# Present

What is currently going on

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# Current Demographics in Israel and the Origins of Its Communities

Israel today is a diverse and vibrant society with a population comprising various demographic groups, each with unique histories and ties to the land. This chapter provides an overview of Israel's primary demographic groups, highlighting the origins and journeys that led each community to its modern-day homeland, including those who maintained a continuous presence in the region.

1. **Jews Who Maintained a Constant Presence**: Throughout centuries of exile and diaspora, a portion of the Jewish population remained in the region, particularly in cities like Jerusalem, Safed, Hebron, and Tiberias. Known as the "Old Yishuv," these communities preserved Jewish traditions and a continuous cultural presence, enduring shifts in regional rulers from the Romans and Byzantines to the Islamic Caliphates, the Crusaders, and later the Ottoman and British Empires. Despite facing occasional persecution and restrictions, these communities maintained a steadfast connection to the land and formed the foundational roots of Jewish life in Israel today.
2. **Ashkenazi Jews**: Ashkenazi Jews, originally from Central and Eastern Europe, began returning to Israel in significant numbers during the late 19th and early 20th centuries as part of the Zionist movement. Many Ashkenazi Jews sought refuge from rising anti-Semitism, pogroms, and, ultimately, the Holocaust. The establishment of Israel in 1948 led to further waves of Ashkenazi immigration, with Jews arriving from countries like Poland, Russia, Hungary, Germany, and Ukraine. Today, Ashkenazi Jews represent a significant segment of Israel's Jewish population, contributing richly to its cultural, scientific, and educational landscapes.
3. 3. **Sephardic Jews**: The Sephardic Jewish community, originally from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal), resettled across the Mediterranean following their expulsion during the Inquisition. Many migrated to the Ottoman Empire, North Africa, and parts of the Middle East, eventually making their way back to Israel in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Sephardic Jews brought with them traditions from Spain and Portugal, influencing Israel's music, cuisine, and religious practices. Today, they form a distinct community that enriches Israel's multicultural society.
4. **Mizrahi Jews**: Mizrahi Jews hail from the Middle Eastern and North African regions where they had lived for centuries, including Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Egypt, and Iran. Many Mizrahi Jews began returning to Israel in large waves after its establishment in 1948, due to rising anti-Semitic sentiments, political changes, and, in some cases, forced expulsions from

Arab countries. This community brought with it a deep heritage of Middle Eastern Jewish traditions, language, and religious practices, and now makes up a substantial portion of Israel's Jewish population, particularly shaping its music, food, and social customs.

5. **Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jews)**: The Beta Israel, or Ethiopian Jewish community, maintained Jewish traditions in Ethiopia for centuries, isolated from other Jewish communities. In the late 20th century, facing political instability and persecution in Ethiopia, they began migrating to Israel through operations such as Operation Moses (1984) and Operation Solomon (1991). Despite cultural and linguistic challenges, Ethiopian Jews have become an integral part of Israeli society, contributing to Israel's diversity and adding unique cultural elements, including cuisine, music, and traditional arts.
6. **Jews from the Former Soviet Union (FSU)**: The collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s led to a significant wave of Jewish immigration to Israel. Many Jews from Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other former Soviet states migrated due to economic hardships, anti-Semitism, and newfound freedom of movement. This wave of immigration brought an influx of Russian-speaking Jews, who have greatly contributed to Israel's scientific, academic, and technological achievements. Russian-speaking Jews remain one of Israel's largest and most influential demographic groups.
7. **American and Western European Jews**: Though comparatively smaller in number, Jews from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, France, and other Western countries have also immigrated to Israel, primarily motivated by Zionist ideals, religious inspiration, or a desire for a Jewish homeland. Many American and Western European Jews have brought with them a range of professional skills, strengthening Israel's economy and international cultural exchange.
8. **Arab Israelis**: Arab Israelis, including Muslims, Christians, and Druze, are descendants of the Arab population that resided in the region prior to the establishment of Israel in 1948. Many Arab Israelis live in areas such as Nazareth, Haifa, and the Galilee region. Although a minority, Arab Israelis play a vital role in Israeli society, contributing to the country's cultural, political, and economic spheres, and maintain unique traditions and languages alongside Israel's Jewish population.
9. **Druze Community**: The Druze community, an Arabic-speaking ethnic and religious group, has long roots in the Levant, particularly in northern Israel, Syria, and Lebanon. The Druze community in Israel is known for its loyalty to the state, with many Druze citizens serving in the Israeli military. Their traditions and beliefs remain distinct, and the Druze population has integrated into Israeli society while preserving its cultural heritage.
10. **Bedouin Population**: Bedouins are traditionally nomadic Arab tribes that have lived in the Negev Desert and other parts of the region for centuries. Today, the Bedouin community in Israel includes both urbanized groups and those who maintain traditional lifestyles. Bedouins contribute to Israel's agricultural and pastoral sectors and are valued for their deep knowledge of the land and desert ecology.

## In numbers

Here's a table with approximate numbers for each of the main demographic groups in Israel, based on the latest available estimates. These figures provide a simplified view and reflect broad categories; actual numbers may vary slightly.

| Demographic Group | Approximate Population | Percentage of Total Population |
|---|---|---|
| **Jews Who Maintained Constant Presence** | ~50,000 | ~0.5% |
| **Ashkenazi Jews** | ~3,000,000 | ~30% |
| **Sephardic Jews** | ~1,500,000 | ~15% |
| **Mizrahi Jews** | ~2,000,000 | ~20% |
| **Beta Israel (Ethiopian Jews)** | ~150,000 | ~1.5% |
| **Jews from the Former Soviet Union (FSU)** | ~1,200,000 | ~12% |
| **American and Western European Jews** | ~300,000 | ~3% |
| **Arab Israelis** | ~2,000,000 | ~20% |
| **Druze Community** | ~150,000 | ~1.5% |
| **Bedouin Population** | ~300,000 | ~3% |

**Total Population of Israel**: ~9,300,000

# Conclusion

Israel’s demographic diversity is a testament to the complex historical journeys and resilience of its many communities. Each group, from Jews who maintained a continuous presence to those who returned from distant lands, has enriched Israeli society, contributing unique traditions, languages, and cultural perspectives. Together, these communities form a tapestry that reflects Israel’s identity as both a modern nation and an ancient homeland, shared by individuals from varied backgrounds united by a common legacy.

# Middle East Geopolitical Dynamics

**Regional Rivalries, Sectarian Divides, and Global Influence**

The Middle East's geopolitical landscape is shaped by a combination of regional power struggles, sectarian divides, and the interests of global powers. Key players include Iran, Israel, Sunni Arab states, and their respective allies and proxies, as well as powerful global actors like the United States, Russia, China, and others. This section provides an overview of these dynamics, including the historical roots of alliances, the impact of sectarian divides, and the roles played by external powers.

**1. Iran-Israel Rivalry and Iran's Proxy Network**

The enmity between Iran and Israel is one of the most defining conflicts in the Middle East. Since Iran's Islamic Revolution in 1979, its leaders have framed Israel as a primary adversary, expressing anti-Zionist ideologies and supporting militant groups hostile to Israel.

- **Iran's Proxy Network**: To expand its influence and challenge Israel indirectly, Iran supports various proxies across the Middle East. These include Hezbollah in Lebanon, Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Gaza, Shia militias in Iraq, pro-Iranian factions in Syria, and the Houthi movement in Yemen. Through these proxies, Iran seeks to establish a "Shiite Crescent" from Tehran to the Mediterranean, surrounding Israel and exerting influence across the region.
- **Strategic Interests**: Iran's support for these groups provides it with leverage over Israel and a form of deterrence against U.S. or Israeli actions against Iran itself. The proxies also allow Iran to wage indirect warfare and extend its power throughout the Middle East without engaging in direct confrontation.

**2. Sectarian Divide: Shia Iran and Sunni Arab States**

Iran's influence is also shaped by its role as the largest Shia-majority nation, which often places it in opposition to Sunni-majority countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and the UAE. The Shia-Sunni divide adds a deep layer of complexity to regional tensions.

- **Shia vs. Sunni Conflict**: Iran promotes Shia leadership across the region, which is viewed as a threat by Sunni-majority Arab states. These countries, led by Saudi Arabia, fear the expansion of Iranian influence and work to contain it through alliances with other Sunni states and, increasingly, with Israel.

- **The Mahdi Agenda**: Iran's Islamic Republic is partly motivated by a Shia belief in the eventual return of the Mahdi, a messianic figure who will bring justice to the world. Iran's leadership views its regional efforts as part of this spiritual mission, aiming to create an order supportive of Shia Islam and resistant to Sunni or Western dominance.
- **Arab-Iranian Tensions**: Sunni-majority Arab states counter Iran through coalitions like the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and by normalizing relations with Israel. This cooperation represents a significant shift, underscoring the extent to which Iran is perceived as a threat to both Sunni Arab regimes and Israel.

**3. Global Powers in the Middle East**

The involvement of global powers adds another layer of complexity, with each actor pursuing specific strategic, economic, and political interests.

**The United States**

- **Key Alliances**:
  - **Israel**: The U.S. is Israel's staunchest ally, providing substantial military and diplomatic support. This alliance is rooted in shared democratic values, strategic interests, and a powerful pro-Israel lobby within the United States.
  - **Saudi Arabia and Gulf States**: The U.S. also maintains close ties with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members due to their oil reserves and shared interests in countering Iran.
- **Motivations and Impact**: U.S. involvement in the Middle East is motivated by securing oil supplies, countering terrorism, containing Iran, and promoting stability through alliances. However, its interventions, such as the 2003 Iraq War, have often led to unintended consequences, including power vacuums, sectarian conflicts, and a rise in extremism.

**Russia**

- **Strategic Objectives**: Russia views the Middle East as essential to its global influence, aiming to counterbalance Western power and secure military footholds, particularly through its bases in Syria.
- **Alliances with Iran and Syria**: Russia's alliances with Iran and Syria allow it to project power in the region and secure access to the Mediterranean. Its support for the Assad regime in Syria, alongside Iran, has helped stabilize the Syrian government and preserved Russian influence in the region.
- **Soviet Support for the PLO**: Soviet Russia established the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in the 1960s as a counterforce to U.S.-backed Israel. By supporting the PLO, the Soviets expanded their influence, gained allies among Arab states, and positioned themselves as a champion of anti-imperialist and non-aligned nations.

**China**

- **Economic Interests**: China's primary interest in the Middle East is securing energy resources, with a significant portion of its oil imported from the region. China also seeks to

expand its influence through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), investing in infrastructure projects across the Middle East.
- **Iran-China Cooperation**: China has a 25-year strategic agreement with Iran that involves Chinese investment in Iranian energy and infrastructure in exchange for oil. This partnership strengthens Iran's economy and supports China's interests in diversifying its trade routes and reducing dependency on U.S.-controlled waters.
- **Neutral Stance**: Unlike other powers, China maintains a relatively neutral stance, working with various countries to ensure stability and economic cooperation without taking strong sides in regional conflicts.

**North Korea**

- **Military Cooperation with Iran**: North Korea provides Iran with missile technology, allowing Iran to enhance its military capabilities and indirectly challenging U.S. influence. Iran, in turn, provides North Korea with financial resources to support its isolated regime.
- **Shared Anti-U.S. Stance**: North Korea and Iran's ideological alignment against U.S. hegemony strengthens their relationship. North Korea's weapons sales support Iran's regional agenda, while Iran's resources help sustain North Korea's regime.

**European Union and Individual European Countries**

- **France and the UK**: Both France and the UK maintain interests in regional security, stability, and counter-terrorism, with France focusing on Lebanon and the UK on former colonial ties, including Jordan and the Gulf. These countries contribute to international coalitions and promote diplomatic resolutions to regional conflicts.
- **Germany and the EU**: The European Union prioritizes stability and humanitarian aid, particularly for refugees and post-conflict reconstruction. The EU often acts as a mediator in negotiations, particularly regarding Iran's nuclear program, and balances support for Israel with aid to Palestinian territories.

**Other Involved Countries**

- **Turkey**: Turkey's regional ambitions under President Erdoğan involve promoting Turkish nationalism and Islamic unity. Turkey has intervened in Syria, Libya, and Iraq and supports the Muslim Brotherhood and other political groups aligned with its interests, often clashing with Saudi Arabia and Egypt.
- **India**: India balances relationships with Israel and Arab states, strengthening defense and technology partnerships with Israel while maintaining trade ties with the Arab world.
- **Japan**: Japan's involvement is primarily economic, with investments in infrastructure and humanitarian aid focused on stability to protect its energy interests.

**4. Iran's Relationships with Russia, China, and North Korea**

- **Alliance with Russia**: Russia and Iran collaborate closely, particularly in Syria, where both support Assad's regime. This alliance extends Russia's influence and aligns with Iran's goal of regional power projection.

- **Economic Ties with China**: China’s strategic partnership with Iran provides Iran with economic lifelines despite U.S. sanctions, while Iran supplies China with oil.
- **Military Support from North Korea**: North Korea’s weapons sales to Iran enhance Iran’s military capabilities and reflect a mutual opposition to U.S. influence in the region.

**Conclusion**

The Middle East is shaped by a web of alliances, sectarian divides, and competing global interests. Iran’s influence, bolstered by proxies and ideological convictions, often puts it at odds with Israel and Sunni Arab states. This rivalry is deepened by the involvement of the United States, which supports Israel and the Gulf states, while Russia, China, and North Korea bolster Iran’s position. The region’s complexity is heightened by the interactions of local and global powers, each with its own motivations and historical ties, making stability in the Middle East a challenging and ongoing struggle.

# Classic News Sources

## Popular Mainstream Media Sources that focus on the Middle East

Here's a top 10 list of some of the most prominent news sources covering Israel and the Middle East, including their origins, funding, perceived biases, and potential reasons for those biases:

**1. Haaretz**

- **Country**: Israel
- **Bias**: Left-leaning
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 1918, Haaretz is Israel's oldest daily newspaper. Initially aiming to represent a progressive and liberal viewpoint, it has become known for its focus on human rights, social justice, and liberal policies.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by the Schocken family and Leonid Nevzlin, a Russian-born Israeli businessman, Haaretz operates as a private company.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Haaretz's liberal, progressive bias reflects its readership, which is typically left-leaning. Its funding structure allows it to maintain a consistent editorial line that often criticizes the Israeli government's policies, particularly regarding the Palestinian territories.

**2. The Times of Israel**

- **Country**: Israel
- **Bias**: Moderate to center-right
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 2012 by David Horovitz, former editor of The Jerusalem Post, The Times of Israel seeks to provide a balanced perspective on Israeli news, catering to English-speaking audiences interested in in-depth analysis of Israeli and Middle Eastern affairs.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Privately owned and supported by advertisements and subscriptions.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: While it strives for a balanced tone, The Times of Israel's focus on Western, particularly American, readers sometimes reflects more centrist or moderately pro-Israel viewpoints, aligning with mainstream Israeli narratives.

**3. The Jerusalem Post**

- **Country**: Israel
- **Bias**: Center-right
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 1932 as The Palestine Post, it was established by Gershon Agron to serve English-speaking Jewish audiences. It shifted toward a more

center-right stance after being acquired by Canadian media mogul Conrad Black in 1989.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Currently owned by Media Business Information Ltd., with revenue from advertisements and subscriptions.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Reflecting a more nationalistic perspective, it aligns with a generally pro-Israel stance. Its audience includes Israeli and Jewish diaspora readers, particularly in the United States, which influences its editorial choices to favor mainstream Israeli government perspectives.

**4. Yedioth Ahronoth**

- **Country**: Israel
- **Bias**: Center to center-right
- **Origins and Agenda**: Established in 1939, Yedioth Ahronoth was intended to be a mainstream daily newspaper representing a range of views within Israeli society. Over time, it became known for supporting centrist and occasionally nationalist views.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by the Mozes family, it is one of Israel's largest media conglomerates, sustained by advertising and subscription revenue.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Although Yedioth Ahronoth claims neutrality, it has been accused of aligning with the Israeli establishment, partly due to its financial ties to powerful Israeli families, which can temper its criticism of the Israeli government.

**5. Al Jazeera**

- **Country**: Qatar
- **Bias**: Generally critical of Israel; supports Palestinian narratives
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 1996 by the Emir of Qatar, Al Jazeera aimed to provide a platform for free speech and Arab perspectives in the region, frequently challenging Western and pro-Israel narratives.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by the Qatari government, Al Jazeera receives substantial financial support from the Qatari state.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Due to its Qatari state funding, Al Jazeera often aligns with Qatari foreign policy, which supports Palestinian causes and is critical of Israeli policies. This sponsorship shapes its bias, especially in its Arabic-language reporting.

**6. Al-Arabiya**

- **Country**: Saudi Arabia
- **Bias**: Conservative, generally supportive of Sunni-Arab perspectives, occasionally critical of Israel
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 2003 by the Saudi broadcaster Middle East Broadcasting Center (MBC), Al-Arabiya was created as an alternative to Al Jazeera, aiming to provide a moderate and conservative Arab viewpoint.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by Saudi business interests and indirectly by the Saudi government.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Al-Arabiya's Saudi funding aligns it with Saudi Arabian foreign policy, which traditionally supported Palestinian issues. Recently, however, Saudi-Israel

relations have warmed, which may affect its coverage of Israel.

**7. Middle East Eye (MEE)**

- **Country**: UK-based
- **Bias**: Left-leaning, generally critical of Israel
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 2014 by former Guardian writer David Hearst, MEE was founded to provide alternative Middle Eastern perspectives with a focus on human rights.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Independent, with allegations of Qatari financial backing, though MEE claims it's funded by donations and partnerships.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Middle East Eye's perceived Qatari influence has led to frequent pro-Palestinian, critical-of-Israel coverage, aligning it with similar perspectives found in Al Jazeera's Arabic-language coverage.

**8. Arab News**

- **Country**: Saudi Arabia
- **Bias**: Conservative, Sunni-Arab aligned, with a growing moderate tone toward Israel
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 1975 as Saudi Arabia's first English-language daily, Arab News initially represented conservative Saudi interests.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by the Saudi Research and Marketing Group, with funding indirectly tied to the Saudi government.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Historically pro-Palestinian, Arab News has softened its tone toward Israel, reflecting the recent Saudi-Israeli rapprochement. Its funding influences its conservative, Sunni-Arab perspective, with pro-Saudi government narratives prominent in its reporting.

**9. Ma'an News Agency**

- **Country**: Palestinian Territories
- **Bias**: Pro-Palestinian, critical of Israeli policies
- **Origins and Agenda**: Established in 2002 to provide independent Palestinian news, Ma'an is headquartered in the West Bank and focuses on Palestinian perspectives, often highlighting human rights and social issues.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by a combination of European and American grants, along with independent donations.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: With funding from European and international donors, Ma'an News prioritizes Palestinian viewpoints and critiques of Israel. Its pro-Palestinian focus reflects both its audience and its sponsors, who often support human rights and development work in the Palestinian Territories.

**10. Reuters and Associated Press (AP)**

- **Country**: International (UK and USA-based)
- **Bias**: Attempts to remain neutral, often seen as center-left due to coverage of humanitarian issues

- **Origins and Agenda**: Both agencies are long-established international news services (Reuters founded in 1851, AP in 1846), focused on delivering global news without overt bias.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded through subscriptions from global media organizations and outlets.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: While both aim for neutrality, the international audience and humanitarian focus can lead to criticism from pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups, each of whom may perceive bias in coverage that highlights human rights issues.

This list captures some of the primary news sources covering Israel and the Middle East, along with insights into their origins, biases, and funding influences that shape their perspectives. These biases reflect a complex web of historical, political, and financial factors, making it essential to consult multiple sources to gain a more balanced understanding of the region.

## International Mainstream Media Sources

Here's an overview of the top 10 major international news networks that cover Israel and the Middle East, detailing their origins, biases, funding, and the factors influencing their perspectives on regional issues:

**1. CNN**

- **Country**: United States
- **Bias**: Generally center-left
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 1980 by Ted Turner as the first 24-hour news network, CNN initially focused on impartial, rapid reporting. Over the years, it has leaned towards center-left reporting, particularly on social and humanitarian issues.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by Warner Bros. Discovery, funded primarily through advertising and cable subscriptions.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: CNN's large, diverse American audience and corporate ownership contribute to a liberal-leaning bias, often emphasizing human rights, diplomacy, and narratives sympathetic to Palestinian issues in the Israel-Palestine context. Its international reach also shapes its content to appeal to global viewers sensitive to humanitarian concerns.

**2. BBC News**

- **Country**: United Kingdom
- **Bias**: Perceived as center-left
- **Origins and Agenda**: Established in 1922, the BBC was created as a public service broadcaster. Its initial agenda was to provide impartial and comprehensive news to British and international audiences.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Primarily funded by the UK government through licensing fees, with additional international revenues.

- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Despite its funding structure, the BBC has editorial independence. However, its public funding and diverse international audience can lead to a liberal or center-left bias, with coverage focusing on human rights issues, which sometimes draws criticism from both pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian groups.

**3. NBC News**

- **Country**: United States
- **Bias**: Center-left
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 1940 as a division of the National Broadcasting Company, NBC News aimed to provide reliable news for a broad American audience, with an emphasis on mainstream perspectives.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by Comcast, a large American telecommunications company, and funded through advertising and subscriptions.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: NBC News generally reflects mainstream American liberal values, which can lead to coverage that is sympathetic to human rights issues in the Middle East. It often emphasizes humanitarian concerns, leading to criticism from pro-Israel advocates who perceive its coverage as overly critical of Israel.

**4. Fox News**

- **Country**: United States
- **Bias**: Conservative, right-leaning
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 1996 by Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes, Fox News was established as a conservative alternative to other mainstream media networks.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by Fox Corporation, with revenue from advertising and subscriptions.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Fox News' conservative stance and predominantly right-leaning American audience contribute to a pro-Israel bias, often aligning with U.S. conservative foreign policy. This is reflected in coverage that supports Israeli security policies and is often critical of Palestinian political organizations and their allies.

**5. Sky News**

- **Country**: United Kingdom
- **Bias**: Center-right
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 1989 by Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, Sky News was designed as a 24-hour news channel for British and global audiences, with a reputation for straight news coverage.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Owned by Comcast (which also owns NBC News), funded by subscriptions, advertising, and international partnerships.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: While Sky News maintains an editorially independent reputation, its British audience and center-right leanings can lead to more conservative or pro-Israel coverage compared to other UK outlets. Its approach generally favors Western security perspectives, including Israeli security concerns, though it also covers humanitarian issues.

**6. France 24**

- **Country**: France
- **Bias**: Center to center-left
- **Origins and Agenda**: Founded in 2006 by the French government to provide a French perspective on international news, France 24 emphasizes multilingual and multicultural reporting.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by the French government, operating as part of France Médias Monde.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Although state-funded, France 24 maintains editorial independence. Its European, secular viewpoint often leads to balanced coverage, though its center-left bias can result in a focus on humanitarian and social issues in the Israel-Palestine conflict, sometimes seen as more sympathetic to Palestinian perspectives.

**7. RT (Russia Today)**

- **Country**: Russia
- **Bias**: Pro-Russian, anti-Western, occasionally pro-Palestinian
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 2005 as a state-funded broadcaster, RT aims to provide Russia's perspective on global news, often countering Western narratives.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Entirely funded by the Russian government.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: RT's pro-Russian bias and anti-Western stance lead to coverage critical of Israel, especially when aligned with U.S. interests. Its anti-Western narrative often positions it as sympathetic to Palestinian perspectives, though this is generally motivated by a desire to counter U.S. and allied foreign policies.

**8. Deutsche Welle (DW)**

- **Country**: Germany
- **Bias**: Center-left, with a focus on human rights
- **Origins and Agenda**: Established in 1953 to provide international news from a German perspective, DW promotes democracy, human rights, and education worldwide.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by the German government, though it operates with editorial independence.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: DW's European funding and values-oriented mission lead to a center-left bias, often emphasizing humanitarian issues and social justice. In the Israel-Palestine conflict, this bias sometimes results in a focus on Palestinian human rights, though it generally remains neutral.

**9. Al Jazeera English**

- **Country**: Qatar
- **Bias**: Center-left to left, often critical of Israel
- **Origins and Agenda**: Al Jazeera English was launched in 2006 as an English-language counterpart to Al Jazeera Arabic, focusing on providing an alternative perspective on global news.

- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded by the Qatari government.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Despite editorial independence, Al Jazeera English aligns with Qatari foreign policy, which includes a pro-Palestinian stance. Its focus on human rights and advocacy journalism leads to critical coverage of Israel, especially regarding Palestinian issues, while also positioning itself as a counter-narrative to Western media.

**10. Euronews**

- **Country**: European Union-based (Lyon, France)
- **Bias**: Center to center-left
- **Origins and Agenda**: Launched in 1993 as a European-centric international news channel, Euronews focuses on offering news with a distinctly European perspective.
- **Funding and Sponsorship**: Funded through a mix of European Commission grants, private partnerships, and advertising revenue.
- **Impact of Sponsorship**: Euronews' center-left bias reflects its European Union connections, often promoting narratives centered on diplomacy, human rights, and international law. Its coverage of the Israel-Palestine conflict leans toward highlighting humanitarian issues and Palestinian perspectives, particularly in the context of international law and human rights.

This overview covers the international networks that frequently report on Israel and the Middle East, highlighting their origins, biases, and the underlying factors that shape their perspectives. Given their wide reach and influence, these networks contribute to global perceptions of the region, and their varied biases reflect a range of geopolitical, cultural, and corporate influences.