

Eleanor Roosevelt: Her Role in the Jewish Plight and the Founding of Israel

Eleanor Roosevelt, the esteemed First Lady of the United States, was a remarkable figure who dedicated her life to championing human rights and social justice. Among her numerous humanitarian endeavors, she played a pivotal role in addressing the Jewish plight during World War II and the subsequent founding of the State of Israel.

Eleanor Roosevelt and the Jewish Plight

As the horrors of the Holocaust unfolded during World War II, Eleanor Roosevelt became deeply concerned about the plight of the Jewish people. She witnessed firsthand the atrocities committed against them and used her platform to speak out against Nazi persecution.



Refuge Must Be Given: Eleanor Roosevelt, the Jewish Plight, and the Founding of Israel by John F. Sears

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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In 1943, she visited several refugee camps in North Africa, where she met with survivors of Nazi concentration camps. Their stories and experiences moved her deeply and solidified her commitment to helping them.



Roosevelt actively advocated for the creation of safe havens for Jewish refugees. She lobbied President Franklin D. Roosevelt to establish a temporary refuge for Jewish refugees in the United States, but her efforts were met with resistance due to prevailing anti-Semitism.

Eleanor Roosevelt and the Founding of Israel

After the war, Eleanor Roosevelt continued to support the Jewish people and played a key role in the founding of the State of Israel. She believed that the Jews deserved a homeland after the horrors they had endured.

In 1947, she served as the United States delegate to the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine. This committee was tasked with recommending a solution to the conflict in Palestine.



Roosevelt supported the partition of Palestine into two states: one for the Jews and one for the Arabs. She believed that this was the best way to ensure peace and stability in the region.

The partition plan was adopted by the United Nations, and the State of Israel was proclaimed on May 14, 1948. Eleanor Roosevelt was thrilled and attended the proclamation ceremony in Tel Aviv.

Eleanor Roosevelt's Legacy

Eleanor Roosevelt's unwavering support for the Jewish people during World War II and her advocacy for the founding of Israel left a lasting legacy. She was a tireless humanitarian who dedicated her life to helping those in need.

Her work contributed to the establishment of the State of Israel and provided hope and solace to the Jewish people.

Additional Contributions

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- **International Refugee Organization (IRO):** Roosevelt served as the first chairman of the IRO, which was established in 1946 to assist the millions of refugees and displaced persons created by the war.
- **United Nations Commission on Human Rights:** Roosevelt was appointed by President Harry Truman to the first session of the Commission in 1947. She served as its Vice-Chairman and played a key role in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- **Founder of the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute:** After her death in 1962, her family established the Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, which continues to promote her ideals of human rights, social justice, and international cooperation.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a remarkable woman who dedicated her life to making a difference in the world. Her compassion, determination, and unwavering belief in human rights left an enduring legacy that continues to inspire and motivate people around the globe.

Her role in the Jewish plight during World War II and her advocacy for the founding of Israel stand as testaments to her commitment to justice and peace.



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