

# David Ben-Gurion

## Quotes

*Israel, Country, People, Land, Believe, Want, War, Return, Jew, Scary, Mean,  
Intellectual, Hebrew, Children, Christian, Freedom, Inspirational, Change,  
Palestinian, Book*

The State of Israel will prove itself not by material wealth, not by military might or technical achievement, but by its moral character and human values.

~David Ben-Gurion

In order to be a realist, you must believe in miracles.

~David Ben-Gurion

The present map of Palestine was drawn by the British mandate. The Jewish people have another map which our youth and adults should strive to fulfill: from the Nile to the Euphrates.

~David Ben-Gurion

We regard it as our duty to declare that Jewish Jerusalem is an organic and inseparable part of the State of Israel, as it is an inseparable part of the history of Israel, of the faith of Israel.

~David Ben-Gurion

It's not enough to be up to date, you have to be up to tomorrow.

~David Ben-Gurion

It is in the Negev that the creativity and pioneer vigor of Israel shall be tested.

~David Ben-Gurion

If an expert says it can't be done, get another expert.

~David Ben-Gurion

No city in the world, not even Athens or Rome, ever played as great a role in the life of a nation for so long a time, as Jerusalem has done in the life of the Jewish people.

~David Ben-Gurion

We must do everything to ensure they [the Palestinians] never do

return. The old will die and the young will forget,

~David Ben-Gurion

Ours is a country built more on people than on territory. The Jews will come from everywhere: from France, from Russia, from America, from Yemen... Their faith is their passport.

~David Ben-Gurion

A Jew is anyone who says he is.

~David Ben-Gurion

If the antisemites want to hate, let them hate, and let them go to hell.

~David Ben-Gurion

We do not wish and do not need to expel Arabs and take their places.

~David Ben-Gurion

Israel will not discuss a peace involving the concession of any piece of territory. The neighboring states do not deserve an inch of Israel's land. . . . We are ready for exchange for peace.

~David Ben-Gurion

The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war.

~David Ben-Gurion

Referring to Palestinian refugees: "We must do everything in our power to ensure that they never return.

~David Ben-Gurion

The Arabs of the land of Israel [Palestinians] have only one function left to them -- to run away.

~David Ben-Gurion

Thought is a strenuous art - few practice it, and then only at rare times.

~David Ben-Gurion

We have preserved the Book, and the Book has preserved us.

~David Ben-Gurion

Courage is... the knowledge of how to fear what ought to be feared and how not to fear what ought not to be feared.

~David Ben-Gurion

The most dangerous enemy to Israel's security is the intellectual inertia of those who are responsible for security.

~David Ben-Gurion

It's not a matter of maintaining the status quo. We have to create a dynamic state, oriented towards expansion.

~David Ben-Gurion

The great Jewish scientists and philosophers of the last few generations - Spinoza, Einstein, Freud, Robert Oppenheimer and others - were natives of Europe and America.

~David Ben-Gurion

Without moral and intellectual independence, there is no anchor for national independence.

~David Ben-Gurion

The assets of the Jewish National Home must be created exclusively through our own work, for only the product of the Hebrew labor can serve as the national estate.

~David Ben-Gurion

When a Jew, in America or in South Africa, talks to his Jewish companions about 'our' government, he means the government of

Israel.

~David Ben-Gurion

We offer peace and neighborliness to all the neighboring states and their peoples, and invite them to cooperate with the independent Hebrew nation for the common good of all.

~David Ben-Gurion

Which are you first, a Jew or an American? A Jew.

~David Ben-Gurion

What matters is not what the goyim say, but what the Jews do.

~David Ben-Gurion

To shatter even the largest stones on earth, it takes only a small quantity of explosive powder.

~David Ben-Gurion

We consider that the United Nations' ideal is a Jewish ideal.

~David Ben-Gurion

We must do everything to ensure they [the Palestinian refugees] never do return

~David Ben-Gurion

The law is whatever people determine it to be.

~David Ben-Gurion

After eighty, there are no enemies, only survivors.

~David Ben-Gurion

From Jewish terrorism against Arabs it is a short step to Jewish terrorism against Jews.

~David Ben-Gurion

The test of democracy is freedom of criticism.

~David Ben-Gurion

To be realistic, you have to believe in miracles.

~David Ben-Gurion

You must talk to us as equals, or not talk to us at all.

~David Ben-Gurion

Anyone who believes you can't change history has never tried to write his memoirs.

~David Ben-Gurion

The past is our very being.

~David Ben-Gurion

Not the absorption capacity of the land, but the creative ability of a people, is the true yardstick with which we can measure the immigration potentialities of the land.

~David Ben-Gurion

Under no circumstances must we touch land belonging to fellahs or worked by them. Only if a fellah leaves his place of settlement, should we offer to buy his land, at an appropriate price.

~David Ben-Gurion

The old will die and the young will forget.

~David Ben-Gurion

We do not recognize the right of the Palestinian Arabs to rule the country, since Palestine is still undeveloped and awaits its builders.

~David Ben-Gurion

We must assist the British in the war as if there were no White Paper

and we must resist the White Paper as if there were no war.

~David Ben-Gurion

It is only in Hebrew that you feel the full meaning of it -- all the associations which a different word has.

~David Ben-Gurion

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