ZIONISM

Definition of Zionism

The definition of Zionism has evolved over time: There’s pre-1948 Zionism and post-1948 Zionism (not to be confused with post-Zionism, another idea altogether).

Post-1948 Zionism — arguably what most people consider the definition of Zionism today — can be simply defined as the belief that the State of Israel has a right to exist, that Jews have the right to self-determination. (This definition is up for debate, though.)

Pre-1948 Zionism is a little bit more complex. To sum, it was the general movement to establish a Jewish state. The modern state of Israel is therefore the culmination of Zionism, the Jewish effort to establish an autonomous state and end the diaspora of the Jewish people. Political Zionism was a product of many trends: the persecution of Jews in Europe and Arab lands; the rise of nationalism around the world; idealistic visions for building a new kind of society; and the conclusion that Jews would only be safe if they controlled their own destinies, to name a few.

Types of Zionism:

- **Theodore Herzl**
  - Probably what you think of when you think about Zionism
  - Influenced by the rise of anti-Semitism in Europe (see Dreyfus Affair video)
  - Jews are like any other nationality and need a nation of their own (see Der Judenstaat)

- **Leon Pinsker**
  - Practical steps like Jewish immigration and settlement will achieve Zionism’s goal even if political conditions for establishing a Jewish State are inadequate

- **Ze’ev Jabotinsky**
  - Demanded the creation of “Greater Israel” on both sides of the Jordan River
  - Wanted to create a Jewish state more quickly and aggressively
  - Rejected proposals to partition Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state

★ There are so many types, but these are some of the most common; these identities are not mutually exclusive!
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Behind the establishment of kibbutzim

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Combination of Zionism & Orthodox Judaism

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Post-Zionism

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Liberal Zionism?

- Read “The Loneliness of the Liberal Zionist”

Zionism & Feminism?

Check out “How Mayim Bialik is fighting for Zionists’ place in feminism”

Does Zionism = Racism?

Check out ADL’s “Response to Common Inaccuracy: Zionism and Racism”