

# Introduction: Israel among the Nations

1. Jewish society emphasizes victimization more so than other religions, probably because Judaism was originally a very small minority in a Muslim-dominant Middle East. Therefore, Judaism emphasizes not belonging to one of the major religions and being a minority as its key tenets.
2. Israelites are simply the people that live in the Israel religion; they don't have a religion, they are just an ethnic group. Jewish people follow Judaism.
3. **First Temple Period:** origins of Israel → destruction of Judean Southern Kingdom. **Second Temple Period:** Jews return to Jerusalem and build the Second Temple → Romans destroy the temple
4. Whoever was in power in Israel either caused Jews to go into exile or to stay in Israel. Examples include the Assyrians who exiled the Jews in 722 BCE and then the Persians who allowed them to come back 538 BCE.
5. Ashkenazic Jews established settlements in Germany and France and made up of the Jewish population before the Holocaust, which decimated it.
6. Because Islam was the dominant religion in the Middle East at the time of Judaism's origin, Judaism adopted Islamic "philosophical and exegetical" disciplines. As for Christianity, both religions have a great deal in common as Christianity is derived from Judaism. However, Jews are sometimes vilified as they are viewed as the people who killed Jesus Christ, Christianity's main figure.