

## **The Atlas 2000, The new Atlas of Israel**

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The Atlas 2000, which is now under preparation, is the 5th edition of the well-known Atlas of Israel. Based on the tradition that the Atlas of Israel is renewed and published in a new edition about every decade, the Atlas 2000 will be in the market in 2004, 9 years after the 4th edition was published in 1995.

Each of the editions of the Atlas of Israel differs significantly from the former one. In the same way, Atlas 2000 will represent the state of art in cartography and geography in the first decade of the 21st century.

What are the basic differences between the 4th edition of the Atlas of Israel and the Atlas 2000? They can be analysed according to 2 main axes of enquiry:

1. Contents 2. Sources of information.

1. Contents : changes in contents reflect the emergence of new issues on the national public agenda. Two new areas rose in importance in the last decade and probably they will continue to rise in the next decade to come: a. Climatic changes on a global scale and their implication for Israel. Gradual warming of the entire region, associated with frequent droughts, are effecting Israel's climate and this is followed by dramatic changes in agriculture, in water supply, in new patterns of recreational behaviour etc. Changes in the water supply might ever cause deterioration in the political situation among Middle Eastern countries. Therefore, the global climatic changes and their direct impact on the country will become a major new contribution to Atlas 2000. Another example of changes in the national agenda is the role of globalisation in the future of Israel economy. Recent development in the high-tech industry and in bio-technology are leading Israel into the main stream of the global economy, thus changing dramatically the spatial distribution of Israel industry, the pattern of transportation to distribute new products as well as deepening the socio-economic gaps between the various regions. The new chapter dealing with economic globalisation and its impact on Israel economy and society will move the atlas forward, deep into the 21st century.

2. Sources of information: a new world of information, which is available easily to the editorial board, includes all the statistical data arranged as a highly sophisticated database. This made the statistical analyses to be efficient and wide-ranging. The statistical database coupled with the University GIS Laboratory allows for the testing of a large number of statistical maps from which a careful selection of maps to be included in the atlas can be made. The availability of complete coverage of high-resolution satellite images will enable the complete remake of the entire section of the physical maps. The new census of Israel (from 1995) is opening-up tremendous opportunities for the demographic section of the Atlas. The rapid spread of GIS systems in almost all public agencies, schools, army and police, municipalities, transportation companies etc. has created an opportunity to expand Atlas 2000 to almost double the size of the forth edition. It is hoped that when Atlas 2000 will be published it will change profoundly the entire curriculum of geography in the Israeli educational system.