# Lesson 6: The Six-Day War

*Key message:* In 1967, Israel fought a war of survival against Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. In a swift and decisive victory, it defeated the Arab armies and captured significant land—with significant Arab population—dramatically changing the map and the dynamics of the modern Middle East.

## What to Bring

- Handouts 6.1, 6.2a-b, 6.3
- One copy of handout 5.4 from previous lesson as a refresher

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## 1. Orientation

- Takeaways from last class; questions
- Objective for this class
- Timeline (handout 6.1)

## 2. "Six Day War" video (4'01")

- YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8qBMm5Aeq8
- Download: http://www.broaderview.org/files/video/SixDayWar.YouTube-s8qBMm5Aeq8.mp4

## 3. Michael Oren interview

- Read quote from the Foreword to Michael Oren's book, "Six Days of War":

  *"Rarely in modern times has so short and localized a conflict had such prolonged, global consequences. Seldom has the world's attention been gripped, and remained seized, by a single event and its ramifications. In a very real sense, for statesmen and diplomats and soldiers, the war has never ended." (p. xiiv)*

- Listen to the interview (first 2'42"). Ask students to list, as they listen, the ways in which this war changed the Middle East dynamics
  - YouTube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iYrYbC1kqJE
  - Download http://www.broaderview.org/files/video/MichaelOren.SixDaysOfWar.YouTube-iYrYbC1kqJE.mp4)
  - Israel came into possession of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Golan Heights
  - The death knell of secular Arab nationalism, led by Gamal Abdel Nasser
  - Introduction of Islamic ideology in Middle East
  - Transition from inter-state Arab-Israeli conflict to Israeli-Palestinian conflict
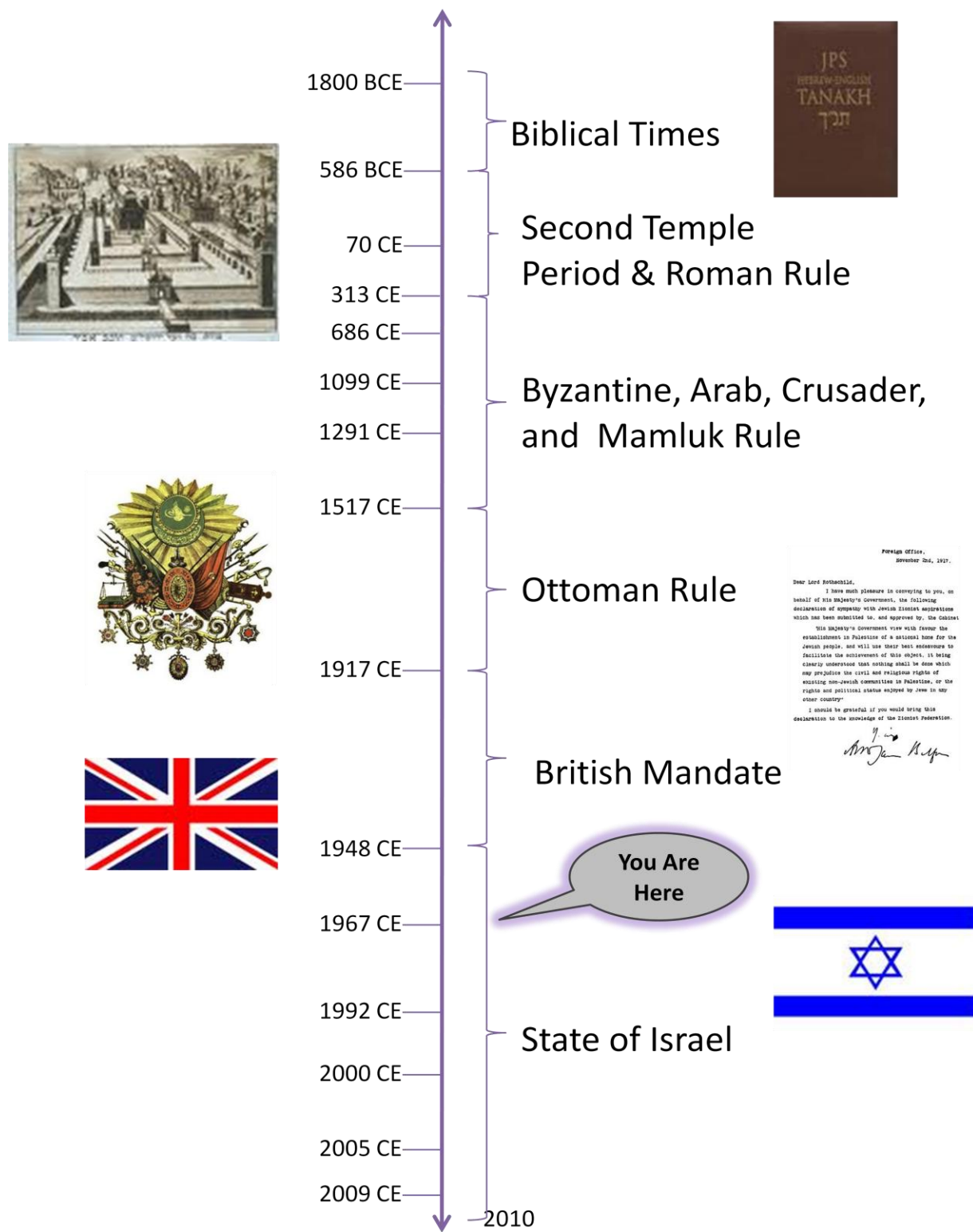  - Beginning of strategic relationship between Israel and the U.S.

## 4. The War's Outcome

- Compare before and after maps  (handout 6.2a & 6.2b)
- Recall that we talked in the last session about the Arab refugees from Palestine in 1948. Where did they go?  (Handout 5.4b from last class) What happened to some of these areas in 1967?

## 5. Jerusalem of Gold

- Recall the centrality of Jerusalem in Jewish identity from lesson #2
- The significance of the reunification of Jerusalem
- June 7: "Temple Mount is in our hands," Rabbi Goren blowing the *shofar*
- Listen to (& try to sing) "Jerusalem of Gold" with lyrics (handout 6.3, 5'16").  Explain how the lyrics to two stanzas (shaded paragraphs) were re-written after the war.
  - YouTube http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NyqXB6b4c8
  - Download http://www.broaderview.org/files/video/YerushalayimShelZahav.YouTube-5NyqXB6b4c8.mp4

# *Timeline: Lesson 6*

1800 BCE —

**Biblical Times**

586 BCE —

70 CE —

**Second Temple Period & Roman Rule**

313 CE —

686 CE —

1099 CE —

**Byzantine, Arab, Crusader, and Mamluk Rule**

1291 CE —

1517 CE —

**Ottoman Rule**

1917 CE —

**British Mandate**

1948 CE —

You Are Here

1967 CE —

1992 CE —

**State of Israel**

2000 CE —

2005 CE —

2009 CE —

2010

# 1949 Armistice Lines



Map legend:
- Area Given to Israel
- Area Given to Jordan
- Demilitarized Zone
- No man's Land
- Syrian Occupied
- Jordanian Occupied
- Egyptian Occupied

Source: http://israelinsider.com/maps

# *1967: After the War*



Source: http://israelinsider.com/maps

# Arab Refugees from Palestine



Main areas from which Arabs fled, Apr-Dec. 1948

Towns with large Arab populations which fled

% Percentage of refugees reaching new areas

Lebanon 14% - 100,000

Iraq 0.6% - 4,000

Syria 10 - 75,000

Safed

Acre

Haifa

Tiberius

Beisan

The West Bank 38% - 380,000

Jaffa

Ramle

Trans Jordan 10 - 70,000

The Gaza Strip 26% - 190,000

Beer Sheva

Egypt 1% - 7,000
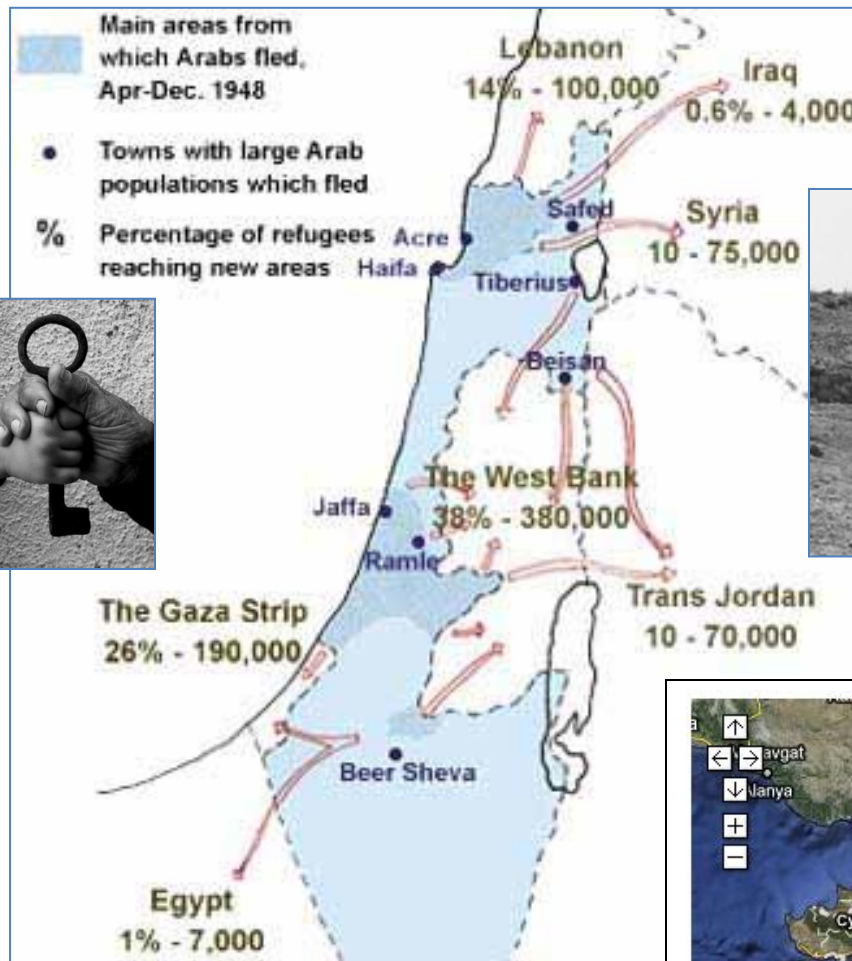






*2010: 4.7 million refugees and their descendents; 1.4 million of whom live in 58 official refugee camps in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria*

Source: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, http://www.unrwa.org/etemplate.php?id=41

# Jerusalem of Gold by Naomi Shemer

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| The mountain air is clear as water<br>The scent of pines around<br>Is carried on the breeze of twilight,<br>And tinkling bells resound. | Avir harim zalul kayayin<br>Ve-rei'ah oranim<br>Nissa be-ru'ah ha'arbayim<br>Im kol pa'amonim | אויר הרים צלול כיין<br>וריח אורנים<br>נישא ברוח הערביים<br>עם קול פעמונים |
| The trees and stones there softly slumber,<br>A dream enfolds them all.<br>So solitary lies the city,<br>And at its heart -- a wall. | U-ve-tardemat ilan va-even<br>Shvuyah ba-halomah<br>Ha-ir asher badad yoshevet<br>U-ve-libbah homah | ובתרדמת אילן ואבן<br>שבוייה בחלומה<br>העיר אשר בדד יושבת<br>ובליבה חומה |
| *Jerusalem of gold,<br>and of light and of bronze,<br>I am the lute for all your songs.* | Yerushalayim shel zahav<br>Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or<br>Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh ani kinnor. | ירושלים של זהב<br>ושל נחושת ושל אור<br>הלא לכל שירייך אני כינור |
| The wells ran dry of all their water,<br>Forlorn the market square,<br>The Temple Mount dark and deserted,<br>In the Old City there. | Eikhah yavshu borot ha-mayim<br>Kikkar ha-shuk reikah<br>Ve-ein poked et Har ha-Bayit<br>Ba-ir ha-attikah | איכה יבשו בורות המים,<br>כיכר השוק ריקה<br>ואין פוקד את הר הבית<br>בעיר העתיקה |
| And in the caverns in the mountain,<br>The winds howl to and fro,<br>And no-one takes the Dead Sea highway,<br>That leads through Jericho. | U-va-me'arot asher ba-selah<br>Meyallelot ruhot<br>Ve-ein yored el Yam ha-Melah<br>Be-derekh Yeriho | ובמערות אשר בסלע<br>מייללות רוחות<br>ואין יורד אל ים המלח<br>בדרך יריחו |
| The wells are filled again with water,<br>The square with joyous crowd,<br>On the Temple Mount within the City,<br>The *shofar* rings out loud. | Hazarnu el borot ha-mayim<br>La-shuk ve-la-kikkar<br>Shofar kore be-Har ha-Bayit<br>Ba-ir ha-attikah | חזרנו אל בורות המים,<br>לשוק ולכיכר<br>שופר קורא בהר הבית<br>בעיר העתיקה |
| Within the caverns in the mountains<br>A thousand suns will glow,<br>We'll take the Dead Sea road together,<br>That runs through Jericho. | U-va-me'arot asher ba-selah<br>Alfey shemashot zorhot<br>Nashuv nered el Yam ha-Melah<br>Be-derekh Yeriho | ובמערות אשר בסלע<br>אלפי שמשות זורחות<br>נשוב נרד אל ים המלח<br>בדרך יריחו |
| *Jerusalem of gold,<br>and of light and of bronze,<br>I am the lute for all your songs.* | Yerushalayim shel zahav<br>Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or<br>Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh ani kinnor. | ירושלים של זהב<br>ושל נחושת ושל אור<br>הלא לכל שירייך אני כינור |
| But as I sing to you, my city,<br>And you with crowns adorn,<br>I am the least of all your children,<br>Of all the poets born. | Akh be-vo'i ha-yom la-shir lakh<br>Ve-lakh likshor ketarim<br>Katonti mi-ze'ir bana'ikh<br>U-me-aharon ha-meshorerim | אך בבואי היום לשיר לך<br>ולך לקשור כתרים<br>קטונתי מצעיר בנייך<br>ומאחרון המשוררים |
| Your name will scorch my lips forever,<br>Like a seraph's kiss, I'm told,<br>If I forget thee, golden city,<br>Jerusalem of gold. | Ki shemekh zorev et ha-sefatayim<br>Ke-neshikat saraf<br>Im eshkakhekh Yerushalayim<br>Asher kullah zahav | כי שמך צורב את השפתיים<br>כנשיקת שרף<br>אם אשכחך ירושלים<br>אשר כולה זהב |
| *Jerusalem of gold,<br>and of light and of bronze,<br>I am the lute for all your songs.* | Yerushalayim shel zahav<br>Ve-shel nehoshet ve-shel or<br>Ha-lo le-khol shirayikh ani kinnor. | ירושלים של זהב<br>ושל נחושת ושל אור<br>הלא לכל שירייך אני כינור |

Source: http://www.jerusalemofgold.co.il/lyrics.html (English transliteration & translation), http://www.linet-pro.net/nodewebimages/24460/Files/yerushalaim.htm (Hebrew). For the song's story, see http://www.jerusalemofgold.co.il/.