Israel is often described as a Jewish and democratic state. Some argue that it cannot be both Jewish and democratic as this legitimates discrimination against the Arab minority in Israel and strengthens theocratic tendencies within Israel. On the other hand, in the recent negotiations with the Palestinians, Israel demanded that a final status agreement includes recognition that Israel is a Jewish state, to clarify that the two states are seen as granting self-determination to Jews and Palestinians respectively. Against this background, a new examination of the meaning and implications of the Jewishness of Israel is indeed required.