



## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- We learn from Professor Dershowitz that, "Between 1948 and 1967, despite the armistice, Arab terrorists continued to infiltrate Israeli borders and to injure and kill Israeli citizens. This was part of an official policy by the surrounding governments and by leaders of local Palestinian groups." Considering Israel's staunch attitude of peace towards its neighbors, why are so many surrounding countries, and the Palestinians, so hostile towards Israel? Do you think that any Arab nations will attack Israel again in light of the fact that Israel always wins military conflicts? Why or why not?
- We learn in the video that when the transfer of populations occurred, Arab immigrants were not much welcomed into the surrounding Arab countries and did not assimilate well, but that, "...Israel, on the other hand, fully integrated all the Jewish refugees from Arab countries into Israeli society, where many of their descendants now serve in the highest positions of Israeli life." Why do you think this was the case? What values are reflected on each side in regards to each side's differing approaches to dealing with an influx of like populations?
- Professor Dershowitz explains that in terms of relations with its neighbors, Israel, "...has needed the sword to survive. But its preference has always been for the pen...". What exactly does he mean by this? What is Professor Dershowitz referencing here? Why do you think that Israel takes such a civilized and mature approach to dealing with nations that are still so hyper-focused on being hateful and violent towards it?
- We learn early on in the video that the U.N., along with some Jewish lawyers, played a significant role in helping to establish the modern nation-state of Israel, especially from a legal standpoint. However, Professor Dershowitz points out that now Israel's, "...origins -- and therefore its very legitimacy -- have been questioned by the General Assembly of the United Nations, [and] by numerous member nations..." Why do think this is happening? What about the U.N. has changed so drastically as to end up in the absurd position of questioning the legitimacy of a nation-state that it helped to create in the first place?
- At the end of the video, Professor Dershowitz contends that this global repudiation of Israel and Israel's right to exist, since it is exclusive to Israel, can rationally be explained, "In only one way: It is pure bigotry. And there's a word for this bigotry. Anti-Semitism." Do you think Professor Dershowitz's conclusion is true? Why or why not? In terms of Anti-Semitism, Professor Dershowitz asks, "If you have a better explanation for why the one country in the world whose right to exist is denied is also the one country that is the nation-state of the Jewish people, I ask you, what is it?" How would you answer his question?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: U.N. Human Rights Committees

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Iran Wins Top Spots on U.N. Human Rights Committees,” then answer the questions that follow.

- Do you think that this article provides some explanation of how the U.N. has changed since the founding of the modern nation-state of Israel? Why or why not?
- Miss Bayefsky characterizes the election of the U.N. representative from Iran to human rights committees as a farce, citing the example of Iran’s representative getting elected to U.N. Economic and Social Council’s Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and warns of the ‘real consequences;’ such as when, “At its annual session in March 2014, the CSW adopted only one resolution critical of only one country on earth for violating women’s rights—Israel, violating the rights of Palestinian women.” Do you think that this example strongly supports Professor Dershowitz’s claim of Anti-Semitism, due to the only Jewish nation-state being singled out? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the motivation and fundamental source of Anti-Semitism in the world today? What might some solutions to this problem be?



# QUIZ

## ISRAEL'S LEGAL FOUNDING

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1. Unlike almost every other country, \_\_\_\_\_ were the midwives of Israel's re-birth.
  - a. Rabbis
  - b. doctors
  - c. lawyers
  - d. generals
  
2. In history, how many times has Israel existed as an independent country?
  - a. Zero
  - b. One
  - c. Two
  - d. Three
  
3. Which of the following steps did Israel take to nationhood?
  - a. The Balfour Declaration (1917)
  - b. The League of Nations Resolution (1922)
  - c. The United Nations Partition Plan (1947)
  - d. All of the above.
  
4. The General Assembly of the United Nations has questioned the legitimacy of Israel and what other country?
  - a. Egypt
  - b. France
  - c. Iran
  - d. None
  
5. Was Israel created legally?
  - a. Yes
  - b. No



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<http://freebeacon.com/national-security/iran-wins-top-spots-on-u-n-human-rights-committees/>

## Iran Wins Top Spots on U.N. Human Rights Committees

Iran in charge of women's rights, human rights



Public execution in Iran / AP

BY: [Adam Kredo Follow @Kredo0](#)

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Iran has been [appointed](#) to several key United Nations committees that oversee the protection of women's rights and global human rights.

Iran—which leads the world in executions and recently ordered the hanging a 26-year-old rape victim—was voted late Wednesday into a [coveted spot on](#) the U.N. Economic and Social Council's Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Tehran's representative at the United Nations will now serve a four-year term on the committee, which is tasked with protecting women's rights across the globe.

Iran also won a spot on the leading U.N. committee that oversees the work of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a move that has sparked fear among advocacy groups that are worried Iran will now be in a position to silence their work.

The NGO committee in particular is "a coveted position because it allows governments to silence criticism by acting as the gatekeeper and overseer of all human rights groups that seek to work inside the world body," according to [U.N. Watch](#), which tracks oppressive regimes at the U.N.

A number of other repressive regimes were also voted onto the committee, including Azerbaijan, China, Cuba, Russia, and Sudan, among others.

"Today is a black day for human rights," Hillel Neuer, U.N. Watch's executive director, said in a statement. "By empowering the perpetrators over the victims, the U.N. harms the cause of human rights, betrays its founding principles, and undermines its own credibility."

Iran's new role on the women's rights commission elicited shock from human rights observers who have long criticized Tehran for its oppressive policies and lackluster human rights record.

"This election farce has real consequences," said Anne Bayefsky, director of The Touro Institute on Human Rights and the Holocaust ([IHRH](#)). "At its annual session in March 2014, the CSW adopted only one resolution critical of only one country on earth for violating women's rights—Israel, violating the rights of Palestinian women."

Iran first got into the CSW in 2011.

"So the question is, why do Western democracies like the United States legitimize these elections and their inevitable consequences, and then pay for their operations year-round?" asked Bayefsky.

The Commission on the Status of Women is the U.N.'s "principal global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to gender equality and advancement of women," [according](#) to the commission's website.

Iran will now have a role in evaluating "progress on gender equality, identify challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide."

Iran executed more than 500 people last year and is on pace to top that number this year. The regime recently [upheld the execution order](#) for a 26-year-old Iranian woman who stabbed a man while he was trying to rape her.

Iran's ascent to these top roles on critical human rights committee's has already provoked outrage.

"Tragically, the U.N.'s election today of regimes such as Iran, Sudan and Mauritania—governments that rape and torture political prisoners, subjugate women, and commit crimes against humanity from slavery to genocide—sends a message that crass politics trumps basic human rights," Neuer said. "The U.N. is letting down millions of victims around the globe who look to the world body for vital protection."

The addition of Iran and China to the committee overseeing NGOs is likely to spark a crackdown on the advocacy work these groups do.

U.N. Watch, for instance, has been subject to spying by Chinese groups posing as NGOs. Neuer expects these types of incidents to increase.

“The very U.N. committee that is meant to judge our complaint against this dangerous [Chinese] front group is now stacked more than ever before by China, Sudan, and their non-democratic allies, who control some 70 percent of the seats,” he said in a statement. “When the criminals are made the judges—the arsonists named as fire-fighters—it’s a travesty of justice. The crucial role of civil society within the world body is being eroded, its voice at risk of being silenced.”

Iran also won slots on the Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the Committee for Programme Coordination.



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Adam Kredo is senior writer for the *Washington Free Beacon*. Formerly an award-winning political reporter for the *Washington Jewish Week*, where he frequently broke national news, Kredo’s work has been featured in outlets such as the *Jerusalem Post*, the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, and *Politico*, among others. He lives in Maryland with his comic books. His Twitter handle is [@Kredo0](#). His email address is [kredo@freebeacon.com](mailto:kredo@freebeacon.com).