

Israel's Changing Collective Identity

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Collective identity

- Ways in which Israelis (leaders or citizens) perceive of themselves
 - From “Sabra culture” to a multi-cultural Israeli society”

 - What does it mean to be an Israeli?
 - About whom are you asking?
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Israel of Ben Gurion

- Yishuv & early State : Myth of Melting Pot
 - Ben Gurion wanted to:
 - culturally remake immigrants as “Sabras”
 - socialize immigrants to conform to norms set down by Mapai
 - Focus on youth/ “Desert Generation”
 - Nation building or cultural revolution
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Mapai's Ideology

- Modern, western (European) Jewish (national or ethnic), land (place), self defense, egalitarian (socialist) and secular society
 - Bible as history not “Torah from Sinai”
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Exceptions to Ben-Gurion's Sabra Culture

- Haredim or Ultra-Orthodox
 - Small in number
 - Retained their own way of life
 - Israeli Arabs
 - Mutual interest in separation
 - Own schools but under government control
 - National Religious Party - religious Zionists
 - Own school system
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Exceptions to Sabra Culture





Massive immigration 1948-1960

- Two groups
 - Jews from Arab Lands
 - Sephardim, Adot Hamizrach
 - European Jews (Holocaust survivors)
 - Both pressured to give up identity, tradition become like “us” (Sabras)
 - Adot Hamizrach: “Take our dignity” -story of Nuri, Eli Amir Rachel
 - Ashkenazim Summer of Aviya
 - In the end Sabras & Ashkenazim unite against “Mizrachim”
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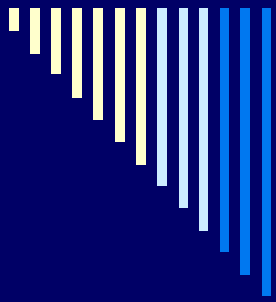


1967-1973 Watershed

- By 1960s more a melting pot as Sabra Culture weakens

Watershed of change influenced by

- 1967 Victory Euphoria
 - Preceded by fear in April May
- 1973 “military defeat” (Herzog, War of Atonement)
national depression, tarnished Labor party



Political Changes/collective Identity

- End of Labor Hegemony bankrupt ideology
- Rise of Begin and Likud
 - New Israeli identity more traditional, multi cultural, ethnocentric, Holocaust
 - Eichmann trial 1961
 - Begin tolerant of religion and ethnic identity
 - Less able to impose will than Ben Gurion



Cultural Changes: Jews from Arab Lands

- Culture and politics
 - 1967 war “our war” prove ourselves
“We are Israelis” (“Valley of Tears”)
 - From margin to center (culture & politics)
 - Assert political demands vote for Begin
 - Begin open up political/economic systems
 - Military-1998 Mufaz vs Vilnai Chief of Staff
 - Cultural music Tel Aviv bus station
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“Iraq n’ Roll” Dudu Tassa



Al Kuwaiti brothers

Shaul Mufaz





Cultural Changes: Charidim Ultra Orthodox

□ 1967 War

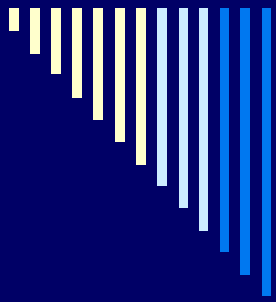
- Hegelian concept of Jewish history
- Want to be part of Israel (ambivalent)

□ Jewish State based on Halacha

- Enter politics in 1980s
- Shaas (Sephardi version)
- Kulturkampf “our soldiers”

□ **Take control from Religious Zionists of Jewish religious institutions**

- Marriage, divorce, conversions, kashrut
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Cultural Changes: National Religious Party

- 1967 War Messianic
- Settle the Land- Greater Israel
 - Settle West Bank (Judea & Samaria)
 - Yeshivot Hesder (Nahal)
- The Messiah is coming
 - Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook
 - Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook (the son)
- Challenge to State of Israel Yigal Amir



Cultural Changes: Jews from the former Soviet Union

- Large minority/secular/nationalistic
- Human resources thrive
- Political resources (national & local)
- Some remain separate
 - Multi-cultural
 - **Most adjust and become Israelis**

Many non Jews—conversion?



Arab (Palestinian) citizens of Israel

□ 1948 War

- 11/29/48 Civil War
- 5/14 & 15/48 Israel invaded

□ Refugees

□ Citizens but military rule until 1968

- Separate towns/schools

□ 1967 War “territories”

- Jewish settlements

□ Territories today



Cultural Changes: Israeli Arabs

- Many want to be part of Israel, Conflict between being Palestinian vs being Israel
 - Residence, Tel Aviv/Beersheba
 - Higher education
 - Nursing, pharmacy
- Mansour Abbas “Raam Party”
 - Israel Jewish State
 - Equal rights within Jewish State



Global village

- Americanization of Israel
 - McDonalds Toys R Us malls
 - MTV
 - A normal people
 - Tiv Tam
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“BIG” mall in Beer Sheva



Beer Sheva Mall





Conclusions

- 1. Overwhelming majority of Israeli Jews want Israel to be a Jewish State but not sure what it means
 - Jewish & democratic
- a. Some push for multicultural “live and let live”
 - More national and ethnic diversity (Russians)
 - Part of global village (universal) MTV Malls
 - oppose Israeli Arabs “a state for all its citizens”
 - Resist Ultra Orthodox to a degree



Conclusions

- b. Others favor becoming less multi-cultural - want more “Israeliness”
 - More Jewish than democratic
 - 2018 law nation state of Jewish people
 - Downgrade ‘Arab’ language
 - Hebrew language and culture music
 - More nationalistic less compromise

 - Israeli Arabs???
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The future????

□ Bezalel Smotrich

- Nation State of the Jewish People
 - Jewish before democratic

□ Salim Joubran & Elyakim Rubenstein

- Hatikvah

□ Demographics

- Arabs & Ultra Orthodox
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