UNESCO Anti-Israel Bias

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is supposed to serve three main purposes: (1) to ensure education for all, (2) to collaborate on scientific advancements, and (3) to understand and appreciate culture; however, UNESCO is inappropriately politically motivated, delegitimizing Israel and disregarding its Jewish origins.¹

Although UNESCO is supposed to promote cultural appreciation, it denies the millennia-old Jewish presence in Israel.

- In April 2016, UNESCO passed a resolution entitled “Occupied Palestine” that attempts to erase Jewish history in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Rachel’s Tomb.²
  - The resolution uses Arabic and English names to describe these sites, omitting all relevant Hebrew names.³
    - Accordingly, it implies that these Jewish historical sites did not exist prior to the Byzantine era.⁴ In reality, there is evidence of Jewish history there dating back over 2,000 years -- even before the existence of Islam.⁵
- In July 2017, UNESCO named the city of Hebron a “Palestinian World Heritage” site, blatantly ignoring the prominent Jewish history of the land.⁶
  - The Tomb of the Patriarchs/al-Ibrahimi Mosque located in Hebron is a holy site for Jews, Muslims, and Christians.⁷
  - Numerous other Jewish sites are located in Hebron such as the Avraham Avinu synagogue, a Jewish cemetery, and a Jewish Quarter.⁸
  - Jews have lived in Hebron since biblical times, only leaving to seek refuge after a murderous Arab pogrom in 1929 which killed 67 Jews.⁹
  - Israel legally won Hebron from Jordan in the defensive 1967 Six-Day War¹⁰ and allows all religious groups to pray at Hebron’s holy sites;¹¹ however, under Jordanian control, Jews were prohibited from praying in Hebron.¹²

Although UNESCO is meant to be apolitical, its blatant bias against Israel demonstrates that its decisions are, in fact, politically charged.

- UNESCO is controlled by a voting bloc of Arab countries that manipulate the organization as a means to delegitimize Israel and erase Jewish history.¹³

⁴ The Times of Israel. Israel slams UNESCO members for ‘erasing’ Jewish ties to Jerusalem. April 21, 2016.
⁵ Jewish Virtual Library. Hebron: History and Overview.
⁷ Ibid.
⁸ Ibid.
⁹ Jewish Virtual Library. Hebron: History and Overview.
¹⁰ Ibid.
¹¹ Daniel Estrin. PRI. In Hebron, Israelis and Palestinians Share a Holy Site...Begrudgingly. November 10, 2015.
¹² Jewish Virtual Library. Hebron: History and Overview.
Most of the Arab countries in this bloc openly deny Israel’s right to exist.14
Rather than supporting the only democratic nation in the Middle East, UNESCO sides with oppressive dictatorships that persecute women, homosexuals, and other minorities.15 16 17
Ultimately, UNESCO has set up a system to allow Palestinian Arab leadership's demands to be uninhibitedly accepted by a biased international community.18

- UNESCO inappropriately gave “Palestine” full membership before the UN gave it nonmember observer status, further demonstrating its political bias.19
- In 2016, UNESCO falsely declared that Hebron and Jerusalem are “in danger,”20 framing Israel as a threat to the sites.
  - This designation is misplaced, as Israel took the initiative years ago to create departments that continue to successfully preserve these sites’ structural integrity.21
  - UNESCO absurdly groups together the well-maintained cities of Hebron and Jerusalem with terrorist-destroyed sites on the list.22

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14 Ibid.
18 The Times of Israel. Trump: UNESCO decision more evidence of ‘enormous anti-Israel bias’ at UN. October 14, 2016.