## **JERUSALEM CARDS:**

# Playing cards that encompass Israel's history, politics, and culture INFORMATIONAL GUIDE

## **HEARTS**

# King

Jerusalem is important in Christianity largely because **Jesus** is supposed to have spent his final days there. The city is home to the location of the Last Supper (Mt. Zion), his last night of prayer and anguish (Gethsemane), his journey to crucifixion (Via Dolorosa) and his burial (Church of the Holy Sepulchre).

# Queen

**The Second Temple** stood on the Temple Mount from 516 B.C.E. to 70 C.E. It was completely refurbished during the reign of Herod, and remained a major place of pilgrimage and sacrifice for the Jewish people until its destruction, which began the Jewish diaspora.

## Jack

**Abdul al-Malik** built the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem in 691 A.D. The reason behind its construction is ambiguous, and is thought to have perhaps been a marker of Muslim presence in Christian-heavy Jerusalem of the time. Its distinctive golden dome is a distinguishing characteristic of the Jerusalem skyline, and it remains a holy pilgrimage site for Muslims to this day.

# Ten

The Church of the Holy Sepulchre is identified as the place of the crucifixion of and the burial place of Jesus. It is jointly controlled by the authorities of 6 denominations of Christianity, and it remains a significant Christian pilgrimage site to this day.

#### Nine

**The Mamluks** were a dynasty of slave soldiers from Central Asia who ruled Jerusalem from 1249 to 1517. They are responsible for a lot of distinctive architecture in the Old City, especially in the Muslim Ouarter.

# Eight

The Old City is the ancient walled city that made up the entirety of Jerusalem until 1860, when neighborhoods began to be built outside of the original city. It is densely packed with significant historical and religious sites as well as population, and is divided into four quarters: the Jewish Quarter, the Christian Quarter, the Muslim Quarter, and the Armenian Quarter.

## Seven

**David Ben Gurion** was the first prime minister of Israel. A lifelong Zionist, he is responsible for writing and signing the Israeli Declaration of Independence in 1948.

Six

**The Oslo Accords**, a 1993 agreement between prime minister Yitzchak Rabin of Israel and the PLO, outlined a gradual process of Israeli disengagement from Palestine. The PLO recognized Israel's right to exist and rejected violence, and Israel recognized the PLO as the representative of Palestinian people.

## Five

After the Arab Revolt of 1936-1939, the British **Peel Commission** was tasked with analyzing the situation in British Mandate Palestine. The investigation concluded that the Mandate was unworkable because of contradictory promises made to both groups, and advocated the partition of the Jewish and Arab populations.

#### Four

The First Intifada was a spontaneous uprising in 1987 that started with an Israeli stabbed in Gaza and a possibly retaliatory army truck crash that killed many Gazans. After the intifada, Hamas emerged, advocating that Palestinian liberation could be achieved only by jihad.

#### Three

During the **Babylonian Exile**, the Babylonians conquered Jerusalem, then a part of the Kingdom of Judah, in 597 B.C.E. The First Temple was destroyed, and most Jews living in the city fled. The exile ended in 538 B.C.E., when King Cyrus of Persia captured Babylon.

# Two

**Hebrew University**'s Mount Scopus campus was officially opened in 1925, fulfilling a Zionist vision for a Jewish university in Israel. The university remains an institution of modern Jerusalem and educates students of many different backgrounds.

## Ace

The Jewish-born Roman historian **Flavius Josephus** lived and wrote during the Second Temple period in Jerusalem and is a large reason why many of Jesus's activities in the city are documented. He also wrote about Jewish history in the first century C.E. and the first Jewish-Roman War.

## **CLUBS**

#### King

**King Herod** was the Roman-installed Jewish king of Jerusalem and is responsible for a lot of significant architecture in the city, including the Second Temple. He was an extremely paranoid and egotistical ruler.

# Queen

**Helena** was the mother of Constantine, the first Christian emperor of Rome. There's a myth that she found the true cross in Jerusalem, but that was probably an effort to add legitimacy to the Roman empire's transition to Christianity.

Jack

**Theodor Herzl** is known as the father of modern Zionism. He wrote "The Jews' State", which argues that Jews are a nation like all other nations and deserve political sovereignty, and convened the First Zionist Congress.

Ten

The Bible's sacred texts and scriptures are the guide for Jerusalem's religious significance in various traditions.

Nine

**The Arab Riots of 1929** broke out over issues of increased Jewish presence in the Old City and control over the Western Wall. The riots cemented the modern four quarters of the Old City of Jerusalem.

## Eight

Titus was the Roman Emperor who destroyed the Second Temple in 70 CE.

#### Seven

**The Palestinian Liberation Organization**, created in 1964, was a state-like entity that was recognized as a legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It was made up of many smaller organizations, and its modern derivative is the Palestinian Authority.

Six

**The Haskalah**, or the Jewish Enlightenment, began in Western Europe in the late 18th century. The movement's goals were to achieve political equality for Jews through internal reforms in Jewish life, and it sowed the seeds of modern Jewish nationalism.

Five

**The City of David** is an archaeological site that is speculated to consist of the original urban core of Jerusalem. It is located in the Arab neighborhood of Silwan, making it a cause of settlement controversy.

Four

The **separation barrier** between Israel and the West Bank was constructed by the Israeli government in 2000, largely due to violence during the Second Intifada. Palestinians in the West Bank must pass through it to access Jerusalem or other places in Israel. It nominally follows the Green Line, but deviates frequently, making its total length 440 miles, which double the Green Line's distance.

Three

The **American Israel Political Action Committee**, founded in 1951, serves to lobby the US Congress on issues related to Israel. They are nominally non-partisan and nominally support a two-state solution.

Two

A relic of Jerusalem's time as a Roman city, the **cardo and decimanus** are two perpendicular streets that run through the Old City, from north-south and east-west.

Ace

**The Irgun and the Stern Gang** were Jewish terror and guerrilla cells that formed during the British Mandate to oppose the British Mandate authorities. They operated outside of Yishuv and Zionist control. The Irgun were responsible for the bombing of the King David Hotel, then the British Mandate's headquarters, in 1946.

## **DIAMONDS**

## King

**Muhammad** is the founder of Islam and is viewed according to Islam as the final prophet of God. His night journey and ascension into heaven are said to have taken place in Jerusalem, more specifically at the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount.

# Queen

**Machsom Watch** is an organization of old Israeli grandmothers who go to border checkpoints in the West Bank to watch and report on the goings-on there, including injustices and human rights abuses.

## Jack

**Palestinian nationalism** is the idea idea that Palestinians are a distinct people who deserve their own independent state in historic Palestine. This movement/pattern of thought is a response to Zionism and colonialism, but also to Arab nationalism.

#### Ten

**The Temple Mount** is venerated as a holy site by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. For Jews, it is the site of the Holy of Holies and the location of the First and Second Temples; for Christians it is the site of several events in the life of Jesus; and for Muslims it is the location of the Dome of the Rock, al-Aqsa Mosque, and Muhammad's ascension into heaven.

#### Nine

**Simon bar Kochba** led the Second Jewish Revolt against the Romans in 132 AD. After this revolt, a large shift in Jewish thinking led to a focus on creating a permanent religion based on tradition, rather than one based on prophecy and temple ritual.

## Eight

**The Great Aliyah** (1948-1951) was the first major wave of Jewish immigration to Israel. Most immigrants came from North Africa and the Middle East.

# Seven

**King Cyrus** was the Persian king who conquered Jerusalem in 539 BCE, allowing the Jews to return from the Babylonian Exile.

## Six

The Arab Revolt of 1936, which began as a strike, was organized in order to gain political representation for the Arabs in British Mandate Palestine. It was brutally and violently crushed by the British, and it caused the Peel Commission to do its thing.

# Five

Yemin Moshe and Mishkenot Sha'ananim were the first two residential neighborhoods built outside of the Old City of Jerusalem. Built in 1860 and 1892 respectively, they are now two of the most high-income neighborhoods in municipal Jerusalem.

#### Four

**The White Paper** of 1939 was a British policy that resulted from the Peel Commission. It restricted Jewish immigration to British Mandate Palestine, with the end goal of establishing a state with an Arab majority.

## Three

In the **Six-Day War** of 1967, Israel conquered the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. This event caused a lot of euphoria, confidence in the Israeli military, and belief that God wanted Israel to be a state.

#### Two

**The Jerusalem YMCA** was opened in 1933 with the intention of being a place of peace, unity, and health. It is still in operation today and serves several community-center-like functions, including a hotel.

## Ace

**The Boycott-Divest-Sanctions movement** is an open call to spread a culture of boycott against Israel in an effort to improve Palestinian conditions and autonomy. It is inspired by the South African anti-apartheid movement.

## **SPADES**

#### King

**King Solomon**, a biblical king of Israel who ruled from 970 to 931 B.C.E., is credited with building the First Temple on the Temple Mount.

## Oueen

**Rachel's Tomb**, the burial site of the biblical matriarch Rachel, is located near Bethlehem. It is holy to Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, but in 2005 the West Bank barrier was built around the tomb, effectively annexing it to Jerusalem.

# Jack

**Constantine** was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity. He is credited with turning Jerusalem from a Roman city to a Christian city.

## Ten

The Western Wall is the retaining wall of the Temple Mount. It is considered holy in Islam as the place where Muhammad tied his steed Buraq, and holy in Judaism as the closest remaining relic of the Second Temple. A plaza that could hold 400,000 people was erected when the wall came under Israeli control, displacing many Muslim residents of the Old City.

## Nine

**Via Dolorosa**, or the Way of Suffering, is believed to be the path through the Old City of Jerusalem that Jesus walked on his way to crucifixion. It consists of fourteen stations and spans about 2,000 feet; 5 stations are inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. It is considered a Christian act of faith to walk the Via Dolorosa.

# Eight

**Pan-Arab nationalism** is the idea that Arab states were distinct peoples who deserved to rule themselves, as a reaction to European colonialism in Arab nations. Somewhat influenced by the European concept of patriotism, it drew on ideas that European-style nationalism was the solution to perceived deficiencies in the Arab community.

#### Seven

The Second Intifada, or al-Aqsa Intifada, was a period of violence and rebellion that occurred from 2000 through 2005. It was provoked by Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon visiting the Temple Mount, and was mostly carried out through suicide bombings, rock throwing, and gunfire. About 1,000 Israelis and 3,000 Palestinians were killed.

## Six

The Camp David Summit took place in July 2000 and included Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and US President Bill Clinton. It was an attempt to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but it ended without an agreement.

## Five

Since 1967, when Israel captured the West Bank during the Six-Day War, Jewish Israelis have been establishing civilian **settlements** in Palestinian territory in order to manifest a belief that Jewish Israel should extend to the Jordan River. The Israeli government has largely supported the settlements, providing resources and military protection at the expense of Palestinians.

#### Four

**Leon Pinsker** was the author of "Automancipation", published in 1882. In this writing, he warned that Jews needed a state of their own in order to solve the problems of the European diaspora.

## Three

The Old Yishuv and New Yishuv were two conflicting groups of Jewish settlers in Jerusalem towards the end of the Ottoman period. The Old Yishuv consisted of communities of religious scholars concentrated in holy cities, and the New Yishuv consisted of immigrants who considered themselves more educated, enlightened, and modern.

## Two

**Ezra and Nehemiah** were leaders of the Jewish community who led Jewish return to Jerusalem at the beginning of the Second Temple period after the Babylonian Exile. Ezra was a religious leader who served as a priest and scribe, while Nehemiah was a political leader who rebuilt the wall around the city.

## Ace

**The Balfour Declaration** was a letter from Balfour to Lord Rothschild, penned in 1917, that guarantees British support for a Jewish national home in Palestine. Britain wanted to maintain a land route to India for trade, and keep Palestine out of French hands.

# **JOKERS**

**The Uganda Plan** was a plan to put a Jewish national home in Uganda as opposed to Palestine. It was dismissed after the land offered in Uganda was deemed unsuitable.

The Camp David Accords, an American-brokered agreement in 1978 between Arab forces and Israel orchestrated an Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula. It also included the granting of autonomy to Palestinians, which did not happen.























































































































































































































