



IDENTITY POLITICS: *The Dual Sense Of Self*

Israel Returns
THE ISRAEL FOREVER
FOUNDATION

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What does it mean to speak the “oppressor’s language”? For Jews, who is the oppressor?
- Why do you think that many still carry their Soviet identity embedded within their Jewish identity?
- Do you feel this “double identity” is unique to Russian Jews? If so, why? If not, why not?
- How do you think this is different for Soviet Jews living in Israel vs. Soviet Jews living in the Diaspora?
- Zionist records in the 1980s presented figures in the tens of thousands for the number of families who allegedly wished to emigrate to Israel. Why do you think this was? On the basis of what information do you think they came to the desire to leave the oppression of the Soviet Union for the struggles of building a life in a new country, new culture, and a reality of fighting for ones existence among unfriendly Arab neighbors?
- Do you feel that the language of the oppressor remains a part of current mainstream rhetoric? Is there something that you have experienced as a Jew that makes you feel this way?