

Ben-Yehuda's greatest work was the compilation of a comprehensive dictionary of the Hebrew language, several volumes of which were published in his lifetime. The complete edition of seventeen volumes was published in 1959.

See also HEBREW.

## Bibliography

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MARTIN MALIN

## BEN YOUSOUF, SALAH

[1910–1961]

*Tunisian lawyer, political activist, and leader of a radical group within the anticolonial movement that challenged Neo-Destour party leader Habib Bourguiba on the eve of independence.*

Born on the island of Djerba (Jerba), Salah Ben Yousouf was an early associate of Habib Bourguiba (who became president of Tunisia, 1957–1987) and was a member of the Neo-Destour political party, which was led by Bourguiba and which challenged French colonial control. The French had formed a protectorate in 1883, after the La Marsa Convention, and had suppressed first the Destour and then the Neo-Destour attempts to modify Tunisia's political status.

In 1937, Ben Yousouf was named to the Destour political bureau; in 1945, he became secretary-general of the party. At a congress of Tunisian opposition groups in 1946, he expressed the frustration of many politically conscious Tunisians by calling for immediate and unequivocal independence—a demand that Bourguiba had never voiced and one that invited a split between party radicals and moderates. Anxious to prevent the radicals from dominating the party, the French permitted Bourguiba to return from exile in 1949.

In 1950, Ben Yousouf accepted the post of minister of Tunisian justice in a government pledged to explore the possibility of internal autonomy. When French-settler protests caused the abandonment of political reforms in 1952, Ben Yousouf traveled to Paris to place the Tunisian case before the United Nations Security Council. Amid a campaign of re-

pression of the Neo-Destour, the resident general ordered his return, but Ben Yousouf fled to Cairo. Influenced there by pan-Arabism, Ben Yousouf continued to insist on Tunisia's complete break with France and its establishment of ties with other Arab states.

In April 1955, Bourguiba negotiated an agreement with France granting Tunisia home rule, but allowing France to retain considerable influence in many important areas. Although this Franco-Tunisian convention enjoyed widespread support within the Neo-Destour, Ben Yousouf regarded it as a betrayal both of Tunisian national interests, by withholding the full sovereignty he sought, and of pan-Arabism, by allowing France to concentrate on the suppression of nationalist uprisings in Algeria and Morocco. Thus, he returned to Tunisia in September, determined to block the party's endorsement of the convention. Ousted from the political bureau because of his opposition, Ben Yousouf turned to the party membership for support. In addition to the backing of many small businessmen (especially fellow Djerbans who dominated the retail grocery trade), he also had the support of old aristocratic families and conservative religious leaders, both traditionally opposed to Bourguiba. But Ben Yousouf's efforts to mobilize a broader following were thwarted by Neo-Destour loyalists. In November, the party congress voted overwhelmingly to accept the convention.

Unwilling to admit defeat, Ben Yousouf and his aides set about creating rival Neo-Destour branches throughout the country. His most militant supporters resorted to a campaign of terrorism that resulted in a police crackdown in January 1956. Ben Yousouf fled to Egypt, but violence continued in his name until mid-1956. His denunciations continued even after Tunisian independence in March, with criticisms not only of Neo-Destour's undemocratic tendencies, but also of Bourguiba's decision to concentrate on resolving domestic problems before committing himself to pan-Arab concerns. In 1961, Ben Yousouf died at the hands of an unidentified assassin in Cairo.

The vehement opposition of this once-trusted colleague undoubtedly shaped Bourguiba's views on political dissent. For the rest of his career, Bourguiba refused to tolerate an opposition element, no matter how benign, within his party.

## BEN-ZVI, RAHEL YANAIT

See also BOURGUIBA, HABIB; LA MARSA CONVENTION; PAN-ARABISM.

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KENNETH J. PERKINS

## BEN-ZVI, RAHEL YANAIT [1886–1979]

*Israeli labor leader and educator.*

Born in Maline, Ukraine, Rahel Yanait Ben-Zvi (nee Lishansky) studied Hebrew in heder (a Hebrew day school), graduated from a Russian high school, and attended university for a year. An ardent Zionist-socialist from an early age, she was a founding member of the Zionist-Socialist Party (Po'alei Zion) of Russia in 1906. A year earlier, she had been a delegate to the 1905 Zionist Congress. In 1908, she immigrated to Palestine and embarked on a multifaceted career in politics, defense, and education. She joined the ha-Shomer Self-Defense Organization, was editor of *Ahdut*, the organ of the Po'alei Zion Party of Palestine, and a founder of the Hebrew Gymnasium in Jerusalem, where she also taught. She studied agronomy in Nancy, France (1911–1914). During World War I, she supported Britain and helped create the Jewish Legion in 1918. In that year, she married Yizhak Ben-Zvi, well-known Labor leader and future president of Israel. In 1919, she was a founder of the Ahdut ha-Avoda party, which succeeded Poalei Zion and eventually became MAPAI in 1930. In 1920 she was one of the heads of the Haganah defense organization in Jerusalem. She was instrumental in developing agricultural training facilities for women and established a number of schools and farms. In 1927, she was an emissary to the United States for Pioneer Women. After the creation of Israel, she continued her work in agricultural training and in immigrant absorption into Israeli society. An outspoken woman who held intense convictions in many issues, she accompanied her husband on various missions during his term as president of Israel (1952–1963). She aspired to succeed him after his death, but Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion chose Zalman Shazar. The rest of her long life was devoted to her educa-

tional endeavors and writing her memoirs, *We are immigrating* (1962, in Hebrew).

See also ALIYAH; HAGANAH; HA-SHOMER; ZIONISM.

MERON MEDZINI

## BEN-ZVI, YIZHAK [1884–1963]

*Journalist; Labor Zionist leader; second president of Israel, 1952–1963.*

Born in Poltava, in the Ukraine, into a family active in Zionism, Yizhak Ben-Zvi served as second president of Israel until his death. He assumed the role of chief theoretician of Labor Zionism from his arrival in Palestine in 1907.

As a childhood friend of Ber Borochov, Ben-Zvi had attended the founding conference of the Po'alei Zion (Workers of Zion) movement in Russia in 1906. He lived near the center of Russian revolutionary activities and the site of major pogroms. Committed to socialism and Zionism, Ben-Zvi's intellectual and political activities had one overwhelming purpose—to bridge the gap between Labor Zionist theory and conditions in Palestine. One of the founders of the Po'alei Zion Party in Palestine, he also organized a clandestine Jewish defense society called Bar Giora (a name associated with one of the Jewish leaders fighting the Romans in 66–70 C.E.). Bar Giora's members aimed at replacing the Arab guards usually hired to secure outlying Jewish agricultural settlements. Hoping to raise class consciousness among Palestine's Jews, Ben-Zvi edited his party's newspaper and opened a small school in Jerusalem with a curriculum appropriate to the needs of a modern Jewish society.

With the restoration of the Ottoman Empire's constitution after the Young Turk revolution in 1908, Ben-Zvi and one of his closest friends and party comrades, David Ben-Gurion, traveled to Constantinople (now Istanbul) to study law as an avenue of entry into Ottoman politics. With the outbreak of World War I in Europe, he and Ben-Gurion returned to Palestine but were unable to remain. Exiled by Ottoman authorities as potential troublemakers, Ben-Zvi and Ben-Gurion lived and lectured, on behalf of the Po'alei Zion movement,