Jewish Subculture in Israel

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Jewish-Israeli History

- Israel formed 1948

- Land previously Ottoman Empire, British Control

- Zionism Idea- Rightful Land

- Palestine-Israel Tension erupted in 1967. Modern palestinians willing to go to pre-1967 borders

- Tensions still around

- Parliamentary Democracy

- Different Jewish cultures
Jewish-Palestinian Conflict

- Tensions in Israel during formation, lead to war in 1967 between Israeli supporters and arabic supporters, tension from previous 1948 Arab-Israeli war

- Israelis wish for end of attacks, upholding their sovereignty, keeping some land from 1967

- Palestinians want to get 1967 territory back, less military in their area, and to not be relocated

- Two state - One state
Architecture

- When Jewish people resettled in Israel in the late 1800’s, they mimicked the styles from their homelands.

- By the 1950’s a “form over function” was adopted from German architects.

- After being defeated in the Kippur war, a brutalist style was adopted.

- Postmodern styles remain from the 90’s.

- Today influence is drawn from large cities with glass skyscrapers.
Moshe Safdie

-Most famous Israeli architect

-Won Construction man of the year for Habitat 67

-Played an important role in Immortalizing Jewish History and faith with the Holocaust Museum and Hebrew College
Religion

- 75% of the population identifies as Jewish
- Daily prayers
- Rabbi’s ~ An ordained religious teacher, who has studied in a yeshiva, a Jewish religious seminary
- Considered a non-missionary religion
- Main reference point is the Torah

Chief Rabbinate of Israel

- Supreme spiritual authority for Judaism in Israel
- Current is David Lau (Ashkenazi) and Yitzhak Yosef (Sephardi)
- Jurisdiction over weddings, burials, conversion, legal processes
Cuisine

- Jewish people returning to ancient homeland brought food (borscht)
- Middle Eastern inspiration
- Shellfish and pork aversion
- Dietary requirements (example separation of milk and meat)
- Gefilte Fish (Ashkenazi)
- Served economical
- Protects Sabbath laws preventing “sorting”
Coming of Age

- Bar Mitzvah means “son of the commandment”

- Boys become a Bar Mitzvah at 13 and girls at 12,

- Publicly marks the assumption of that obligation, along with the corresponding right to take part in leading religious services, to count in a minyan, to form binding contracts, to testify before religious courts and to marry.

- Gifts are given at a normal Sabbath service, gifts include college bonds and pen sets

- Not fully considered an adult, but assumed to be responsible for their own actions
Marriage Traditions

- On the invitations—left side is in Arabic, right in English
- The attire is similar to Western traditions

Ketubah

- Fortifies various concepts in Jewish Law
- Dictates security and protection for the woman, preventing an Agunah
- Bride is always veiled until the vows
- The ring given at the ceremony **must** be made of solid gold
- The breaking of the bottle is to remember “That even in the midst of the happy occasion we should not forget how fragile life truly is”

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