

<p><i>"The 'core' characteristics shaping the minimum definition of the State of Israel as a Jewish State come from the aspects of both Zionism and heritage. At their center stands the right of every Jew to immigrate to the State of Israel, where the Jews will constitute a majority; Hebrew is the official and principal language of the State and most of its feasts and symbols reflect the national revival of the Jewish People; The heritage of the Jewish People is a central component of its religious and cultural legacy".</i></p> <p>Aharon Barak, former Supreme Court Justice</p> <p>DISCUSS: How does this make you feel personally as a Jew?</p>	<p><i>"If there is one constant in our dynamic and ever changing world, it is that Israel is not only held to a higher standard than every other country, but that it is held to an impossible, ever-changing standard — a standard that is applied to no one else. There is a term for discriminating against the world's only Jewish state by holding it to a different standard than is applied to all other countries: it is "antisemitism." And that, is something all people (and certainly all Jews) should oppose, even those who are not supporters of the Jewish "nation-state" law."</i></p> <p>Micha Danzig</p> <p>Discuss: Do you agree that Israel is held to a different standard or treated differently than other countries? Why or why not?</p>
<p><i>"Israel is the only Jewish State, and this law tells us what that means, just as other Basic Laws tell us what goes into its democratic foundations. Laws that protect the equal rights of Israel's citizens must be balanced with similar protections of Israel's flag and anthem and the original vision of the country as not just a refuge".</i></p> <p>DISCUSS: How can we help people understand Israel as both a "Jewish state" that protects and celebrates Jewish identity, and a liberal democracy that protects the rights of all minorities, including non-Jews?</p>	<p><i>"The Jewish state's rebirth was the result of the Jewish people's physical and legal assertion of their national right to self-determination in their ancient homeland, and the international community's de jure recognition of that right. Being a Jewish State was, and remains, the reason for Israel's existence under international law."</i></p> <p>DISCUSS: Is a Jewish state, just like any state in the world, not entitled to reiterate its support for settlement construction as articulated in its Declaration of Independence?</p>
<p><i>The diversity of Israeli Society has resulted in some advances to the definition of "a Jewish and Democratic State" which includes efforts to appease the interests of all parties involved: "A Torah State" (Halachic state), "National-Religious State", "National Culture State", "The State of the Jewish People", "The Jewish State", and "The Jewish State and the State of all its citizens".</i></p> <p>DISCUSS: Does this positively or negatively affect diaspora/ international opinions of Israel? How and why?</p>	<p><i>"The nation-state law reaffirms some of the key ideas that always lay at the heart of the Zionist project, bringing about the correct balance of "Jewish" and "democratic" that has always been the secret sauce that makes Israel work."</i></p> <p>David Hazony</p> <p>DISCUSS: If Arabs in Israel have more rights than in any Arab/ Muslim country in the world, on the basis of Jewish ethical and social practice, why do people consider a "Jewish democratic state" a contradiction in terms?</p>
<p><i>"It is the natural right of the Jewish people to live like every other nation as a free people in its own sovereign state. A state to which every Jew is entitled to ascend and in which the ingathering of the exiles is among the most basic values."</i></p> <p>Aharon Barak, former Supreme Court Justice</p> <p>DISCUSS: Why is the nationalism of Israel as the Jewish State problematic when so many other nations have a declaration of ethnic and/or religious rulership?</p>	<p><i>"In the Land of Israel the Jewish people arose. Here its spiritual, religious and political character was forged, here it lived a life of national independence, here it created its national and universal cultural treasures and bequeathed to the entire world the eternal Book of Books."</i></p> <p>DISCUSS: How does this make you feel as a Jew living outside the land?</p>