

Who's Who in the Middle East – Israel

		Yitzhak Rabin	Shimon Peres	Ariel Sharon	Benjamin Netanyahu
1922	British Mandate for Palestine	Born March 1, in Palestine (parents were Soviet Jews)			
1923			Born in Poland, August 21.		
1928		Member of Palmach (Commando force, fighting the British Mandate)		Born Feb.27 of Eastern European parents	
1934			Emigrated to Palestine/Israel		
1942				Became member of Haganah (self-defense force formed during 1930s)	
1947		Member of Haganah			
1948	PM David Ben Gurion (Herut party)	Fought during war of Independence		(May 14) Israeli Independence	
1949				Company Commander in army	Born in Tel Aviv, October 12.
1951				Intelligence officer	
1952			Director of Ministry of Defense		
1953				Appointed Major, head of Unit 101 Led operation against Qibya village (under orders 'maximize casualties')	
1956				Commander of 202 Brigade Led attack on Qalqilya police station Suez Canal War – took Mitla Pass	
1959			Knesset - Deputy defense minister		
1962		Chief of Staff of army			
1963	Levi Eshkol (Mapai party)				Family moved to USA
1967		Led army during Six-Day War		Brigadier-General during Six-Day War	Returned from US. Commando captain (in Sayaret Matkal)
1968		Israeli Ambassador to USA (-1973)	Co-founder of United Labour party (from Rafi and Mapai parties)		
1969	Golda Meir (Labour)		Minister of Communications		
1972					Studied at MIT (-1976)
1973				Elected to Knesset (Likud)	
1974	Yitzhak Rabin	Labour leader and PM	Defense Minister (-1977)	(Begin led Likud when formed in '73)	
1975				Security Advisor under Rabin	
1976		Authorized raid on Entebbe			
1977	Menachem Begin (Likud party)	Resigned as PM	PM (Briefly?)	(Begin hosted Anwar Sadat's visit)	
				Re-elected to Knesset	
1979			Involved in Camp David peace talks		
1982				Defence Minister under Begin Invasion of Lebanon (to Beirut) Massacre of refugees in Sabra/Chatila	Deputy Ambassador in US
1983	Shamir			Removed from office by tribunal	
1984	Peres	Defense Minister (-1990)	National Unity Govt. (-1986)		Ambassador to UN
1986	Yitzhak Shamir		Foreign Minister (-1988)		
1987		Intifada – tried to suppress the revolt			
1988			Finance Minister (-1990)		Knesset – Deputy Foreign Minister
1990				Min. of Housing (resp.for settlements)	
1992	Yitzhak Rabin	Leader of Labour Party.			
1993		Negotiated peace agreements (Oslo) (Sept. 13) Signed Treaty with Arafat	Worked w/ Rabin on Oslo Accords.		Leader of Likud (-1999)
1994		Signed Peace Accord with Jordan	Received Nobel Peace Prize		
1995		Assassinated by Israeli law student	Becomes PM & Labour Party leader		
1996	Peres		Begins final status peace talks	Joins Netanyahu's cabinet	
1997	Netanyahu				
1998				Appointed Foreign Minister	Signed Wye Accord
1999	Barak (Labour)			Leader of Likud Party	
2000				Opposed Barak's peace initiatives	
2000				Visit to Al Aqsa Mosque compound	
2001	Ariel Sharon		Foreign minister (-2002)		
2002					Foreign Minister (-2003)
2003			Leader of Labour Party		
		First native-born Prime Minister His experience during the 1987-Intifada led him to believe that rule of Palestinians by force would not work, and preferred negotiation. Labour Party	Promoted Nuclear 'deterrence' program Wants a return to pre-1967 borders "with adjustments for security and solution for settlers" Co-founder of the Labour Party	Moved to politics from a military career. His military actions have at times brought criticism, including removal from his military command by a tribunal in 1983. Likud Party	First leader to have been born after Israel's independence in 1948. Opposed Rabin's peace accords Now rejects idea of Palestinian state, wants Arafat deported. Likud Party

Lebanon – Civil War (1: 1975-1984)

1975 April 13 Lebanon's complex mix of factional loyalties erupted into violence in 1975 with an attack on **Kataib Phalangists** in a Beirut church. (See e-News 20 for details on the various factions. The **Kataib** group are militant **Maronites**). Reprisals killed 27 Palestinians, and so began a year-long tit-for-tat conflict that eventually prompted the president to request the intervention of **the Syrian army**. The violence was not just random, drive-by shootings, but set piece battles between the various factions, with alliances made and dissolved rapidly.

1976 November Though the internecine strife diminished (in November 1976 a cease-fire had been established) **PLO** attacks across the southern border continued. The **PLO** had become a serious power in Lebanon, able to defy the **government** at will. The **PLO** raids drew reprisals from Israel, and, after a bus was attacked in the Galilee, an **Israeli** invasion in March, 1978 took control of the area south of the Litani River. A United Nations force, UNIFIL, was deployed to reduce violence across the border at this time. (It is still in place in southern Lebanon). Israel also established the **South Lebanon Army**, under **Saad Haddad**, to defend a 12-mile security zone.

1978 March The **Israeli** occupation of the south, its overt support of the **SLA**, the **Syrian** presence; all of these things did not reduce the factional tensions in Lebanon and particularly Beirut. By 1980 these had again exploded, with assassinations, car bombings and battles between the various factions. During 1981 the **PLO** had taken control of much of southern Lebanon, an area that was largely Shiite, and opposed to Palestinian infiltration. The **Lebanese military** attempted to regain control of the region, but the **PLO** were too strong for them. The US was able to establish a cease-fire between the **PLO**, **Israel** and **Syria** in mid-1981, but violations of the agreement - **PLO** attacks on **Israeli** positions - broke out within a year.

1982 June 6 In June 1982 Israel, angry that the **Lebanese government** had not controlled the **PLO**, launched "Operation Peace for Galilee," a full-scale invasion of Lebanon, pushing as far north as Beirut, and occupying the capital. More than 15,000 Lebanese were killed. Eventually, after UN-sponsored mediation, **Syrian** and **PLO** troops were evacuated through the ports of Beirut and Tripoli during August. As part of the UN agreement British, French, and Italian and U.S. troops formed a **multinational force** to provide some stability.

1982 Sept. 14 The Israeli-sponsored president-elect, **Kataib** leader, **Bashir Gemayel**, was assassinated in September of 1982, to be replaced by his brother **Amin**. **Israeli** forces were led by **Ariel Sharon** at this time, and were aiding the **Phalangists**, providing logistical and intelligence support. The day after Bashir Gemayel's assassination, as **Israeli** troops moved into West Beirut, an attack by the **Phalangists** on the Sabra and Chatila refugee camps in the Bekaa Valley (see the map in e-News 20) led to the massacre of more than 800 Palestinian refugees. The **multinational force** suffered greatly during this period, with the April 1983 US Embassy bombing that killed 63, and an enormous truck bomb at the combined American/French base which killed 298 soldiers in October. This last led to the rapid withdrawal of the already-demoralized **international troops**.

1983 April 18

Next Issue: 1984-1990

The First Two Weeks - After

So, how did we do? e-News 20 was issued on June 27th, with three days to go before the scheduled handover. The first surprise was that the ceremony was pushed forward to the 28th, and Ambassador Bremer left that day, to be succeeded by John Negroponte.

Did you predict ...

- Countries renew diplomatic relations (10th F _____)
- Countries offer to send troops (1st J _____)
- Bombs (4th P _____)
- Officials killed (6th Mayor of R _____)
- New UN representative (12th Ashraf J Q _____)
- Militants criticized (6th by I _____)
- New govt. actions (2nd take charge of S _____)
- Kidnapped Marine (9th turns up in L _____)
- Kidnappers of Philippine soldier (13th Philippines to _____)
- Border to be sealed (11th Border with _____)
- Kidnappings (Jn 29th 3 Turks _____)
- New Government leaders (Iraqi President _____)

It would not be fair to score, so how about a quiz to see what you remember!

E	N	I	L	E	P	I	P
	D		S				S
L	E		A			Y	P
R	E		D		R	A	U
A	R	B	D	I		W	L
M	F	R	A	N	C	E	L
A				M	N		R
D	N	A	D	R	O	J	U
I	R	A	Q	I	S	N	T

Islamic Interface

One area in which traditions of Islam come into conflict with western culture is in the area of dress. During recent years – not just since 9/11 – the headscarf has been seen more and more frequently on Muslim women. The headscarf has not always been a significant symbol; Muslims in many countries have generally felt free to wear the headcovering, or not.

Muslim women in Russia will be permitted to wear headscarves in passport photos, the country's Supreme Court has ruled (Nov '03)

The women had gone to court claiming that the ruling infringed their civil rights. They also said that they had been inspired to file the suit after hearing that Saudi Arabian women were permitted to wear a full length veil in their passport photos.

beneath the veil. Religious police are on the lookout for such offenses, which can result in beatings and/or a fine. [In 2003 a number of girls died during a fire at a girls' private boarding school in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The reason, police would not let rescuers into the building 'to protect the honor of the girls'.]

The German state of Baden-Wuerttemberg has given initial approval for a law to stop teachers wearing headscarves (Feb 04)

Civil rights organisations and groups representing the 3.2 million Muslims living in Germany have strongly criticised the proposed ban. They argue that the right to wear a headscarf is a question of religious freedom.

A French court has banned the headscarf in schools, along with other religious symbols (Feb 04)

The law includes a schools ban on religious symbols such as Islamic headscarves, Jewish skullcaps and large crucifixes or crosses.

the 'politics' that says it is a requirement of Islam, and others to avoid the verbal and physical harassment from male students who hold that belief. In this case, the increase in use of the scarf has paralleled the increase in long beards around the Arab/Muslim world.

A 15-year-old girl has lost her High Court battle to wear a style of Islamic dress to school (London, June 04)

Shabina Begum has been out of her Luton school since September 2002 in a row over her wish to wear an ankle-length jilbab gown.

The debate arises from remarks in the Koran which call upon women to dress modestly. In the most fundamental countries – The Arabian Gulf, Iran, Afghanistan – this means a long robe, headcovering and veil. Here the woman is not visible at all, her eyes being behind a black cloth that allows her to see but not be seen. In some cases, as in Saudi Arabia, the eyes are not necessarily covered, but woe betide the woman who is caught with hair visible, escaping from



Arab girls at the West Theater in Umm Qays, Jordan

Other countries in the Muslim world do not legislate so strictly, or even at all. In Jordan (which has a significant - if not very large - Christian minority), for instance, the dress code is determined by the head of the family. The presence of numerous "Gulfies," from the Emirates, Saudi or Kuwait, means that the Hijab (complete covering) is not infrequent, though not the norm. In devout Muslim families – the majority - the scarf is usual. Since religious devotion in the Arab world seems to be inversely related to wealth and education, it is girls and women from the wealthier families who will be seen bareheaded. The trend seems to be that the girls take on the scarf as they reach marriageable age – or, to satisfy their husbands, upon marriage.

In recent years, however, political pressure has increased the number of young women wearing scarves. University students, who may have previously not worn a scarf, have begun to do so; some identifying with

The requirement for modest dress has not always resulted in women wearing head-coverings. The context of the newspaper article from Turkey, where the population is overwhelmingly Muslim, is that since the 1920s Turkey has been a secular state, though the present government has strong Islamist links. As recently as 1998 the army deposed an Islamist government that was trespassing too closely on Turkey's secularism.

Scarf conundrum grips Turkey - Women wearing headscarves are not allowed to enter state-controlled areas such as schools, universities, or government offices (Feb 04)

Since the headscarf ban was enforced, more than 10,000 women in Istanbul alone have been excluded from universities. "This government, because of its nature, has more responsibility to solve the problem," says Mazlumder official Gulden Sonmez. "Even Prime Minister Erdogan suffers - his daughters wear the headscarf. But he has the money to send them to the United States to be educated, so they can keep wearing the scarf. "People are hugely frustrated."