Israel, the diaspora and Jewish identity


**Summary**

Jews, like everyone else, have multiple identities and Israel is only one aspect of Jewish identity that has to compete and coexist with many other Jewish and non-Jewish factors. This book explores what it is about Israel that resonates or not with Diaspora Jews, leading them to place Israel above, alongside or below competing or complementary considerations in their identity.
Diaspora Jews are increasingly likely to criticize Israel and support Palestinian rights. In the USA, Europe, and elsewhere, Jewish organizations have sprung up to oppose Israel’s treatment of Palestinians, facing harsh criticism from fellow Jews for their actions. Why and how has this movement come about? What does it mean for Palestinians and for diaspora Jews? Jewish Id

The Jewish diaspora (Hebrew: Tfutza, נמע, Heb: Galut, מים; Yiddish: Golus) refers to the dispersion of Israelites or Jews out of their ancestral homeland (the Land of Israel) and their subsequent settlement in other parts of the globe. In terms of the Hebrew Bible, the term "Exile" denotes the fate of the Israelites who were taken into exile from the Kingdom of Israel during the 8th century BCE, and the Judahites from the Kingdom of Judah who were taken into exile during the 6th century BCE. Eisen noted that following the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel, Diaspora Jews barely needed a particular connection to Judaism as a religion to feel Jewish “because history was impinging on you,” but said that in today’s generation the intensity of those historical events is less keenly felt, and so too the connection to the Jewish people is weaker. Having Israel changes Jewish existence in the 21st century, and not to make it part of Jewish education and Jewish identity is a wasted opportunity.”

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