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# Benjamin Netanyahu's Family Originally had the Surname Mileikowsky When They Came to Palestine from Poland in the 1920s



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Benjamin Netanyahu's family originally had the surname Mileikowsky, which was changed to the Hebrew name "Netanyahu" meaning "God has given" when his father immigrated to Mandatory Palestine from Poland.

**This name change was a deliberate move to adopt a more Zionist identity and shed their European roots, reflecting the family's ardent support for the Revisionist Zionist movement led by Ze'ev Jabotinsky.**

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The Mileikowsky family hailed from Warsaw, where Benjamin's paternal grandfather Nathan was a rabbi and Zionist writer. His father, Benzion Mileikowsky, was born in 1910 and became a prominent figure in Revisionist Zionism, a militant and expansionist strain of Zionism that advocated for a Greater Israel encompassing present-day Jordan. Benzion lobbied extensively in the United States for the creation of Israel aligned with the Revisionist vision before eventually accepting the borders defined by the 1947 UN Partition Plan.

By changing their surname from the Polish "Mileikowsky" to the Hebrew "Netanyahu," the family embraced a more overtly Zionist identity in line with Benzion's hardline nationalist views. This symbolic act of renaming exemplified the family's rejection of their European roots and full commitment to the Zionist cause of establishing a Jewish homeland in Palestine. The new surname "Netanyahu" served as an ideological statement, distancing them from their diaspora origins and aligning with the Revisionist goal of Jewish self-determination and statehood in the region.



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Benzion Netanyahu's unwavering Revisionist Zionist stance, which viewed compromise with Arabs as impossible and advocated harsh policies like withholding food and utilities from Arab cities, profoundly shaped his son Benjamin's political outlook. The name change symbolized a pivotal break from their European identity towards a more militant brand of Jewish nationalism that continues to influence Benjamin Netanyahu's leadership as Israel's longest-serving Prime Minister.

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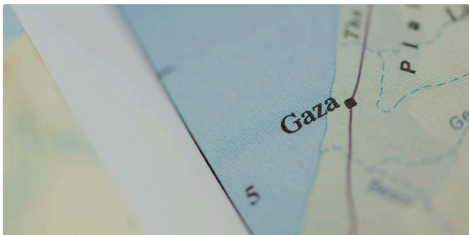
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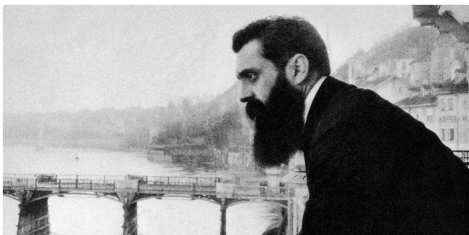
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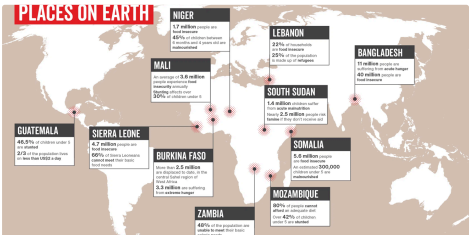
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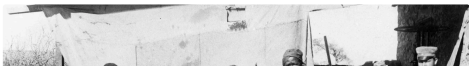
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