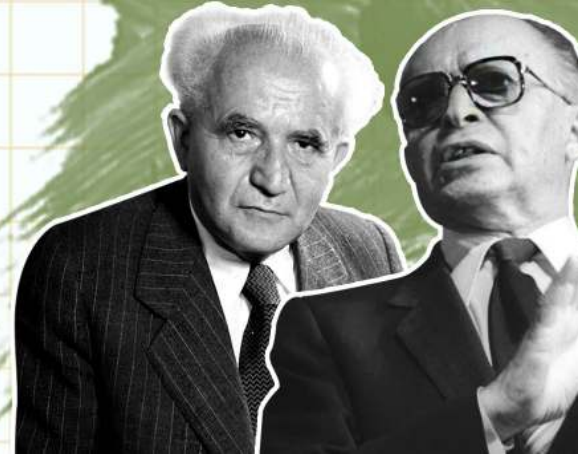


# THE PRIME MINISTERS

## BEGIN VS. BEN GURION



### Section 1: Additional resources

- Menachem Begin, *The Revolt*
  - Dr. Noam Weissman, "What Can We Learn from the Altalena?"  
[http://jewishjournal.com/cover\\_story/235375/can-learn-altalena/](http://jewishjournal.com/cover_story/235375/can-learn-altalena/)
  - Yehuda Avner, *The Prime Ministers*, pp. 149-150
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### Section 2: Discussion Questions

- Ben-Gurion once said, "If I knew Begin like I know him now, the face of history would have been different." What do you think he meant by that?
- How would you explain the strong ideological divide that occurred in the pre-state of Israel between Ben-Gurion and Jabotinsky?
- Why do you think Ben-Gurion and Begin eventually managed to respect each other?
- The rest of the world assumed a civil war would break out when Israel was established. How was it prevented, and who do you think was the bigger hero--Begin or Ben-Gurion?

### Section 3: Review - Did the students understand the material?

1. Why did Menachem Begin allow for his ship, the Altalena, to be fired upon without firing back?
  2. What did Ben-Gurion think was flawed with Jabotinsky and Begin's brand of Zionism?
  3. Before Israel was a state, Begin was the head of \_\_\_\_\_?
    - a. Hagana
    - b. Lechi
    - c. IDF
    - d. Etzel (correct answer)
  4. Did Ben-Gurion see himself as a religious man?
    - a. Yes
    - b. No (correct answer)
  5. Who opened fire on the Altalena?
    - a. Yitzchak Rabin (correct)
    - b. Yitzchak Shamir
    - c. Golda Meir
    - d. Menachem Begin
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### Section 4: Reflection Questions

- Although Israeli politicians often argue and scream at each other, they also have personal respect for one another. Are there people in your life who you openly rebuke but deep down admire?
- Do you identify more with Ben-Gurion's or Begin's brand of Zionism?
- Albert Einstein warned that Begin "preached an admixture of ultra-nationalism, religious mysticism and racial superiority." Does this dismissal of Begin make Einstein an anti-Zionist or someone who disdains a certain approach to Zionism? How do you think this question is relevant today when criticizing Israeli policies or leaders?