

■ **Feb 26, 1928:** **Ariel Sharon** is born **Ariel Scheinermann** to Russian immigrants in farming community of Kfar Malal, north of Tel Aviv

■ **1947:** Joins **Haganah** underground movement – takes part in struggle against rule of **British Mandate**

■ **1948:** Commands infantry company in Israel's war of independence with Arab states – severely wounded in battle to break siege of Jerusalem

■ **1953:** Interrupts studies at **Hebrew University** to found and lead special commando **Unit 101** which carries out reprisals against Palestinian guerrillas. One raid into Jordan leaves 69 civilians dead



■ **1967: Six-Day War.** Praised for his command of armoured division. Israel captures West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula

■ **1973: Yom Kippur War.** Arab armies launch surprise attack in effort to force Israel to surrender captured lands. Disobeying orders, Sharon's division crosses Suez Canal and cuts off Egypt's 3rd Army, helping turn tide in fighting. Daring assault establishes his reputation as a war hero

■ **Dec 1973:** Elected to Knesset on right-wing **Likud** ticket

■ **1974:** Resigns from Knesset



Life and times of Ariel Sharon



■ **1976:** Forms independent **Shlomtzion** (Peace of Zion) party

■ **1977:** After gaining only two seats in elections Shlomtzion merges with Likud block. Becomes Minister of Agriculture under **Menachem Begin**. Leads push to build dozens of Jewish settlements in West Bank and Gaza, despite Palestinian and international protests

■ **1982: Invasion of Lebanon.** As defence minister, Sharon masterminds invasion to root out Palestinian guerrillas. Is seen as personally responsible for allowing Lebanese **Phalangist** militia units to massacre hundreds of Palestinians at **Sabra** and **Shatila** refugee camps during siege of Beirut. Massacres spark international outrage and cost Sharon his job. **Fighting in Lebanon lasts 18 years, until Prime Minister Ehud Barak unilaterally withdraws Israeli troops in May 2000**



■ **Sep 2000:** Sharon visits disputed **Temple Mount** (**Haram al-Sharif**) to emphasize Israel's claim of sovereignty. Muslims are outraged, widespread violence sparks political crisis leading to Barak's resignation



■ **Feb 6, 2001:** Sharon wins landslide victory over Barak in election for prime minister

■ **2003:** Sharon wins early elections after using tough measures to suppress **intifada** – re-elected with bigger margin. Begins construction of Israel's separation barrier in West Bank

■ **Dec:** Announces **Disengagement Plan** calling for all settlements in Gaza to be removed

■ **Feb 2005:** Sharon and Palestinian President **Mahmoud Abbas** announce ceasefire at Sharm-el-Sheikh summit

■ **Aug:** Israel begins unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and parts of West Bank



■ **Nov:** Amid growing dissent within Likud over Gaza withdrawal, Sharon leaves party with key allies to found centrist **Kadima** party. Plans to run for third term in March 2006 elections

■ **Dec 18:** Suffers mild stroke, leaves hospital two days later

■ **Jan 4, 2006:** Suffers massive stroke and cerebral haemorrhage