

## ISRAEL



### ISRAEL -- In Context

- ▣ Area: 7849 sq. miles (about the size of MA)
- ▣ Founded: 1949
- ▣ Population: 8.146 million (2014)
- ▣ 75% or 6.1 million are Jewish

A detailed map of Israel with labels for various regions and cities. Labels include: Lebanon, Nahariyya, Golan Heights, Haifa, Nazareth, Hadera, Netanya, West Bank, Petah Tikva, Tel Aviv, Ashdod, Ramallah, Jericho, Amman, Jordan, Jerusalem, Hebron, BeerSheba, Dikhona, Gaza City, GAZA STRIP, Egypt (Sinai), Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Gulf of Aqaba. A scale bar shows 60 miles and 60 kilometers. A button says 'CLICK HERE FOR LARGER MAP'. The map is credited to worldatlas and GraphicMaps.com.

Prime Minister Rabin – signed the Oslo Accords; assassinated in 1995  
 Prime Minister Sharon – withdrew from Sinai

Former President Shimon Peres

Current President Reuven Rivlin (elected 2014)


### ***Political Parties/Leaders/Knesset Seats (2013 Elections) (\*coalition member)***

Likud	Binyamin Netanyahu (PM)	19 *
Yesh Atid	Yair Lapid (Finance)	19 *
Labor	Isaac Herzog	15
The Jewish Home	Neftali Bennett	12 *
Yisrael Beiteinu	Avigdor Lieberman (Foreign Affairs)	12 *
Shas	Aryeh Deri	11
Un. Torah Judaism	Yaakov Litzman	7
Hatnuah	Tzipi Livni (Peace Process)	6 *
Meretz	Zahava Gal-on	6
United Arab List	Ibrahim Sarsur	4
Hadash	Muhammad Barakeh	4
Balad	Jamal Zahalka	3
Kadima	Shaul Mofaz	2

## ***THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES***

**WEST BANK -- In Context**

- ▣ **Area:** 2180 sq. miles (DE)
- ▣ **Founded:** 1967
- ▣ **Population:** 2.345 million (2014)
- ▣ More than 82% or 1.9 million are Palestinians
- ▣ Over 425,000 are Jewish settlers (all are deemed illegal)



### ***PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY***

#### ***PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)***

President Mahmud Abbas (“Abu Mazen”)

***FATAH*** (“harakat al-tahrir al-filistiniyah”)

Marwan al-Barghouti

**GAZA -- In Context**

- ▣ **Area:** 139 sq. miles (2xDC), bordering Egypt on the SW for 7 miles and Israel on the east and north for 32 miles
- ▣ **Founded:** 1949
- ▣ **Population:** 1.816 million (2014)



***HAMAS*** – (“harakat al-muqawama al-islamiyah)

Khalid Mish'al – head of the political office (now based in Turkey)

Ismail Haniya – (prime minister after 2006 elections)

Mahmud Zahar – leading Hamas ideologue

***ISLAMIC JIHAD***

## EGYPT



Muhammad Husni Mubarak (former president, 6 Oct 1981 until 11 Feb 2011)

***THE SCAF*** (Supreme Council of the Armed Forces)

Field Marshal Tantawi

President Abd al-Fatah al-Sisi (elected May 2014)

***Muslim Brotherhood (Freedom and Justice Party)***

Muhammad Mursi (former president; elected June 2012; deposed July 2013)

***“al-Nour” Party (Salifist Islamist party)***

Shaykh Hazim Salih Ismail (disqualified, but popular “al-Nour” 2012 candidate)

# SYRIA

## OVERVIEW

### AREA:

It is slightly smaller than the combined area of Pennsylvania and New York states or less than one-half the size of Iraq.

### POPULATION:

About 21 million in 2011;  
74% [Sunni Muslim](#), 13% [Shia](#) and [Alawite](#) Muslim population, 10% [Christian](#) and 3% [Druze](#); ;  
[Muslims](#) include [Arabs](#), [Kurds](#), [Circassians](#), and others, while some 10% are [Christians](#), which includes Arabs, [Assyrians/Syriacs](#), and [Armenians](#)..



## THE GOVERNMENT

**Baath** Party (“Renaissance”)

President Bashar al-Asad – president since 2000. Re-elected in June 2014

Maher al-Asad – his brother

## THE OPPOSITION

**SNC** – The Syrian National Council

**FSA** -- Free Syrian Army

**Nusra Front** (Islamist; Muslim Brotherhood)

**ISIS** (“Da’ish” – or The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria)

PYD – the strongest Kurdish resistance group – off-shoot of Turkey’s PKK

Dozens of other, smaller, largely Islamist groups

Rifaat al-Asad – former Vice President; in exile, secular Nat’l Democratic Front

## IRAQ

### IRAQ OVERVIEW

#### AREA:

168,571 sq. miles  
Size of NE, plus NY, PA,  
--CT

#### POPULATION:

About 28 million  
Baghdad -- 5.7 million  
Mosul -- 3 million  
Basrah -- 2.3 million  
Arbil -- 1.3 million



#### ***Shi'a Personalities***

Prime Minister Haidar al-Abadi; Prime Minister; Dawa Party  
Nuri al-Malaki – former PM, co-vice president, Dawa Party  
Sayyid Amaar al-Hakim (Supreme Council) or ISCI  
Muqtadar al-Sadr

Iyad Allawi – secular Shi'a leader; co-vice president

#### ***Sunni Personalities***

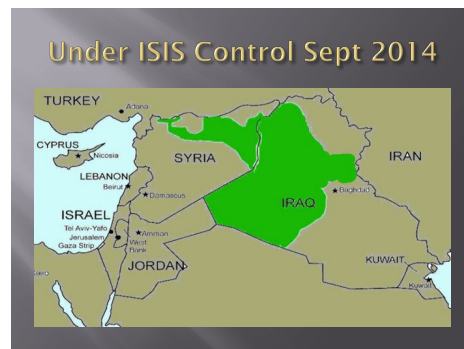
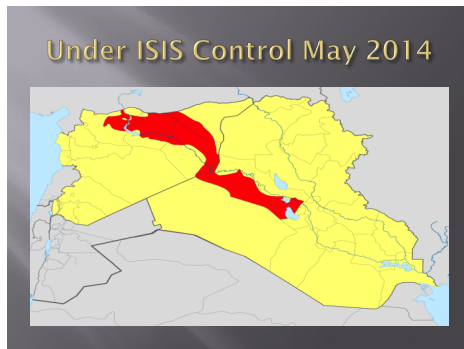
Salim al-Jaburi – Speaker of Parliament  
Osama Nujayfi – former speaker from Mosul; co-vice president  
Athil Nujayfi – governor of Mosul  
Shaykh Abu Jabbar Abu Risha – *Sahwa* or 'awakening' movements

#### ***Kurdish Personalities***

President Fuad Masum  
Former President Jalal Talabani

Masud Barzani – President, Kurdish Regional Government (KRG)  
Nechirvan Barzani, Prime Minister, KRG

## ***THE (so-called) 'ISLAMIC STATE'***



### ***ISIS Personalities***

Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (aka Ahmad Fadal al-Khalayah) – headed al-Qa'ida in Iraq and later The Islamic State in Iraq

Abu Ayad al-Masri

Abu Omar al-Baghdadi

Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi (aka Ibrahim Awad al-Samarrai), ISIS, now self-proclaimed Caliph of the Islamic State

Izz al-Din al-Duri – former Saddam Deputy; drawn from the Islamist wing of the Baath Party; organizing former regime supporters in support of the IS

### ***Cities –***

Al-Raqqa – IS capital in Syria (former Abbasid capital)

Mosul – Iraq

Aleppo – formerly Syria's largest city and commercial center