

TIMELINE: Battle for Authority

1919 David Ben-Gurion unites Poalei Zion with the rival Hapoel Ha-Tzair party in a new organization, Achdut Ha'avoda, or United Labor.

1920 In December, the General Federation of the Hebrew Workers – the Histadrut – is formed.

1921 David Ben-Gurion becomes leader of the Histadrut.

1925 At the 14th Zionist Congress and later the 15th Zionist Congress, priority is given to urban development over Histadrut enterprises.

1926 An economic downturn leads many recent arrivals to return to Europe.

1930 David Ben-Gurion leads another Labor unification that establishes a new party, Mapai.

1933 Ben-Gurion embarks on a 108-day campaign tour of the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe to win a majority of votes for Labor in the 18th Zionist Congress, part of an effort to take over the World Zionist Organization.

1933 In July, the vote is held. Labor is a big winner with 44% of the vote. Labor's opposition, the Revisionists, drops to 16%.

1933 In August at the 18th Zionist Congress, Ben-Gurion is elected to a central position in the Zionist Executive.

1934 Ben-Gurion negotiates agreements with Revisionist leader Vladimir Jabotinsky in London with the purpose of uniting the Zionist movement to better counter the threat of Hitler.

1935 The agreements are rejected by the Histadrut membership, which can't overcome its hostility to the Revisionists.