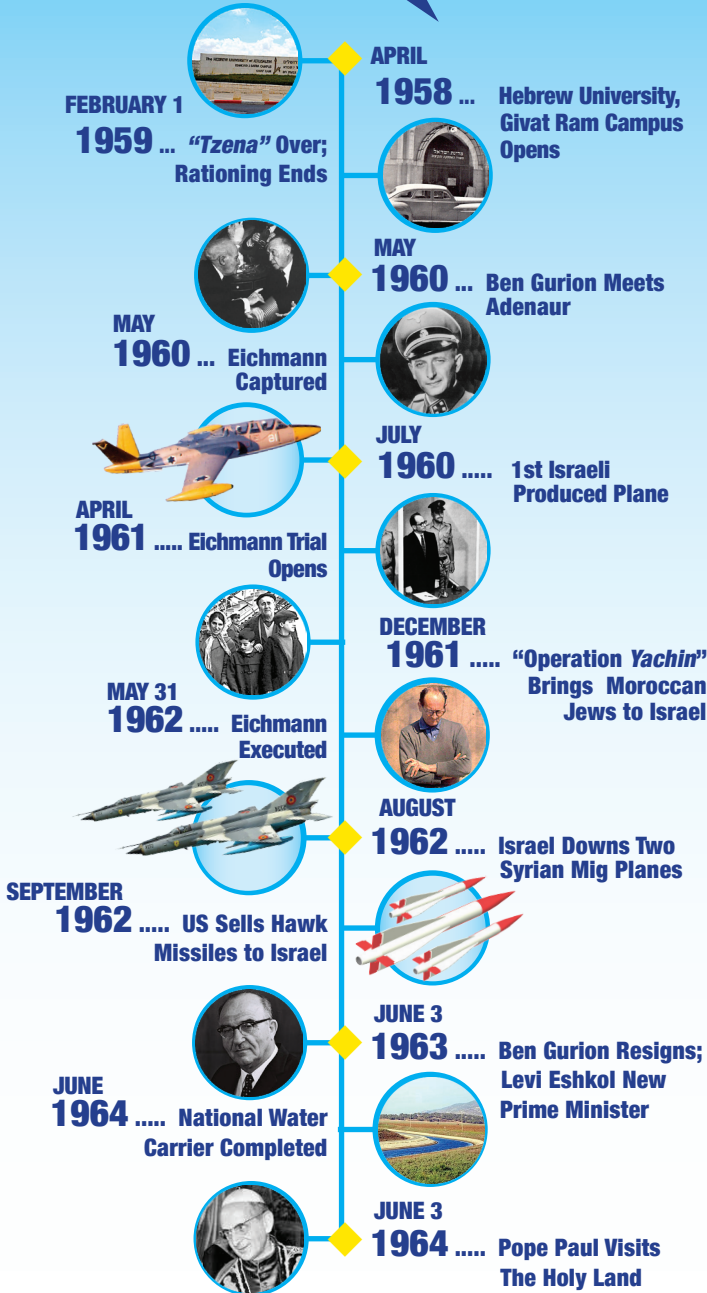


HISTORY OF ISRAEL

[THE EARLY 1960s]

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Consequently, President Eisenhower told French Premier Guy Mollet it was not worth selling arms to Israel, since 1.7 million Jews could never defend themselves against 40 million Arabs.

After its impressive 1956 victory, questions regarding Israel's chance of survival were eliminated. The nine years following the Sinai Campaign were years of sustained economic growth; while Jews from both Eastern Europe and North Africa continued to stream in.

During this period, two totally unrelated events took place which profoundly impacted Israel. The first was the completion of the National Water Carrier, which brought water from the Sea of Galilee all the way to the Negev. The National Water Carrier provided the water that allowed the development of the southern part of the country. The National Water Carrier, together with recycled sewage water, allowed Israeli agriculture to blossom.

The second transformational event was the capture and subsequent trial of Adolf Eichmann, one of the central architects of the Holocaust. Eichmann was captured in Argentina and flown to Israel, where his trial took place from April to December 1961.

The trial riveted the nation. Until then, survivors were reluctant to tell their stories — even to their closest relatives. As a result of the Eichmann trial, many survivors related their experiences to a national audience. This allowed others to tell their stories as well. For the first time, the Israeli public began to understand the horrific dimensions of the Holocaust.

The Sinai Campaign was, in effect, Israel's second war of Independence — much the same way the War of 1812 was for the USA. Before the 1956 war, many still questioned whether Israel would survive.

