

History of Israel in Video
Ratner Media Center
Jewish Education Center of Cleveland
216-371-8288 www.jecc.org

Ben Gurion: One Place, One People. Learning Corporation of America, 24 minutes, color.
Background information on Ben-Gurion and a brief history of the new state.

Ben Gurion Remembers. Rearguard Production, 1990, 81 minutes, b&w.
Rare film footage of Ben Gurion, Golda Meir and other leaders of the State.

Between the Wall. Israel Education TV, 1992, 20 minutes, color, Hebrew with subtitles.
An interesting way to combine Hebrew language teaching with the history of early Zionism in Israel. The first program on the tape recreates the cultural clash created by the influx of Askenazic Jews into the predominantly Sephardic yeshuv in Jerusalem at the turn of the nineteenth century. The second program portrays, Yoel Moshe Salomon, who advocated leaving the yeshuv to work the land, and established the first Jewish settlements in Petach Tikvah and Rosh Pina in 1878. Hebrew is often slow-paced enough to allow high school students who attend a day school to expand their vocabulary.

Cast a Giant Shadow. MGM-UA Home Video, 1966, 2 hrs., 22 min., color
A fictionalized biography of Col. David "Mickey" Marcus, an American Jewish Veteran of World War II, who became a military advisor to the Israel Defense Force in 1948. Kirk Douglas heads an all star cast.

Dreamers and Builders. National Center for Jewish Film, 1999, 60 minutes, b/w
The early builders of the Zionist vision, pioneers of the Third Aliyah and Fourth Aliyah of the 1920's, have been captured on film for time by the father of Hebrew film, Ya'akov Ben Dov. Based on three films: *Return to Zion*, *Rebirth of a New Palestine*, and *Romance of Palestine*, which were considered lost for more than 70 years and have recently been rediscovered and preserved jointly by the Israel Film Archive, Jerusalem Cinematheque and the National Center for Jewish Film. It features people who later became household names, an infant Moshe Dayan; Henrietta Szold; rare footage of Chief Rabbi Avraham haCohen Kook and Yaakov Meir presiding over a wedding. It reminds one of the idealism that built Israel in providing a flavor of what it must have been like to be there in the 1920's.

Exodus pt. 1&2. United Artists, 1960, 207 min., color.

This epic screen adaptation of Leon Uris's novel was directed by Otto Preminger and contains brilliant performances by Paul Newman, Eva Marie Saint, Lee J. Cobb and Sal Mineo. Exodus portrays the phoenix-like transition of the Jewish people from the ashes of Nazi ovens to fighting pioneers, creating a new country - The State of Israel. Despite historical inaccuracies contained in the film, the viewer witnesses the re-creation of the Jewish State circa 1946-1948. Though broad in spectrum, Exodus tells its story on a human scope and stands alone as a uniquely Jewish screen classic.

Exodus to Israel. Film for the Humanities, 1988, 52 min.

This film chronicles the events that led to the creation of the modern state of Israel. Familiar Jewish and non-Jewish personalities illuminate the events at the turn of the century, between the wars, and after World War II when the State of Israel was established. Impartial presentation, but not terribly insightful. Questions generated from viewing are: who is responsible for the "Palestinian Problem"? and what moral questions arose pre-1948 as to the methods Jews used in the fight for statehood?

Flames of Revolt: The story of the Irgun. Doko Video Ltd. 100 min.

Flames of Revolt, originally an Israel television production, is a well paced documentary that highlights the history of the Irgun Zvai Leumi (Etzel), from its roots in the Haganah to incorporation into the Israel Defense Force. The film describes large scale operations and major events which shook the world and the Jewish community in pre-1948 Israel. The tape describes the following in great detail: Illegal immigration, bombing of the King David Hotel, bombing of the British Embassy in Rome, the Akko prison break and others. There are interviews with Menachem Begin and many other Irgun soldiers.

Follow Me: The Story of The Six Day War. Israel Film Service, 1983, b&w

How and why the Six-Day War happened. Israel's victory is documented in this film using interviews, speeches and actual war footage. The film culminates in the liberation of the Western Wall.

Land of Promise. National Center for Jewish Films, 1991, 1 hr., b & w

Video adaptation of a 1935 film that was the first sound documentary on the Jewish settlement of Palestine. Stirring depiction of the enthusiastic pioneer spirit of the Jewish settlers as they worked to settle the land and make the desert bloom. Shows footage of Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, and Haifa of the 1930s and depicts modern industry and agriculture of that time. Rather long and slow moving for today's audience. Teachers may wish to select segments rather than show all at once.

May 14, 1948. Jewish Agency for Israel.

This original on-location documentary portrays the first days of the state of Israel, in which the whole country served as the front line and all its inhabitants were considered its army. Using David Ben Gurion's reading the Proclamation of the State as a backdrop, the viewer is treated to footage of pre and post 1948 Israel. Excellent primary source material that captures the feeling of the times.

Never a Dull Moment. 40 Years of Israel's Turbulent History. Doko, 1992, 60 minutes, color and B&W.

Never a Dull Moment captures the essence of Israel during the years between 1948-1990, which witnessed the founding of the State of Israel and the tumultuous times that followed. Filled with fascinating archival film footage and still photography this is a good overview of the building of a state.

Pillar of Fire. Complete series.

Tkuma: Israel First 50 Years. Israel Broadcasting Authority, 1998, Two 1 hour presentations.

This English narrated version of the Israeli Television documentary series is divided into two chapters. The first chapter follows the period from the War of Independence to the Yom Kippur War and the second chapter starts with the Yom Kippur War and ends with the 1996 national elections. The series is based on archival material and interviews with Israeli and Arab leaders and follows social and cultural developments as well as political ones. Although the more critical tones of the Hebrew version were toned down, the series offers an interesting and complete historical account.

A Wall in Jerusalem. I.W. Films, 1970, 91 min., b/w.

A produced collection of actual footage from the 1917 Balfour declaration through the Six Day War and narrated by Richard Burton. This film is an accurate, living, chronology covering major events in the establishment and growth of the modern State of Israel.

Yom Kippur War: The Story of the October 1973 War. Ergo, 1992, 28 minutes, color and b&w.

This video documents the battle begun on October of 1973 by the armies of Egypt and Syria. Although they were caught in a surprise attack, the Israel Defense Forces repulsed the enemy on the battlefields in the Sinai, the Golan Heights, in the air and at sea.