wake of the 1948 War, close to 800,000 Jews were forced to leave Arab countries where Jews had lived for two millennia.

# Palestinian-Arab Refugees from the Arab War against Israel in 1948

**In 1948, 160,000 Arabs who lived within Israel's borders accepted Israel's invitation to choose peace and become Israeli citizens. Between 472,000 and 750,000 Palestinian Arabs (the number is disputed by scholars) left what became Israel for several reasons:**

1. To escape the war.<sup>1</sup>
2. Because wealthy Arab leaders left, and without leadership the Arab communities fell apart.<sup>2</sup>
3. Because Arab leaders encouraged the masses to get out of the way of the advancing Arab armies, promising that victory would be quick and they could soon return.<sup>3</sup>
4. Tales of alleged Israeli atrocities caused panic.<sup>4</sup>
5. In some cases, Israeli troops forced Arab residents from their homes in sensitive, strategic zones vital to the survival of the Jewish state.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1-5</sup> Benny Morris, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem: 1947-1949*

# Unique Situation of Palestinian Refugees

The tens of millions of refugees from other wartorn areas in the world during this period resettled in other countries, but neighboring Arab states, with the exception of Jordan, would not resettle the Palestinian Arabs despite their shared history, language, and religion. Instead, Arab governments confined them in refugee neighborhoods, refused them citizenship, and then used their plight as a propaganda weapon against Israel.

*“The Arab states do not want to solve the refugee problem. They want to keep it an open sore, as an affront to the UN and as a weapon against Israel.”*  
—Ralph Galloway, former Director of UNRWA, August 1958

*“Since 1948 Arab leaders...have used the Palestine people for selfish political purposes. This is...criminal.”* —King Hussein of Jordan, 1960

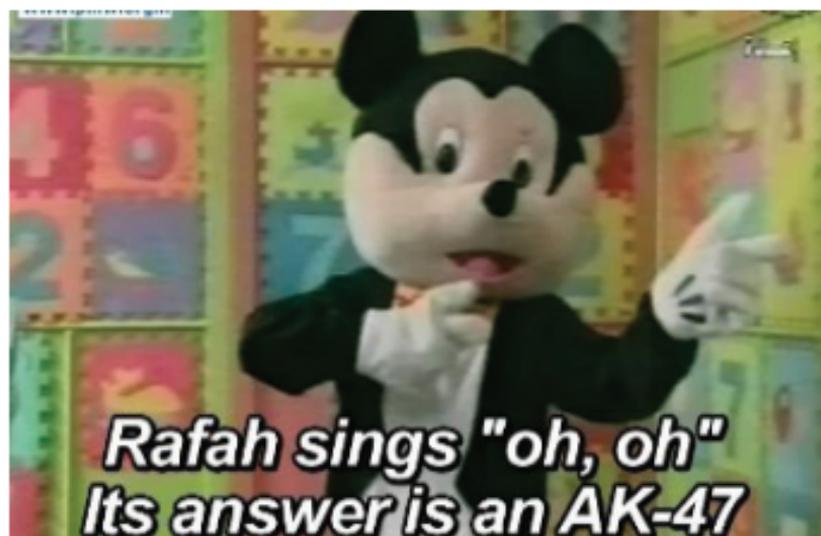
*“All the Arab countries want to keep this problem looking like an open wound.”* —Ana Liria-Franch, regional representative in Cairo for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2003

# The Security Fence

- There was no security fence along the West Bank prior to the violence of the second Intifada, during which suicide bombers walked into Israel from Palestinian communities.
- The fence was built from 2002 to 2004. It is 97 percent fence, and 3 percent wall.
- There are dozens of countries that have fences and/or walls at their borders, including the US, Turkey, Northern Ireland, the Netherlands, India, Spain, Thailand, Finland, and Yemen.

# Teaching Peace

Unfortunately Palestinian children are still being taught hatred and violence in mosques and schools, on TV, and Jihad against Israel is still promoted.\* For there to be peace in the Middle East, peace must be taught.



\*See Palestinian Media Watch at:  
[www.pmw.org.il](http://www.pmw.org.il) and also [www.memri.org](http://www.memri.org)

# The Hamas Charter is Violent and Racist

**“Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.”**

When Israel left Gaza, Hamas was elected the new governing party. The founding document of Hamas calls for the destruction of Israel and the murder of Jews (You can read the translation of the charter online.)

As long as this remains the guiding document for Hamas or the Palestinian people, the dream of peace remains impossible.

# Israel's Security Threats

- Iranian leaders call for Israel to be “wiped off the map” and are racing to build nuclear weapons.
- Iranian-supported proxies Hamas and Hezbollah are building larger military arsenals and threaten Israel on its southern and northern borders.
- The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank has been unable or unwilling to eradicate terrorist groups or stop terrorist plots or arms smuggling.



# Creating The First Arab Palestinian State In History

Historically, there has never been an Arab Palestinian state or Arab Palestinian sovereignty over the West Bank, Gaza, or Israel.

Israel helped set up the first self-government for the Palestinians, the Palestinian Authority, in the 1993 Oslo Accords. Today the Palestinian Authority governs 98 percent of the Palestinian population.

If Israel agrees to give up parts or most of the West Bank in peaceful negotiations with the Palestinians, it will not be “giving back” land since no sovereign Palestinian government ever existed here. Israel will be helping create, for the first time in history, a sovereign Palestinian nation by giving up possession of parts of the Jewish ancient homeland where Jews have had a continuous presence for three millennia.

## **West Bank Palestinian Communities:**

98 percent of the Palestinian population lives on 40 percent of the land, leaving 60 percent virtually unpopulated.



Nablus, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank, is surrounded by undeveloped land.

Most Palestinians in the West Bank live in built-up cities and towns like Nablus and Tulkarm.



Ramallah – the political and economic center of the Palestinian Authority

# Israeli Communities Beyond the Green Line

- After Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan and captured Gaza from Egypt in 1967, Arab states refused Israel's offer to exchange the captured land for peace.
- Israel built settlements to ensure its security, and Israelis resettled lands their families had owned in the West Bank, where Jews had lived for millennia until the 1948 War when they were expelled.
- Built-up areas of Israeli settlements now cover less than 1.7 percent of West Bank land.<sup>1</sup>
- Eighty percent of Israeli settlers live in communities located close to or adjacent to the Green Line. With peaceful negotiations, they can be incorporated into Israel with minor border modifications and do not impact Palestinian population centers.

<sup>1</sup> Mahmoud Abbas, June 2009 at [www.memri.org/bin/latestnews.cgi?ID=SD244009](http://www.memri.org/bin/latestnews.cgi?ID=SD244009); B'Tselem reports 1.7% [www.btselem.org/english/press\\_releases/20020513.asp](http://www.btselem.org/english/press_releases/20020513.asp)

# Human Rights in Israel

- Israel safeguards religious liberty for all faiths.
- Gays are protected against discrimination and hate crimes.
- Education is encouraged equally for both men and women.
- Israel treats honor killings as harshly as other murder crimes.
- Forty-five percent of women are in the workforce, the same percentage as in the U.S.
- Israel is a democratic country that enjoys free speech and assembly and fair and open trials.

# Arabs Living in Israel

- In 1948, the 160,000 Palestinian Arabs who remained within Israel's borders became citizens of Israel.
- Three Israeli Arabs were elected to the first Knesset.
- Today, 1.3 million Arabs are Israeli citizens.
- Arabic is an official language in Israel, on par with Hebrew and English.
- Israel has enacted affirmative action policies to help its minority citizens achieve full social and economic equality.



# Israel's Humanitarian Programs

- Israel's Ethiopian airlifts rescued 28,000 African Jews.
- Israel provided earthquake assistance to Turkey and Greece.
- Israel's Save A Child's Heart (SACH) is the largest program in the world for children from poor nations who need heart surgery.
- Israel was one of the few countries who took in Vietnamese "boat people."
- Israel conducts nearly 300 courses annually for emerging nations and has trained almost 200,000 participants in 130 countries, from Albania to Zimbabwe, in: desert agriculture, water management, desertification prevention, emergency and disaster medicine, refugee absorption, and employment programs.

# Israel's Innovations— Did you know?

- Israel has the highest per capita rate of university degrees.
- Israel has the highest ratio of scientists and technicians in the workforce with 135 per 1,000 citizens, compared to 85 in the US.
- Next to Silicon Valley, Israel has the highest concentration of high-tech companies in the world.
- Israel has the third-largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies in the world, behind the US and Canada.

## **Israeli Inventions:**

- The cell phone (Motorola-Israel)
- Most of the Windows NT operating system (Microsoft-Israel)
- Technology for AOL Instant Messenger
- The first PC anti-virus software
- Voice mail technology
- Electro-optic chips and nanotechnology
- The Pentium 4 microprocessor for desktop computers
- The Centrino processor for laptop computers



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StandWithUs, P.O. Box 341069  
Los Angeles, CA 90034-1069  
[info@standwithus.com](mailto:info@standwithus.com) • 310.836.6140

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