



Israel Shines

*Overcoming the odds & making
the world a better place*

Produced by **StandWithUs**

Israel

represents resilience and hope.

It is a nation of indigenous people who overcame 1,900 years of oppression to achieve freedom in their ancestral home.

Despite their flaws and challenges, Israelis find countless ways to shine and make the world a better place.



In the entire Middle East, only Israel received a number-one rating for political rights from Freedom House, which evaluates democracy and freedom around the world.



There are 130 Christian-majority countries in the world, 49 Islamic, and three Hindu. Israel is the only Jewish-majority country in the world and has been the Jewish homeland for over 3,000 years.



Jerusalem is the only city in the world with ancient sites that are holy to Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Israel safeguards free access to holy places and each religious group's right to administer its own holy sites.



Israel protects minority rights, and Israelis actively working to advance social and economic equality. Israeli Arabs have served in the Knesset since Israel's reestablishment in 1948. Arab Supreme Court Justice Salim Joubran oversaw Israel's national elections in 2015, and Arabic-speaking Christian high school students lead Israel in academic achievement.



In Israel, gender equality is enshrined in law. Women pursue all careers, make up the majority of students in higher education, serve in the military and prominent government positions, and have full reproductive rights and personal freedoms.



Israel is the only Middle Eastern country where the Christian population has grown in the last half-century.



In Israel, LGBTQ people have been able to fight for their rights and win.



**Israel's \$350 billion economy (2017)
is ranked 20th out of 140 countries in
global competitiveness by the World
Economic Forum.**



Israelis have the third-highest number of university degrees per capita in the world.



Israel ranks fourth in the world in scientific papers published per capita and has one of the world's highest per capita rates of approved patents.



Since 2000, Israelis have won three times more Nobel Prizes per capita in science and economics than the next highest-ranked countries.



Israeli scientists Dr. Avram Hershko (left) and Dr. Aaron Ciechanover (right) won a Nobel Prize for research that could lead to new treatments and cures for diseases like Alzheimer's and Parkinson's as well as genetic disorders.



VENTURE CAPITAL

**Israel attracts more venture capital
investments per capita than any other
country in the world.**



**An Israeli company, Iscar Metalworking,
was the first foreign company ever
purchased by investor Warren Buffett
of Berkshire Hathaway.**



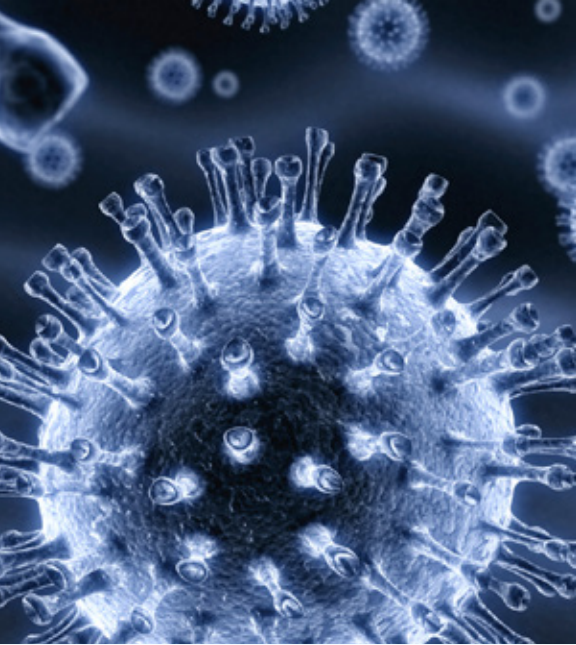
Israel has the most high-tech start-up companies per capita in the world, and it is the tenth most innovative country according to Bloomberg.



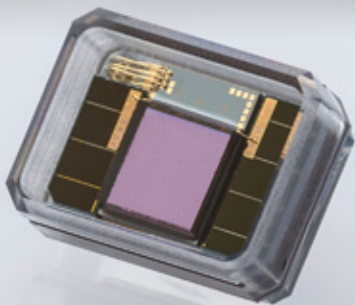
Israeli company Phinergy invented a battery that can power vehicles using only water and air.



An Israeli company, Given Imaging, pioneered the PillCam, an ingestible video camera that allows pain-free, noninvasive visualization of the small intestine and esophagus to detect disease.



Israeli scientists developed an AIDS treatment that targets and destroys 40 percent of HIV-infected cells without affecting healthy cells.



An Israeli company, Nano Retina, is developing an artificial retina to restore sight to the visually impaired.



An Israeli company developed ReWalk™, the first commercially viable upright walking assistance tool, enabling paraplegics to stand, walk, and climb stairs.



**An Israeli company developed
a computerized system for
administering medications in order
to prevent human error.**



Israel exports more life-saving medical technology than any other country of similar size.



An Israeli scientist discovered a natural bacterium that combats river blindness, helping to protect the people of 11 African nations.



Israel was among the first on the scene after the 2010 Haiti earthquake to provide disaster relief. “The Israeli hospital...is the paramount medical center operating in Haiti. ...It receives the cases that other hospitals find difficult to manage.”

–Time



An Israeli nonprofit organization called Save a Child's Heart performs free open-heart surgeries for underprivileged children from around the world, regardless of race, religion, or ethnicity. Almost 50 percent of the patients are from Iraq, Syria, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority, Gaza, Morocco, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, and Afghanistan.



Israeli company Netafim invented drip irrigation, helping farmers on six continents conserve water and maximize efficiency.



Israel leads the world in water recycling and is using its technology to help people all over the world overcome water scarcity.



Israel was the first country in the world to adopt the Kimberley Process, an international standard that certifies diamonds as “conflict free.”



The Waze navigation app, instant messaging, firewall security software, Intel wireless computer chips, the Windows NT operating system, voicemail technology, VOIP technology, and the USB drive were all developed in Israel.

Imagine If

Israel no longer faced hostility from its neighbors and could focus more of its attention on social progress, humanitarian aid, medical research, scientific breakthroughs, and technological innovations.

Imagine Peace

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