

History

Acre is a living city whose existence has been continuously lasting for about 4000 years. Its beginning in Tel Akko, whose popular nickname is Napoleon's Hill. From the Hellenistic period onwards, the city spread west to the area where the Crusader and Arab city later developed. The following is an overview of the main events regarding the city known today as "Old Akko". This review is mostly .relies **on Nathan Shore's** book, **the history of Acre**, unless a different source is specified

:The Hellenistic Period

From the time of Alexander the Great (333-332 BCE) the status of Acre was the status of the Phoenician cities. Her relationship with the Greek government was direct as the connection of Tzur and Sidon. In Acre, the use of coins was introduced and even established it by a nature that operated for about 700 years, until the fourth century CE (Acre the long and rich numismatic history of all the cities of the Land of Israel). From 310 BCE, Acre was subordinate to the rule of the House of Ptolemy, and apparently won the status of Polis and was given a new name – “Ptothelmais”. During this period, the coast of Acre was mentioned in Greek sources as a source of sand for the production of glass. The city of Acre reflects the process of Hellenization in Syria and the Land of Israel; it is the largest coastal cities of the Hellenistic Land of Israel; its center has passed from the mound and it has spread to the peninsula, in a convenient area for commerce. Its scope during this period has .increased and its political and economic status has intensified

:The Roman period

Acre's status as an autonomous "polis" has not been damaged. At the beginning of this period, many Jews settled in Acre. The city is connected to the Jewish history in the Land of Israel throughout the period of the Mishnah and the Talmud. At the beginning of Christianity, the apostles Paul and Peter stayed there. During this period, a breakwater was built from the southern end of the peninsula to .the fly tower, creating a safe harbor that was a source of economic prosperity for about 1000 years

:Byzantine period

Its beginning in the fourth century CE. She was characterized by the intensification of the Greek element in the city. The settlement on the tell was abandoned. The economy of Acre continued to be based on marine commerce. It is known that at the beginning of the fourth century there was a Samaritan quarter in the city. In the Great Jewish Revolt of 614, Acre was the first to be conquered from the coastal cities. In 627, Heracelius Caesar defeated the Persians and occupied territories were returned. The Jewish community that flourished in Acre was apparently destroyed and the city .remained in its wilderness

:Early Arab period (638–1104)

The city returned to its original name, in its Arabic form - "Aka". Many of the elites in the city were Christians. In an ongoing process, the ruling Muslim layer of the locals was strengthened by their religion. Cultural change occurred with the rise of the Abbasid dynasty (750–1258), when it was determined that the values of the East would dominate Islamic culture. The mosque took the place of the church and other cultural features took place, such as the removal of statues from the city .squares

Between 630 and 692, Akko had instability and battles between the Umayyads and the Byzantines. In 660, Muawiya founded the first Muslim shipyard in Acre. For this purpose, artists, carpenters and other craftsmen from Persia, Baal Beck, Homs and Antioch were settled in Acre. In 692, the Byzantines destroyed Acre along with Tzur, Caesarea and Ashkelon. The seventh century was a period .of destruction after which Acre was restored only within the Old City

In the 10th century, the church of Acre was subordinate to the patriarchate of Antioch. Since 878, Ahmed Ibn Toulon ruled the land of Israel, who developed the port of Acre as a military base to strengthen his rule in Syria. In 969, power was transferred to the Fatimid Shiite dynasty, which was .also a naval power established in Acre

There is evidence of the existence of Jews in the city in the 12th century. At the end of that century,

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.Akko was a Jewish center

:12th Century (1104–1191)

In the Crusader period, Acre reached the peak of its greatness and became one of the centers of the world. Although it is in the 13th century, it was already the largest and richest in the cities of the .Crusader kingdom, its main trading city, and the most important in its ports

Acre was conquered in 1104 by King Baldwin with the help of a large fleet from the Italian city of Genoa. With its conquest, it became the most important port of the Crusader kingdom. Despite the instability and hostility between Muslims and Christians, the city has known a welfare and luxury life of wealthy nobles and merchants, security, cooperation and reciprocity between Europeans and locals. Many pilgrims crowded through its streets. Acre was subordinate to the king, and was ruled by a governor on his behalf. Special rights were granted to merchants of the city of Genoa who received their own district, the Venetians, the Piesenians, the people of Amalfi and the Merchants of Mercy. In Acre, the largest Italian colony in all the port cities of Palestine and Syria was formed. The presence of Italian and French merchants has made Acre a majority in trade between East and West, they have .actually maintained the connection between Europe and the Crusader Kingdom

In 1187, after the Battle of the Horns of Hittin, the city was handed over to Saladin without a fight. Many of the Christian merchants fled the city before surrender. The city was apparently severely damaged when its residents abandoned it, and when the Muslim corps entered it. In the third crusade that was established after the defeat at the Battle of the Horns of Hittin, the fall of Jerusalem and the rest of the kingdom's cities to the Muslims, was imposed in 1189-1191 around Acre the famous siege in the history of the Crusades (due to the high status of the participants and the technologies of war). Many of the campaign took part in ideological-religious motives. The siege .ended with the entry of the Christian forces into Acre and the withdrawal of Muslims

:13th century (1191–1291)

This was the golden age of Acre, whose population numbered at least 40,000 people. Acre served as the capital of the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem and one of the main and most important cities in the world, economically, socially and culturally; most of the kingdom's life was conducted between its walls. Acre was the center of trade relations between Asia and Europe. The large Italian commercial cities had a permanent base in the city, and in its markets and ant passed a significant part of the trade between the West and the Near East. Acre was also a center of money and loan transactions between the West and the East, thanks to the occupation of the Templars, and a center for non-mobile asset transactions in Europe, thanks to the Huspitlers who disputed assets and land .in the West

The Crusader Acre was subject to a constant threat from the Muslims. It also had internal struggles between the various districts and communes. The events within it had implications beyond the borders of the Land of Israel. In the eyes of the Christian West, the realization of the Crusader idea was realized. It had a special cultural merger with influences from the east and west. The kings of Jerusalem sat there and foreign rulers who visited the country held positions there. It was the seat of the Supreme Court of the kingdom that became the central governmental institution. It has about 60 different religious institutions – churches and monasteries – military orders (Hospitlers, Templars, Tevtons), Italian communes (Venice, Genoa and Pisa) and merchants from other commercial cities (Amalfi, San Gimignano, Florence, Luca, Pistoia and Siana) merchant colonies (Catalans from .Barcelona, French from Marseille), Jews and Muslims

Acre was in the front row of creative centers in the world in the field of tiny painting art. The monumental architecture of the time expressed the transition from the Romanesque style to the Gothi, when the churches and monumental buildings were drawn from the west and the residences were built in the east wind, both in local materials – kurkar stone and a little wood, mainly for roofs and openings. The city was surrounded by a wall to the north and east and divided into squares (Mon Mizar, the eastern quarter, the Phisan Quarter, the Genoese Quarter, the Venetian, the Provençal, the Templar and the Hospitaller). The density and need for the construction areas dictated high-level .construction

:The Mamluk Period (1291–1516)

In 1291, Acre fell into the hands of the Muslims. From Tzur Akko was the last stage in the Arab conquest of the entire Crusader kingdom. The Mamluk regime left Acre at its destruction, like an

empty ghost town. The city was systematically destroyed by order of Sultan Al-Ashraf, the fortifications, the port and the city itself were destroyed. In a continuous process, her magnificent buildings were destroyed. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, the Venetians returned to trade and import cotton into Europe through ant. It also came to pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem. The .city stood in Shimona for about two hundred and fifty years

:Turkish rule (1517–1740)

The first hundred years of Turkish rule continued to stand in its wilderness. In the nineteenth century, the first mosque in the city was established – the Sanan Fahra Mosque. During the days of Fakhr a-Din (1586-1635), life was renewed in the shadow of the huge ruins from the Crusader period, the month of trade with the West, and there was an increase in the city's population, which now numbered less than two thousand people, many of them were Jews and Christians and Muslims. In the second half of the century, the development of the city was halted. The city had merchants, mainly French who were apparently concentrated in Khan al-Frange, Franciscan monks, pilgrims and tourists who used the port, a small garrison, governor of the province, a deputy governor, a judge, some religious authority, and chief throne. The tweeth century was characterized by instability, and towards its end, Acre was subordinate to the new Sidon district instead of Safed and since then it has been turned to .the sea again, and so its importance has increased

:Early Ottoman period (1700–1740)

Unlike throughout the Ottoman Empire, the eighteenth century in Acre was characterized by governmental and economic stability with the development of the cotton trade. From the 1940s, Acre was the capital of the Galilee and the most important in the cities of the Land of Israel. This is thanks to the rule of the Bedouin Zeidan House in the Western Galilee and the rise of the hornen of the French commercial colonies along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. The population of Acre in 1712 was about 1500 people from different communities, about 250 Muslim households, 100 .Greeks (Orthodox and Catholics), 10 Jews, and Maronites, Copts and Armenians

Daher al-Amar (1740–1775)

Daher of the House of Zaidan took control of Acre gradually from the 30's of the eighteenth century, and this became the highlight of his political and economic activities. He brought the new golden age to the city, which lasted a century, in which it became thought in the cities of the Land of Israel economically and politically. Daher turned the remains of the Crusader Akko from a source of building blocks. He deliberately settled in it and thus was a complete innovation in the Land of Israel of that period. At first, they settled in the city among the residents of the nearby villages, but most of its growth was a deliberate policy and settlement of Catholics from Nazareth, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Damascus, and Orthodox Greeks from Cyprus. The number of its Jewish residents has also .increased. Daher again turned Acre in five hundred years into a prosperous port city

:Ahmed Jazar (1775–1804)

Jazar continued the construction plants of his predecessor Daher. Under his rule, Acre was granted the status of the capital of the province of Sidon and stood in the spring of 1799 in the face of Napoleon's siege that took its first defeat in this battle. Jazar was known for his tyrannical rule and cruelty. He himself was the architect and engineer of the buildings he established (among them: Al-Jazar Mosque, 1781, Hamam al-Pasha, 1781, Khan al-Omdan, 1784). Jazar's right-hand man on .finance and administration was a flower life that was murdered in 1820

Suleiman Fah, Abdullah Fah and Ibrahim Fahah :(1804–1840)

The Suleiman rule (1805–1815) was a direct continuation of Jazar's rule in the economic and physical spheres. Most of the houses in the city were owned by him. The importance of Acre in international trade declined. It is estimated that its population was about 10,000. During the time of Abdullah Fahah (1818–1831) Acre was no longer a prosperous city and its economic situation deteriorated. In parallel to the decline of the Ottoman Empire, Egypt grew and intensified under the rule of Muhammad Ali. Between November 1831 and March 1832, Egyptian forces led by Ibrahim were wounded on Acre and occupied after a long campaign. The siege and the many noises caused great .damage to the city's population, its buildings and fortifications

:Egyptian rule (1832–1840)

With its conquest, Akko lost the degree of independence and political importance it had under the previous four rulers – Daher, Jazar, Suleiman and Abdullah. In 1833, the armistice agreement was signed between Muhammad Ali and the High Gate. The Egyptian rule in the city was characterized by tyranny; the fortification system was restored, but its economy was not established after the siege. .The development of Haifa and the ant contributed to the decline of Acre

:Act of 1840

This year, Akko stood for the last time in its history at the center of an international military struggle. The Allied forces – England, Turkey and Austria – rose to the Egyptian rule with the power of the “upper gate” in Constantinople. It was the first act conducted from the direction of the sea alone and in which innovative weapons were activated – steamships, explosive shells and rockets. These caused a huge explosion of a warden and the swift end of the campaign. The destroyed Acre was .again under the rule of the Turks

:Late Ottoman Period (1840–1917)

In the city, they were abandoned and neglected. During this period, Akko served as a military-important fortress. The city's population declined and its economy declined. The port of Haifa pushed the port of Acre and became my head in the north of the country. The Turkish government forbade the construction of houses outside the walls, unlike in Jerusalem and Jaffa. The city had city .commercial life on certain dates only. Some of Acre's esteemed families moved to Haifa

:The Days of the British Mandate (1918–1948)

During this period, Acre began to grow again and its economy expanded. The city spread out of the walls. The port was the smallest in the ports of the country, but it continued to operate. The Mandatory Ministry of Antiquities did for the restoration of the city and took care of the renovation of the destroyed sea walls. In 1922, 6420 people lived in the city, of which 4883 were Muslims, 1344 Christians and 115 "others", most of whom are probably in the islands and 78 Jews. In 1931, there were about 7897 and in 1946 there were about 13,000. Following the events of the Arab Revolt from 1939-1936, a military regime was declared in the city (in 1938). The Acre Prison was the main prison in the country where Arab rioters were arrested as well as known-known figures from the Jewish .community and its defenders

:The State of Israel (1948 and later)

In May 1948, the city surrendered to the Haganah and the IDF. Many of its wealthy residents and leaders left for Lebanon, and there were about 3000 people left. After the War of Independence, Jewish immigrants, most of them the refugees of the Holocaust, settled in vacant apartments in the Old City. About 2000 immigrants were housed in the Old City in November 1948; with the construction of the new neighborhoods, many of them preferred to move to them. In the 1960s, there were about 5,000 people in the city, of which about 600 were Jews in the Old City, these have moved to the new neighborhoods over the years. In their place, an Arab population entered, mainly from the villages. In the 1980s and 1990s, the population of the Old City reached 6000 to 7000 (Luria 2000: 487-543). At the beginning of his book Old Acre from 1993, describes the Old City as a deteriorating side neighborhood alongside the city of Acre that develops over a large area, with houses that have .become obsolete and no longer fit for today's needs

Twice in its history, Akko was the central city of the entire Land of Israel and of international importance: in the twentieth century, when the capital of the Crusader Kingdom of Jerusalem was, and in the eighteenth century, under the rule of Jazar Fah. Due to its geographical location and being a port city, Acre was a target for conquests throughout the period, as a result of which the population .turnover is its historical characteristics

Beginning with the days of the British Mandate, the city expanded in an area outside the walls. A fact that changed the spatial context on the ground where the Old City is largely preserved and largely .preserved the existing situation within the walls

 .The Old City of Acre was declared in 2001 by [UNESCO](#)  As a site [World Heritage](#)

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