

World History in the News. As an extension of our study of western religions and as a preview of issues related to our capstone project on the Old City of Jerusalem, please read and be prepared to have a discussion tomorrow about Elizabeth Warren vs. President Trump's position on the State of Israel.

[Democratic Candidates Position on Israel](#)

This idea is that by birth, despite having no familial connections to Israel, Jews across the world have the right to visit Israel. It mirrors Israel's Law of Return, which grants all Jews, regardless of where they were born, the right to settle and eventually become citizens of Israel. What some take issue with is that this right is not granted to Palestinians who were born in cities and villages that Israel has since occupied or settled. In fact, the Israeli government does not recognize Palestinian refugees' right of return, a stance that defies international law. This means that a Palestinian born in the city of Haifa in 1945 who was displaced by Zionist militaries in 1948 would not be allowed to return to Haifa today, but a Jewish person from Michigan whose family has never stepped foot in or near Haifa can be invited for free via Birthright Israel.

Elizabeth Warren has pivoted to progressive.

Elizabeth Warren's views on Palestine and Israel have changed drastically over the past few years, making it difficult to pin down her stance. Once seen as a "hawkish supporter of Israel," today she sides with Sanders on many issues concerning the region: she supports a two-state solution, an end to the occupation, and restoring funds to UNRWA (UN Agency that assists Palestinian refugees in the Middle East). She also voted against anti-BDS (Palestinian Boycott of Israel) in February. Only five years ago, however, she supported the aforementioned Israeli invasion of Gaza, which killed nearly 1,500 civilians in 2014. "Israel has a right to defend itself," she said that summer.

More recently, though, Warren has surprised some by showing increasingly progressive views on the issue, like when she came to the defense of Rep. Ilhan Omar earlier this year after Omar was accused of anti-Semitism for criticizing pro-Israel lobby AIPAC. "Branding criticism of Israel as automatically anti-Semitic has a chilling effect on our public discourse and makes it harder to achieve a peaceful solution between Israelis and Palestinians," Warren said in a statement at the time.

"I believe in the worth and value of every Israeli and every Palestinian," she told the Council on Foreign Relations earlier this month. "I will oppose incitement to violence and support for terrorism by Palestinian extremists like Hamas." Though she called the situation in Gaza a "man-made humanitarian catastrophe," she did not mention the incitement to violence and terrorism imposed by Israel on Palestinians.

When VICE reached out to Warren for comment, her campaign directed us to her interview with the Council on Foreign Relations.

[President Trump's Position on Israel](#)