STUDY GUIDE

WHY DON'T YOU SUPPORT ISRAEL?

KEY TERMS:

ally	rational	defensive
human rights	startup nation	anti-Semitism

NOTE-TAKING COLUMN: *Complete this section <u>during</u> the video. Include definitions and key terms.*	**CUE COLUMN:** *Complete this section <u>after</u> the video.*
How many of Israel's military actions have been from an offensive position?	Why does Prime Minister Harper support Israel?
In what year did Israel survive a second all-out attack from its Arab neighbors?	Who is not supportive of Israel?
When did Israel withdraw from the Gaza Strip?	

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- At the beginning of the video, Prime Minister Harper notes that, "When I was Prime Minister of Canada, I was often asked this question: "Why do you support Israel?" My response, in effect, was always the same. Why wouldn't I support Israel?" Why do you think that so many people question and challenge Prime Minister Harper about his support for Israel? What do you think of his standard response? Explain.

- Further along in the video, Prime Minister Harper explains that, "Any nation that has endured what Israel has endured could easily have become a police state. But through it all Israel has never abandoned its commitment to the rule of law, to democracy, to tolerance. One fifth of its citizens are Muslim. They enjoy the same rights as Jewish citizens. They occupy key positions in the nation's courts, press and government. And they have their own parties representing them in the Knesset, Israel's parliament. To say that Muslims in Israel are the freest Muslims in the region is an understatement." Why do you think that despite violent attacks from its neighbors and despite condemnation from anti-Semitic groups around the world, Israel continues to be such a free, tolerant, and upstanding nation? What do you think that Israel values so deeply and chooses to be such an outstanding model of democracy? Explain.

- Prime Minister Harper goes on to share with us that, "Through all the wars and all the terror, Israel has survived and, especially in the last twenty years, it has thrived. It is known as "startup nation" and with good reason. Key components of your cell phone and your laptop were designed in Israel. A drug or a medical device that has saved your life or the life of a loved one may well have been developed in Israel." What factors do you think have contributed to Israel's amazing resilience and survival? What do you think the relationship is between Israel's freedom and democracy and its thriving, impressive innovation? Explain.

- Later in the video, Prime Minister Harper points out that, "...there are Leftist politicians, activists, artists, academics and college students who devote their lives to denouncing Israel; calling for boycotts, demanding it be cut off from academic and professional societies," then asks, "Do these haters of Israel question the legitimacy of any other democratic nation? Of any nation, for that matter? Of course, the answer is 'no.' Somehow they only manage to oppose the Jewish one," and concludes that, "With all the brutal and violent regimes not only in the Middle East, but around the world how is one to explain singling out Israel for condemnation? Sadly, only one explanation fits – anti-Semitism." Why do you think that so many groups, especially some college students, denounce support for Israel? Why do you think that these Israel-opposers exclusively single out Israel? Explain. Do you agree with Prime Minister Harper that the only logical explanation for the Israel-condemners is anti-Semitism? Why or why not?

- At the end of the video, Prime Minister Harper asks, "The State of Israel has now existed for 70 years. It is one of the freest, most prosperous, most successful nations on earth. Why do I support Israel? Why wouldn't I? Why wouldn't anyone?" How would you answer his last question? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Israeli Medical Innovation

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Immunotherapy treatments being developed in Israel offer new hope for cancer patients,” then answer the questions that follow.

- What is immunotherapy? What types of cancers is this therapy already being used on? What exactly drew Dr. Karin to immunotherapy research? What is the ICRF, and what does it do? How many grant proposals did it receive in 2017? What is The Immunotherapy Promise? What is Dr. Neta Milman working on with her grant? Who is Dr. Michal Lotem, and what is this researcher working on? Who is Gideon Gross, and what does his team focus on?

- Why do you think that some nations are fanatically devoted to the destruction of Israel- a country that does so much good for the world? How do you think that Israel’s impressive record of innovation, especially in medical and desalinization technology that it readily shares with other nations (even its violent neighbors), compares to the record of its neighboring countries. Explain.

- Do you think that Prime Minister Harper makes a compelling case in the video? If yes, what were the most convincing pieces of reasoning and evidence? If no, what reasoning and evidence would be needed to persuade you?

QUIZ

WHY DON'T YOU SUPPORT ISRAEL?

1. **Every military action Israel has ever taken has been _____.**

   a. to oppress the Palestinians
   b. to aid the United States
   c. politically motivated
   d. to protect itself

2. **Which country came to Israel's aid in 1948?**

   a. The United States
   b. The United Kingdom
   c. Canada
   d. None

3. **Muslims in Israel are the freest Muslims in the region.**

   a. True
   b. False

4. **Which of the following countries has Israel achieved peace with?**

   a. Iraq
   b. Jordan
   c. Lebanon
   d. None

5. **What explains the singling out of Israel for condemnation?**

   a. Apartheid.
   b. Human rights violations.
   c. Anti-Semitism.
   d. War crimes.

QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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https://www.jta.org/2018/07/05/israel/immunotherapy-treatments-developed-israel-offer-new-hope-cancer-patients

Immunotherapy treatments being developed in Israel offer new hope for cancer patients

By Michele Chabin July 5, 2018 4:20 pm

Neta Milman, a scientist at the Rambam Clinical Research Institute in Haifa, is researching pancreatic tumors with an eye toward developing immunotherapy treatments for cancer. (ICRF)

This article is sponsored by the Israel Cancer Research Fund.

JERUSALEM – There's a war raging in Israel with life and death consequences worldwide.

This war does not involve tanks, drones or tunnels, and the enemy is not Iran, Hamas or Hezbollah.

Rather the war is being waged in science labs and the battlefield is the human body. The enemy: cancer.

Israeli scientists are experimenting with a new weapon in this war: immunotherapy, which manipulates one's immune system to identify, fight and destroy cancer cells.

While immunotherapy has been around for decades, new advances in the field coupled with recent drug approvals from the U.S. Food & Drug Administration have intensified interest in immunotherapy and its applications for cancer treatment, especially late-stage cancers that resist conventional treatments. Immunotherapy drugs already are helping patients with melanoma, lung, stomach, liver and bladder cancers, as well as some blood cancers.

"Recent developments in immunotherapy have ushered in a medical revolution, representing a real paradigm shift in cancer treatment," said Dr. Mark Israel, national executive director of the Israel Cancer Research Fund, which funds cancer research in the Jewish state.

"Cancer immunotherapy is exciting because, as opposed to other forms of therapy, it engages the body's own highly sensitive system for detecting cancer cells and destroying them," Israel said. "This area will have a major impact on cancer outcomes going forward."

That potential is partly what drew Dr. Nathan Karin, an Israeli immunologist at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, to immunotherapy research. He's studying whether the cellular mechanisms driving autoimmune diseases like Type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis can be utilized to create immunotherapy drugs to fight cancer.

Karin and his team are researching the interplay between two types of cells vital to the immune system: regulatory T cells and effector T cells. Regulatory T cells help tame immune system responses and prevent autoimmune diseases. But by suppressing effector T cells, they impede the immune system's ability to fight cancer.

"We believe that if you amplify regulatory T cells you can treat autoimmune disease, and if you block their activity you can thwart cancer," Karin said.

Karin is among dozens of Israeli cancer researchers receiving financial support from the Israel Cancer Research Fund. For the organization, which raises money in North America to support cancer research in Israel, one of the big challenges is deciding which promising research projects to fund. ICRF received 160 grant proposals in 2017 alone and can fund only a fraction.

That's where a new partnership with the U.S.-based Cancer Research Institute, known as CRI, comes in. Starting next year, ICRF and CRI will be partnering to identify and fund the most promising immunotherapy research being conducted in Israel.

A joint scientific review panel including expert researchers and doctors from around the U.S. and Canada who are involved with ICRF and CRI will meet every fall to evaluate the most promising Israeli immunotherapy research proposals, judging them on the basis of innovation, feasibility and likelihood of impact. The initiative is called The Immunotherapy Promise.

The FDA approved the first immunotherapy drug recently, but the field dates back to 1891, when William Coley, a physician and cancer researcher, observed that some cancer patients infected by Streptococcus bacteria experienced a dramatic and spontaneous improvement. He began injecting the bacteria into his patients, with mixed results.

The treatment was nearly abandoned amid skepticism from Coley's peers and the advent of radiotherapy and improved surgical techniques.

Today, however, new avenues of immunotherapy research are underway, and the field is considered among the most promising new approaches to cancer treatment, according to Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, CEO and director of scientific affairs at CRI.

"There's still more research that needs to be done in order to realize immunotherapy's full potential," O'Donnell-Tormey said. "By partnering with the Israel Cancer Research Fund, which is well known among Israel's top academic research centers, we will be able to support more lifesaving science in a country that is home to some of the world's most talented research scientists."

Neta Milman, a scientist at the Laboratory for Applied Cancer Research at the Rambam Clinical Research Institute in Haifa, is among ICRF's recent grantees. She is studying tumors called pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma, or PDAC. These tumors contain mostly non-cancerous cells that include a group of immune cells that promote tumor growth by producing small particles that transport genetic information to cancer cells. The small particles are called exosomes.

"We're trying to figure out what the exosomes are sending to the cancer cells," Milman said. Exosomes one day could be a cancer-treatment delivery system because they can be engineered to target cancer cells, she said.

Dr. Michal Lotem, who heads the Center for Melanoma and Cancer Immunotherapy at Sharett Institute of Oncology at Hebrew University's Hadassah Medical Center in Jerusalem, is receiving funding to support work on a new checkpoint receptor called SLAMF6, a protein found in immune cells. When activated, these receptors modulate the immune response so that there isn't too strong a response against normal tissues. But when it comes to cancer, the goal is to inhibit these receptor proteins so that the immune response against cancer will be as strong as possible.

"If you target this protein effectively, it can double or triple the effect of immune cells when they attack their target, Lotem said.

Gideon Gross and his team at MIGAL-Galilee Research Institute in the northern Israeli city of Kiryat Shemona are developing immune gene therapies, a treatment where a patient's T-cells are modified in a lab in order to attack cancer cells.

Gross, a pioneer in the field, together with Z. Eshhar at the Weizmann Institute of Science created in the 1980s the first chimeric antigen receptors, or CARs – cancer-fighting molecules constructed in the laboratory and inserted into T-cells. For his ICRF project, Gross hopes to improve the performance of CAR T-cells.

For Karin of the Technion, who is well known for cutting-edge research into autoimmune diseases like MS, the Israel Cancer Research Fund's backing enabled his first foray into cancer research.

"ICRF's support was the motivation for me to get into cancer immunotherapy research," Karin said. "Now most of our attention in the lab is on melanoma. Without them we wouldn't be doing what we're doing."