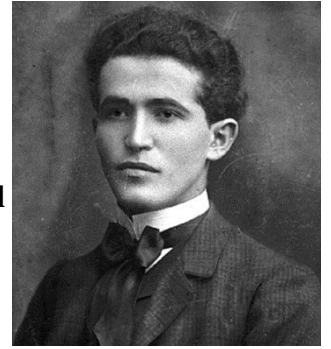


- 1903-** Theodor Herzl presents the “Uganda Plan” at the 6th Zionist Congress in Basel, Switzerland. When news reached David Green and his fellow teenage friends, they decide the best reaction is to commit to immigrate to Palestine.
- 1904-** Moves to Warsaw (70 Km South) to attend school, leaving home for the first time at age 18. Ben-Gurion sought a degree in engineering to prepare him for life in Palestine.
- 1905-** Amid the Russian Revolution, the Poalei Zion (Workers of Zion) party was formed in Poland. Ben-Gurion attended the founding meeting and joined the party. Poalei Zion combined Marxist socialism and Zionism.
- 1906-** By then an extremely active member of Poalei Zion, Ben-Gurion decided that there is little remaining for him in Poland and he immigrates to Ottoman Palestine in hopes of continuing his grassroots political activity (departs Plonsk in July and arrives at Jaffa 9/6/1906). Upon arrival in Eretz Yisrael, David Green changed his surname to Ben-Gurion.



II) 1906-1915, Ottoman Subject

- 1906-** October 2, after spending a month in Petach Tikva, Ben-Gurion attends the founding conference of Poalei Zion of Palestine and is elected conference chairman. It competed with HaPoel HaTzair which was formed a year earlier and focused less on Marxist thought and more on culture and Hebrew language.

2) The “Ramla Platform” of Poalei Zion, 1906

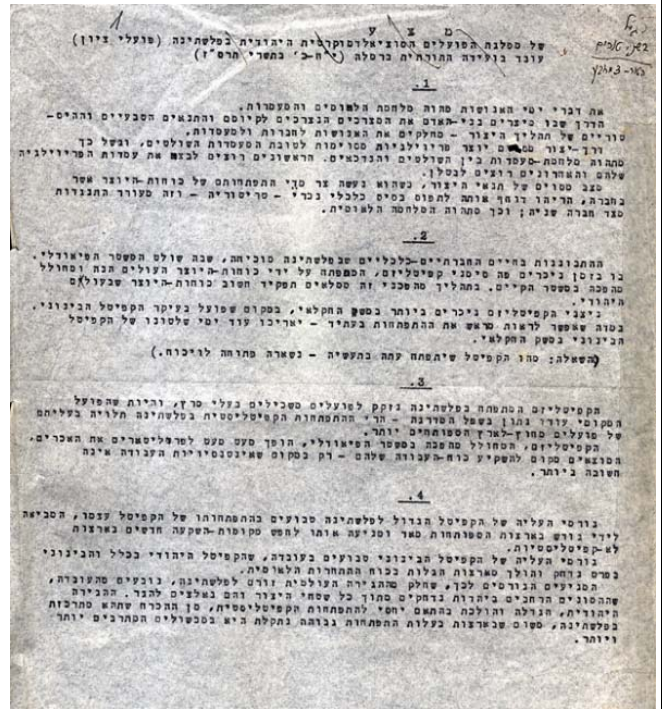
D)

Human history is marked by national wars and class wars.

The methods used to produce basic necessary commodities and the natural and historical conditions of the production process have divided humanity into societies and classes.

Certain methods of production create privileges for the ruling classes, which result in class warfare between rulers and the oppressed masses. The former wish to maintain and strengthen their privileged positions while the latter wish to revoke them.

Under certain conditions, when the means of production are no longer sufficient for the development of creative forces, the nation is impelled to seize a foreign economic based – territory – that creates resistance on the other side; thus war between nations ensues. [...]



- 1907-** Yitzchak Ben-Zvi arrives in Ottoman Palestine. Ben-Zvi was a charismatic member of Poalei Zion in Russia and is considered more senior to Ben-Gurion and takes his place as the party’s leader.

- 1907-** October. Ben-Gurion moves from the center of the country to the Northern Galilee and began working at Sejera
- 1908-** Young Turks Revolution restored electoral democracy to the Ottoman Empire.

3) Ben-Gurion to his father, Sejera (6/30/1909)

[...] I myself have no inclination or desire to be a farmer [...] I hate the possession of land that binds the owner to it, and I love freedom with all my heart, the freedom of body and mind [...]

- 1910-** Poalei Zion leaders decide to publish a weekly Hebrew newspaper called *Ha’Ahdut* and within weeks, ask Ben-Gurion to serve as editor.



- 1911-** November. Ben-Gurion departs for Thessaloniki with Ben Zvi. He lived with a Jewish family and devoted himself to learning the Turkish language in which he became fluent.
- 1912-** October. After several hurdles, Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi enroll in Law School in Istanbul. Ben-Gurion barely completes two years of his legal education, but succeeds academically.
- 1913-** September. Ben-Gurion takes a break from his studies in Istanbul to travel to Vienna for the 11th Zionist Congress and the World Poalei Zion conference.
- 1914-** July. Planning to spend his summer vacation back in Palestine, Ben-Gurion hears en route that war has broken out between Germany and Russia.
- 1915-** Poalei Zion members pass a resolution for its members to become Ottoman citizens to demonstrate their loyalty to the motherland. Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi support the decision.
- 1915-** March. Jamal Pasha takes over the governance of the Ottoman territories that include Palestine and issues a deportation order for anyone connected to Zionist activity. Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi were well-known Zionist leaders. They boarded a ship to Alexandria, Egypt.
- 1915-** May. Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi board a ship to the USA and reach New York on 5/17/1915. On the voyage, Ben-Gurion teaches himself to speak, read and write English.



III) 1915-1918, USA & Jewish Legion

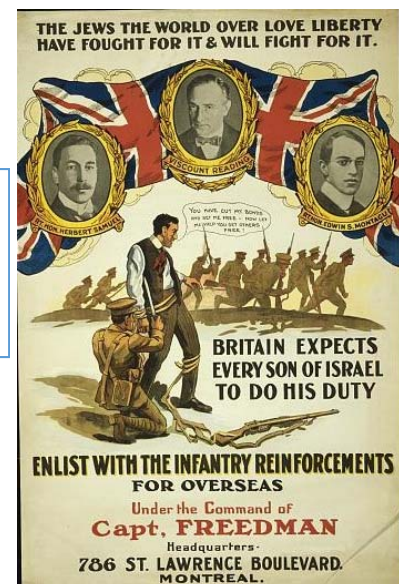
- 1915-** Ben-Gurion begins working for Poalei Zion in America and goes on a wide speaking tour attempting to recruit new members. He has minimal success.
- 1916-** Ben-Gurion achieves the beginnings of fame in America with the publication of a Yiddish translation of a book published by *HaAhdut* in Palestine about Jewish pioneers that had fallen. Poalei Zion responds to the success by putting Ben-Gurion on salary.
- 1916-** July. Ben-Gurion spends months working in the New York Public Library doing research for another book: *The Land of Israel Past and Present*. He is offered help from a young Russian immigrant named Paula Munweis with whom he began a courtship.
- 1917-** December. Paula and Ben-Gurion are married on 12/5/1917 in a civil service performed by a clerk at City Hall
- 1918-** April 26. Ben-Gurion enlists as a volunteer for the Jewish battalions being formed in the British army with the hopes of taking part in the liberating of Palestine from the Ottomans.

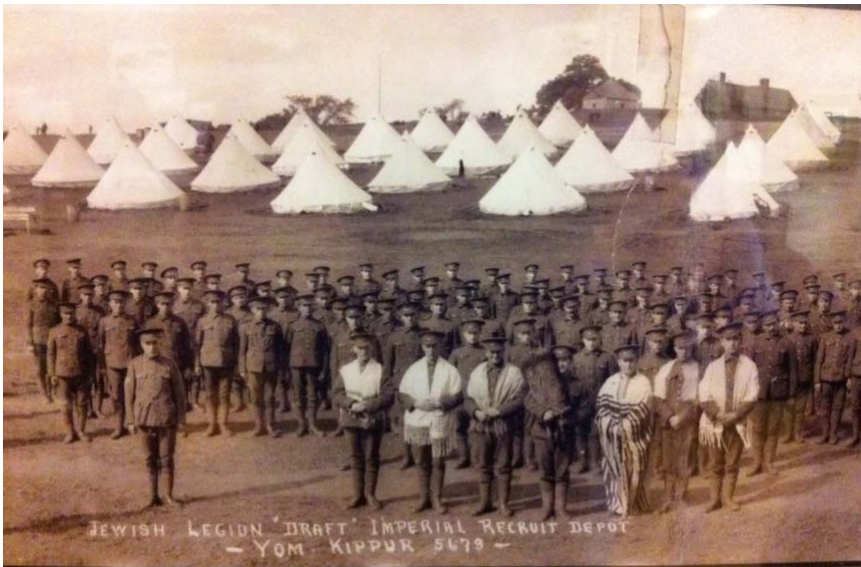


3) Ben-Gurion to Paula, Windsor (6/3/1918)

[...] You are for me beloved and wife, mother and sister, and mother of my child. All that is tender and delicate in my heart is fused into my love for you. [...] but there is something else great and sacred, which in my eyes is greater and more sacred than anything in the world...you must believe that I have done what I was duty-bound to do.

- 1918-** August. After training in Ft. Edward in Windsor, Nova Scotia, the 39th battalion sailed to Plymouth, England for further training and then to Cairo, Egypt.





1918- While in Cairo, Ben-Gurion falls sick and is hospitalized and reads the writings of Berl Katznelson (1887-1944) for the first time. Katznelson will become his greatest friend and collaborator in the project of Labor Zionism. He eventually arrives in Palestine in December with his battalion, but by then the war was over.

IV) 1919-1930, Leader of Palestine Labor Movement

1919- Together, Ben-Gurion and Katznelson attempt to unite the different parties in Palestine into a single umbrella party they named "Achdut HaAvoda" – the Zionist-Socialist Union of Jewish Workers in Palestine.

1919- November. Paula reaches Palestine with their daughter Geula.

1920- May. Ben-Gurion travels to London with his family to temporarily run the office of the World Poalei Zion movement.

1921- A full trade union was formed in 1920 and named the Histadrut HaAvoda. In December of 1921, Ben-Gurion was named its secretary-general.



1923- August. Ben-Gurion visits the Soviet Union to promote Achdut HaAvoda and settlement in now British Palestine.

1924- May 26. The 68th US Congress passes the Johnson-Reed Act (Immigration Act of 1924) which is signed into law by President Coolidge. This severely limits the number of immigrants allowed in to the US which opens the door to a new wave of immigration.

1925- With the new wave of trader-class Jews, Ben-Gurion seeks to preserve the national mission of the working class. He publishes an article where he argues that the quickest way towards immigrant absorption is through collective industry while private ownership will hinder it.

1928- The Zionist Executive (the governing body of the Zionist organization) publishes a report that the kibbutz movement is untenable. Solel Boneh, the biggest production company of the Histadrut declares bankruptcy. Ben-Gurion and Katznelson decide that they must take over the Zionist Executive if the socialist-zionist dream has any chance.

3) Ben-Gurion, Minutes from the 4th Achdut HaAvoda Conference (1924)

With the increase in national urban and rural settlements, with the expansion of their area...our territorial autonomy will be formed, grow, and be strengthened, and the Jewish state will be built.

4) Ben-Gurion, "The National Mission of the Working Class" (1925)

It is doubtful if the private capital invested so far in the Jewish economy employing Jewish workers is private insofar as it is capital, and if it is truly capital, to what extent is it private? [...]

V) 1930-1939, National Jewish Leader of British Palestine

1930- January. Achdut HaAvoda finally joins with HaPoel HaTzair to form the Mapai party.

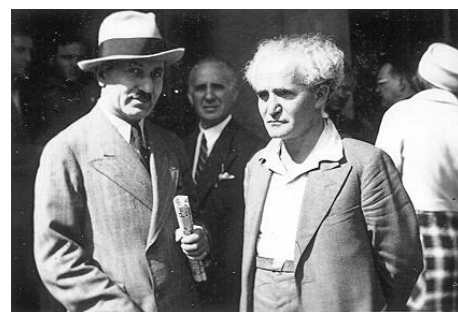
1931- June 30. At the 17th Zionist Congress in Basel, Ben-Gurion's party wins 29% of the delegates and is the largest party represented. Intense negotiations ensued where Labor and the Revisionists (the 2nd largest party with 21%) sought to form a coalition with the General Zionists and Mizrahi. In the end, Jabotinsky's wavering opened a window and Labor formed its coalition which controlled the Zionist Executive and effectively began the Labor-dominated politics that lasted until the Israeli elections of 1977.

1933- March. Ben Gurion tours Eastern European Jewish communities to gather support for Labor Zionism in advance of the 18th Zionist Congress.

1933- July. The 18th Zionist Congress convenes in Prague. Ben-Gurion's party wins 45% of the the delegates and Ben-Gurion is elected to the Zionist Executive.

1934- October. Amid growing British intransigence regarding immigration and rising hostility towards Jews in Europe, Ben-Gurion meets for the first of several times with his rival Jabotinsky and the two find that they have much in common and eventually sign an agreement of understanding and shared goals between their two movements.

1935- Ben-Gurion becomes chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive.



5) Ben-Gurion, in letter to V. Jabotinsky (10/30/1934)

[...] From now on nothing that happens will change the fact that we met, and for many hours forgot everything that stood behind us – and motivates by a great anxiety for the movement and the success of its [Zionist] enterprise, with mutual trust and respect driving us to a joint effort...

1936- April. Arab riots broke out throughout British Palestine. The Arabs demanded a total stoppage of Jewish immigration, control of the government due to the Arab majority of the population and complete cessation of Jewish land purchases.

1937- February. Ben-Gurion drew up a plan for a two-state partition and presented it to the conference of the Mapai central committee.

1937- July. British government publishes the results of the Peel Commission which also recommended partition, but with boundaries far less advantageous than Ben-Gurion's proposal.

1939- February. Ben-Gurion and Weizmann head a Jewish delegation to negotiations held by the British in London with Arabs and Jews. Talks accomplish very little.

1941- Ben-Gurion and Weizmann arrive separately in America signaling their shift in an America-centric Zionist lobby.

6) Ben-Gurion to Jewish Agency Executive (October, 1936)

In history, too, there are chances. There are chains of circumstances, and a man or a movement must possess the ability to seize an opportunity and hold on to it.

7) Ben-Gurion to Mapai Central Committee (7/1/1937)

I am totally impassioned in that I feel we are on the eve of events liable to change the course of our history, events that have occurred only twice or three times in our three-thousand-year history...

