

Israel's First Decade

#2 The Great Aliya

Timeline

1933 Youth Aliya founded in Germany by Recha Frier

1934 - 1948 Aliya Bet ("illegal" immigration)

1939 White Paper severely restricts Jewish emigration

1949 - 50 "On Eagles' Wing" –mass Yemenite aliya

1950 Law of Return

1951 - 52 "Operation Ezra and Nehemia" – mass Iraqi aliya

1950 First maabarot/transit camps

1950-1960 Development towns

1961 Eichmann trial

2021 Compensation agreement for Yemenite families

The Law of Return 1950

Every Jew has the right to come to this country as an Oleh.

Aliyah shall be by Oleh's visa.

An Oleh's visa shall be granted to every Jew who has expressed his desire to settle in Israel, unless the Minister of Immigration is satisfied that the applicant --

is engaged in an activity directed against the Jewish people; or

is likely to endanger public health or the security of the State.

A Jew who has come to Israel and subsequent to his arrival has expressed his desire to settle in Israel may, while still in Israel, receive an Oleh's certificate.

The restrictions specified in section 2 (b) shall apply also to the grant of an Oleh's certificate; but a person shall not be regarded as endangering public health on account of an illness contracted after his arrival in Israel.

Every Jew who has immigrated into this country before the coming into force of this Law, and every Jew who was born in this country, whether before or after the coming into force of this Law, shall be deemed to be a person who has come to this country as an Oleh under this Law.

The Minister of Immigration is charged with the implementation of this Law and may make regulations as to any matter relating to such implementation and also as to the grant of Oleh's visas and Oleh's certificates to minors up to the age of 18 years.

Total number of new immigrants per year:

1948: 101,819 (majority:Europe)

1949: 239,576 (majority:Europe,Yemen)

1950: 170,215 (majority:Europe,Iraq)

1951: 175,129 (majority:Iraq, Europe)

1952: 24,369 (majority:North Africa)

1953:11, 325 (majority:Morocco)

1954: 18,370 (majority:Morocco)

1955: 37,478 (majority:Morocco)

1956: 56,234 (majority:Morocco)

1957: 71, 224 (majority:Europe, Egypt)

1958: 27,082 (majority:Europe, Iran)

Witnesses and Prosecutor

"When I stand before you here, Judges of Israel, to lead the Prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, I am not standing alone. With me are six million accusers. But they cannot rise to their feet and point an accusing finger towards him who sits in the dock and cry: "I accuse." For their ashes are piled up on the hills of Auschwitz and the fields of Treblinka, and are strewn in the forests of Poland. Their graves are scattered throughout the length and breadth of Europe. Their blood cries out, but their voice is not heard. Therefore I will be their spokesman and in their name I will unfold the awesome indictment." Gideon Hausner

Hana Mash Hu Al Yaman (Here is not Yemen)

A-Wa

Land of wheat and barley, grape and olive
Fig and pomegranate, date and home

Where will I stake a home?
(You have a tent for now)
Or at least a small shack

(Along with four other families)
And here I will raise a family
(Don't let them take your daughter)
I'll find myself a job with an income
(Either in cleaning or working the earth)
And I will learn the language
(Lose the accent)
With time I'll feel like I belong
(Here is not Yemen)
Where will I stake a home?
(You have a tent for now)
Or at least a small shack
(Along with four other families)

Land of wheat and barley, grape and olive
Fig and pomegranate, date and home

I came to you a stranger
You saw me as primitive
I came to you fleeing
I saw you as a last resort

Miriam Peretz on Accepting the Israel Prize 2018

בִּאֶחָד הַלִּילוֹת שֶׁל קִיץ 1963, הוֹדִיעַ אֲבִי כִּי הַלִּילָה יִבּוֹא הַמְּשִׁיחַ. לְשֵׁאלַתִּי כִּי־צֵד אֲזַהֶה אוֹתוֹ עֲנָה הוּא יִלְבֹּשׁ חוֹלְצָה פֶּתוּחָה, מִכְנָסִיִּים קְצָרִים וְיִנְעַל סַנְדָּלִים "פִּגְשָׁתִּי אֶת הַמְּשִׁיחַ! אֶת שְׁלִיחַ הַסּוֹכְנוֹת הַיְּהוּדִית שֶׁהוֹצִיא אוֹתָנוּ מֵהַמִּלָּאָח בְּקִזְבְּלִנְקָה, שֶׁם גִּרְתִּי עַד הַיּוֹתִי בֶּת 10, וְהִבִּיא אוֹתָנוּ לְיִרוּשָׁלַיִם – לְמַעַבְרַת חֲצָרִים בְּבָאָר שִׁבְעָה, שִׁבְעָה חַיִּיתִי עַד שְׁנַת 1969. חַיִּינוּ לֵלָא גַז, לֵלָא מִקְרָר, הָיוּ מִיטוֹת עֲשׂוֹיּוֹת מִבְּרִזֵּל וְקִשְׁיֵי קְלִיטָה וְשִׁפָּה חֲדָשָׁה אֲבָל הַיִּיתָה גַּם שִׁמְחָה גְדוֹלָה עַל שֶׁזְכִּינוּ לַהֲגִיעַ לָאָרֶץ יִשְׂרָאֵל. לְמַדְתִּי לָאֱהוֹב אֶת הָאָרֶץ דֶּרֶךְ שִׁירָיָה בְּזָכוֹת רַדִּיו שֶׁקִּיבֵּל אֲבִי בְּעִבּוּדָתוֹ כִּמְטָאָטָא כְּבִישִׁים. בְּכָל יוֹם רַבִּיעִי, חִיפִיתִי בְּחֶרֶדֶת קוֹדֵשׁ בִּפְתַּח הַצָּרִיף שֶׁלֵּנוּ, בִּידֵי מַחְבֶּרֶת וְעִיפָרוֹן, נְכוֹנָה לִכְתּוֹב אֶת מִילוֹת הַשִּׁירִים שֶׁלִּימַד אֲפִי נָצַר בְּתוֹכָנִיתוֹ. כִּךְ הִיכַרְתִּי אֶת הַחֲרָמוֹן דֶּרֶךְ "מַלְכוּת הַחֲרָמוֹן", אֶת בֵּית לֶחֶם דֶּרֶךְ "רֹאֵי רֶחֶל רֹאֵי" וְאֶת עֵמֶק יִזְרְעֶאל דֶּרֶךְ "שִׁיר הָעֵמֶק."