

Episode 9: Into the Future

IX-1: Atlas: Mediterranean, 1914

World War I pitted Germany and the Ottoman Empire against the western democratic nations and Russia. In the wake of its 1917 revolution, Russia was to withdraw from the war. In the Middle East, British General Edmund Allenby swept into Jerusalem, ending four centuries of Ottoman rule over Palestine and the rest of the Levant.

- Point out the area of the Ottoman Empire and its Sinai border with British Egypt, and indicate the location of Palestine.
- Then Zoom Out to the World-view and point out Russia and the opposing powers in World War I.
- Click on the area of Palestine at the eastern side of the Mediterranean Sea to zoom back in.
- Then, click on Jerusalem to zoom in. Show how British troops under Allenby swept across the Sinai and up to Jerusalem to wrest control of Palestine from the retreating and collapsing Ottoman Empire.

IX-2: Atlas: Near East: 1948

Israel found itself in a sea of hostile Arab nations, which remained in a state of war with the new state. They equipped Palestinian Arabs in the hellish refugee camps ringing Israel with the means to continue an indefinite guerrilla war against Israel, which had to defend a land that at its narrowest point is less than 15 miles wide.

- Point out Egypt and the Gaza Strip, Jordan (including the area west of the Jordan River), Syria, and Lebanon.
- Click on Jaffa to zoom in on Israel.
- Click on the Map Legend tab at the bottom of the map, and point out the mileage scale.
- Point out the narrowness of Israel in the area of the coastal cities of Hadera and Netanya.

IX-3: Atlas: Mediterranean-USSR: 1989

While Jews in western countries enjoyed increasing freedoms in their societies, Jews in the lands controlled by the Soviet Union were held prisoners in their Communist host-nations. Jews in America and around the world loudly (and persuasive politically) participated in Operation Exodus in the 1970s and 1980s, and loosened the Communist stranglehold on Jewish emigration. Eventually, these Jewish voices galvanized the world community and secured the emancipation of their Jewish kinsmen as the Soviet Empire crumbled.

- Point out Moscow and, using the thumbnail-navigation slider-tool, show

Jerusalem/Israel.

IX-4: Atlas: United States: 2000

While Israel struggled in the face of unrelenting assaults from its Arab neighbors and wrestled tragically with the Palestinian Arab population in the areas conquered in 1967, American Jewry experienced a Diaspora existence that many viewed as ideal.

Despite some anti-Semitic acts, Jewish Americans have fully integrated into the American tapestry, largely overcoming both legal and social discrimination. American Jewry has “overachieved” by almost any measure in all aspects of American life. This is also true in most other countries with significant Jewish populations (e.g., Canada, Britain, and Australia).

Western-world Jewry, with its affluence and economic power, is often described as “the only group that consistently votes against its own self-interest.” That is, most relatively affluent American (and other western) Jews consistently support liberal policies intended to support the least affluent members of the society.

And, again, in the United States and elsewhere, much of the host society’s civilizational models have been imported and, in turn, transformed by the resident Jewish community. Jews in America, more than perhaps anywhere else, have adopted norms for governance, dress, architecture, and even have incorporated western Enlightenment philosophies for the evolution of new streams of Judaism tightly bound to American conceptions of liberal democracy.

- Point out New York and other major Jewish centers in America.