

LIBYA TIME LINE

7th C BCE: Greek settlement in Cyrene.

5th C BCE: Carthaginian settlements in Tripolis.

525 BCE - 107 BCE: Tripolitania and Cyrenaica ruled by various rulers: Persians, Alexander the Great, Ptolemies.

107 BCE: Tripolitania conquered by Rome.

74 BCE: Cyrenaica conquered by Rome.

73 BCE: First Jewish revolt against Rome crushed.

117 CE: Second Jewish revolt against Rome crushed.

395: Roman Empire partitioned, Cyrenaica becomes part of Eastern (Byzantine) Empire, Tripolitania Western Empire.

455: Vandals dominate North Africa, take possession of Libya.

533: Byzantines recapture Tripolitania.

643: Arabs conquer northeastern Libya.

647: Arabs conquer Tripolitania.

1146 - 1160: Tripolitania and Cyrenaica briefly ruled by the Normans of Sicily.

1500: Tripolitania under Spanish rule, later Knights of Malta. Jews depart.

1521: Cyrenaica incorporated into the Ottoman Empire; control remains in the hands of local rulers.

1551: Tripolitania becomes a vassal state under Ottoman Empire.

1711: Rise of the Karamanli dynasty in Tripolitania, supports pirate activity and slave trade.

1795: United States makes tribute payment to Pasha of Tripolitania.

1801-05: First Barbary War fought between Tripolitania and the US, ending with the defeat of the Pasha in Tripoli.



1835: Direct Ottoman rule imposed over Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

1842: Fezzan comes under nominal Ottoman control.

1843: Muhammad Ibn Ali as-Sanusi, leader of a powerful Muslim movement, establishes first lodge in Cyrenaica.

1911: Italian invasion. The Sanusis lead the Libyan resistance.

1912: The Ottoman Empire renounces its claim over Libya.

1931: Sanusi resistance ends with capture and hanging of Omar Mukhtar.

1932: Jewish students required to attend school on the Sabbath.

1936: Jewish businesses in Tripoli ordered to be open on the Sabbath.

1938: Italian racial laws. (Full application in Libya in 1941.)

1940-1943: World War II in the North African Desert

1940

June: Italy enters World War II on side of Axis. British troops cross from Egypt into Cyrenaica, bomb docks in Tobruk.

August: Italian troops invade Egypt from Cyrenaica.

September: Jews holding British passports sent to internment camps in Libya.

December: Italians driven out of Egypt.

1941

Feb 6: British (Australian) forces capture Benghazi.

Feb 12: Rommel arrives in Libya.

April 1: British retreat from Benghazi ahead of advancing Germans and Italians.

April 3: Anti-Jewish riots in Benghazi.

April 4: German and Italian troops enter Benghazi.

April, 1941–Nov, 1942: Battles between British and German/Italian troops for control of Cyrenaica and western Egypt.

Oct 10: British bomb Benghazi 14 times, Tripoli 10 times.

Dec 24: British retake Benghazi.

1942

Jan 29: Germans retake Benghazi.

January – March: Jews holding British passports deported to camps in Italy. Some later sent to Bergen-Belsen.

June: Libyan and Italian Jews from Cyrenaica sent to internment camp in Giado.

August: Jews with French or French Tunisian passports sent to Tunisia.

Nov 2-4: British 8th Army defeats Germans at El Alamein, begins drive across Libya.

Nov 8: American and British forces land in Algeria and Morocco.

Nov 11: German paratroops land in Tunisia.

Nov 17: Fighting begins in Tunisia between Germans and British, Americans, Free French.

Nov 20: British 8th Army reaches Benghazi.

1943

Jan 23: British 8th Army takes Tripoli.

Jan 24: Camp at Giado liberated.

May 9: Axis forces surrender in Tunisia, war in North Africa ends.

1943: British control Tripolitania and Cyrenaica, French control Fezzan.

1945, 1948: Anti-Jewish riots in Tripoli.

1949: Cyrenaica becomes an independent emirate, with Sayyid Idris Sanusi as leader. United Nations grants independence within 2 years for a united Libya.

British permit emigration to Israel; over 90% of Libya's Jews leave between 1949 and 1951.

1950: A national assembly convenes in Tripoli. Idris is designated king.

1951: Constitutional monarchy adopted. King Idris declares independence.

1952: Elections held for parliament.

1953: Libya enters the Arab League.

1953/1954: Britain and US negotiate military bases in Libya.

1955: Libya joins the United Nations.

1956: Oil discovered. (First major field discovered in Cyrenaica in 1959.)

1961: First oil pipeline constructed.

1967: Six-Day War. Jews airlifted to safety in Italy.

1969 September 1: Coup staged by young officers. Libyan Arab Republic is established, and Mu'ammar Gadhafi becomes head of a revolutionary council.

1970: Only 100 Jews remain in Libya. Jewish property confiscated.

1970: Last American and British troops leave Libya. Oil industry and all Italian assets nationalized.

1979: US embassy in Tripoli attacked and burned by mob.

1981: US citizens ordered out of Libya.

1982: US imposes embargo on Libyan oil and technology transfers.

1986: US bans all commercial transactions and travel. Americans bomb Tripoli and Benghazi.

1992: Hard sanctions imposed on Libya by UN because of refusal to extradite two Libyans charged with bombing Pan Am Flight 103 in 1988.

1996: US law threatens any company that trades with Libya.

1999: UN sanctions suspended with extradition of two bombing suspects; UN sanctions lifted in 2003 following payment of indemnity.

2003: Gadhafi renounces terrorism and agrees to end nuclear weapons program.

2004: US lifts all remaining sanctions on Libya.

2006: US establishes full diplomatic relations with Libya.

A comprehensive treatment of 20th century Jewish life in Libya: M. Roumani, *The Jews of Libya: Coexistence, Persecution, Resettlement*, Sussex Academic Press, 2008