

Tracking Code



Getting Grounded

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Antisemitism and Israel

Exploring how & if the following are intertwined with Antisemitism

- Criticism of Israel
- Anti-Zionism
- Pro-Palestinian advocacy
- Holding all Jews accountable for Israel
- The slogan “from the river to the sea.”
- Exclusion or suspicion of Jews/Zionists
- How does free speech fit in?



Israel's Size

**290 miles long
(6-hour drive)**

**85 miles wide
(90-minute drive)**

**9 miles wide
(narrowest point)**

Europe Emancipates the Jews

- Begins with the Enlightenment
- Napoleon is first to emancipate the Jews in 1791
- Rise of European Nationalism changes the place of the Jews
- Industrialization and Modernization change life for Jews
- Rise of newer racial form of European Anti-Semitism (Russian Pogroms at Kishinev in 1881)

Different responses to modern Jewish question:

1. Assimilate
2. Self-segregate
3. New Exodus

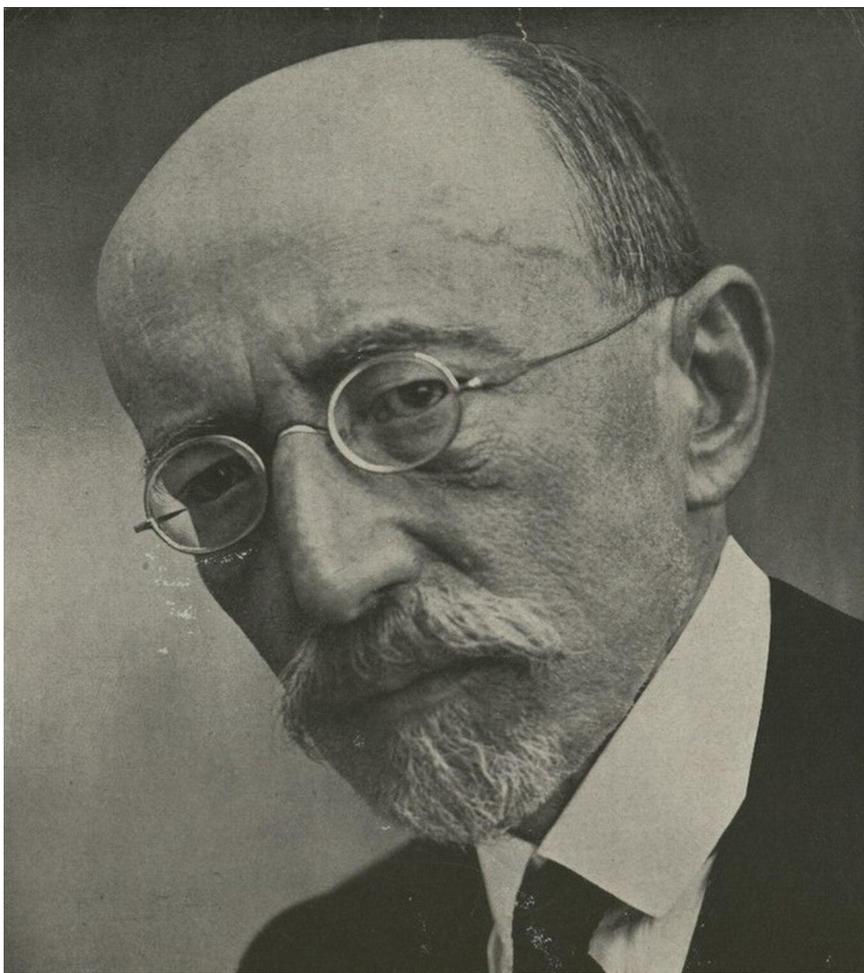


Theodor Herzl

(1860-1904)

“In vain are we loyal patriots, sometimes super loyal; in vain do we make the same sacrifices of life and property as our fellow citizens; in vain do we strive to enhance the fame of our native lands in the arts and sciences, or its wealth by trade and commerce. In our native lands where we have lived for centuries, we are still decried as aliens.”





Ahad Ha'Am

(1856-1927)

“But a ‘people of the book,’ unlike normal people, is a slave to the book. It has surrendered its whole soul to the written word. The book ceases to be what it should be, a source of ever-new inspiration and moral strength; on the contrary, its function in life is to weaken and finally crush all spontaneity of action and emotion... The paramount question is, then, whether there is any possibility of curing this long-standing disease; whether the Jewish people can still shake off its inertia, regain direct contact with the actualities of life.”



Ze'ev Jabotinsky

1880-1940

“Zionist colonization must either stop, or else proceed regardless of the native population. Which means that it can proceed and develop only under the protection of a power that is independent of the native population – behind an iron wall, which the native population cannot breach.” - The Iron Wall - 1923

“Human society is based on reciprocity. If you remove reciprocity, justice becomes a lie.” - The Ethics of the Iron Wall - 1941

“We were not created in order to teach morals and manners to our enemies. Let them learn these things for themselves before they establish relations with us. We want to hit back at anybody who harms us. Whoever does not repay a blow by a blow is also incapable of repaying a good deed in kind. Only someone who can hate his enemies can be a faithful friend to those who love him.”

“It is always aimed at us, and we must respond. We must end this abuse of ourselves, at all costs. And it is very easy. They spit in our faces without fear, ‘in passing’, for no reason – not because our insulters are blessed with courage and want to pick a fight with us, but because this pleasure is so cheap for them: they will spit at us and go on their way, and nothing will happen.”

Religious Symbols in Jewelry Shop in Jerusalem



Zionism's Dream: Make Jews Normal

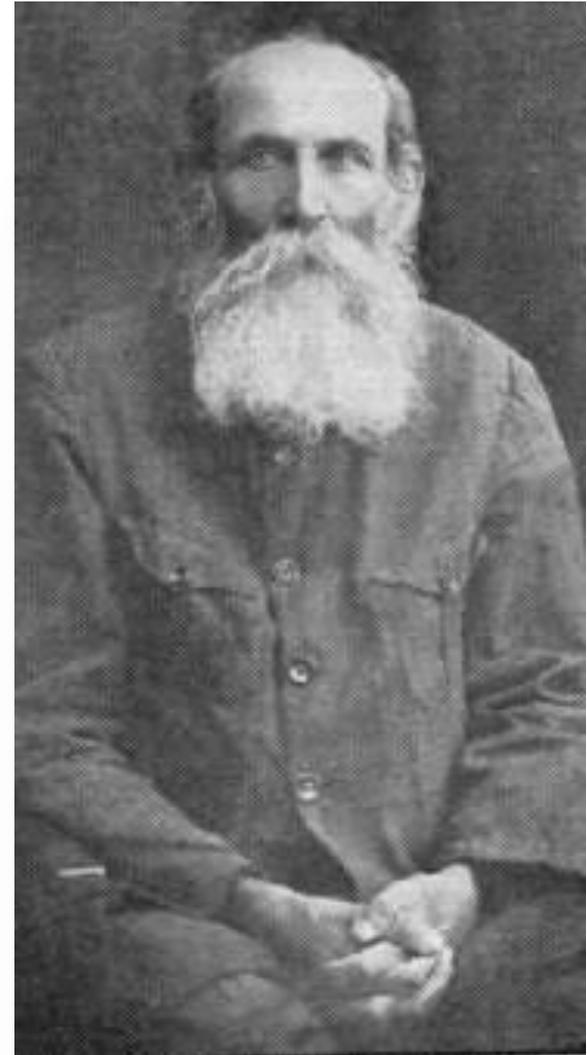
A normal people invariably contains a large majority of individuals for whom labor is second nature. But we Jews are different. Labor is our cure...

Only by making Labor, for its own sake, our national ideal shall we be able to cure ourselves of the plague that has affected us for many generations and mend the rent between ourselves and Nature.

Every one of us is required to refashion themselves so that the Diaspora Jew within him becomes a truly emancipated Jew; so that the unnatural, defective, splintered person within them may be changed into a natural wholesome human being.

– Aaron David Gordon

(1856-1922)





Eliezer Ben Yehudah

1858-1922

“Only a Hebrew with a Hebrew heart will understand this, and such a person will understand even without our urging. Let us therefore make the language really live again! Let us teach our young to speak it, and then they will never betray it! But we will be able to revive the Hebrew language only in a country in which the number of Hebrew inhabitants exceeds the number of gentiles. Therefore, let us increase the number of Jews in our desolate land; let the remnants of our people return to the land of their ancestors, let us revive the nation and its language will be revived too!”

“...True, the Jewish nation and its language died together. But it was not a death by natural causes, not a death of exhaustion, like the death of the Roman nation, which therefore died forever! The Jewish nation was murdered twice, both times when it was in full bloom and youthful vigor.”

“...The Jewish religion will, no doubt, be able to endure even in alien lands; it will adjust its forms to the spirit of the place and the age, and its destiny will parallel that of all religions! But the nation? The nation cannot live except on its own soil; only on this soil can it revive and bear magnificent fruit, as in the days of old!” -Return To The Jewish Language - Letter of Eliezer Ben Yehudah - 1880

Rav Kook

1865-1935



“A Jew cannot be as devoted and true to his own ideas, sentiments, and imagination in the Diaspora as they can in the Land of Israel... the greater one’s yearning for and attachment to the Land of Israel, the purer their thoughts become, for they then live in the air of the Land of Israel, which sustains everyone who longs to behold the Land. In the Holy Land, a person’s imagination is lucid and clear, clean and pure, capable of receiving the revelation of Divine Truth.”

What is Zionism?



There are so many labels thrown at the word Zionism. What is it really and what is the context for some of those labels?

The Nature of the conflict?

- Religious
- Political
- Land

The Negative words used to describe Zionism

- Nationalist
- Colonialist
- Imperialist
- Racist
- Apartheid

Big Questions

- Who is indigenous
- Homecoming
- National liberation movement

1.2 - Short History of Jews and Arabs in the Land

Simple Timeline of the Land of Israel

Before 13th – 12th Centuries BCE	Mixed tribal control: Hebrews, Amalekites, Hittites, etc.
13th – 12th Centuries BCE	The Israelites settle the Land of Israel
C. 1020 BCE – 586 BCE	Israelite Control
586 BCE – 142 BCE	Persian and Hellenistic Period
142 BCE – 63 BCE	Jewish autonomy under Hasmoneans
63 BCE – 313 CE	Roman Period – Large portion of Jewish population expelled in 135 CE after Bar Kochba Revolt
313 CE – 636 CE	Byzantine Period
636 CE – 1099 CE	Arab Rule
1099 CE – 1291 CE	Crusader Domination
1291 CE – 1516 CE	Mamluk Period
1516 CE – 1917 CE	Ottoman Period
1917 CE – 1948 CE	British Mandate
1948 CE – Present	Israeli Control

Population & Economic Growth during British Mandate

Population Growth between 1881-1947

Year	Number of Arabs	Number of Jews
1881	450,000	25,000
1914	-	65,000 – 88,000
1931	-	175,000
1939	-	460,000
1947	1,300,000	630,000

Economic Expansion btwn. 1922-1947

Year	Arab	Jewish
1922	6.6 million pounds	1.7 million pounds
1947	32.3 million pounds	38.5 million pounds

Balfour Declaration, 1917 League of Nations Palestine Mandate, 1920

The Land included present-day Jordan, Israel, the Territories and the Golan Heights.

The Guidelines (Article 6 & 7):

- “Facilitate Jewish immigration.”
- “Encourage...close settlement by Jews on the land.”
- “Facilitate the acquisition of Palestinian citizenship by Jews.”



Area Allocated for Jewish National Home
San Remo Conference, 1920

Balfour Declaration

Foreign Office
November 2nd, 1917

Dear Lord Rothschild,

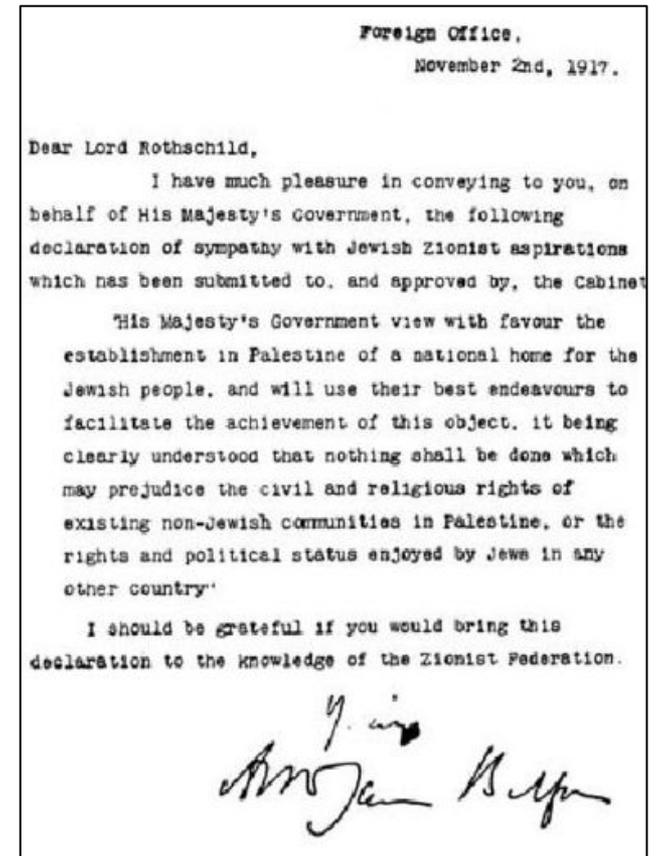
I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavors to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours,

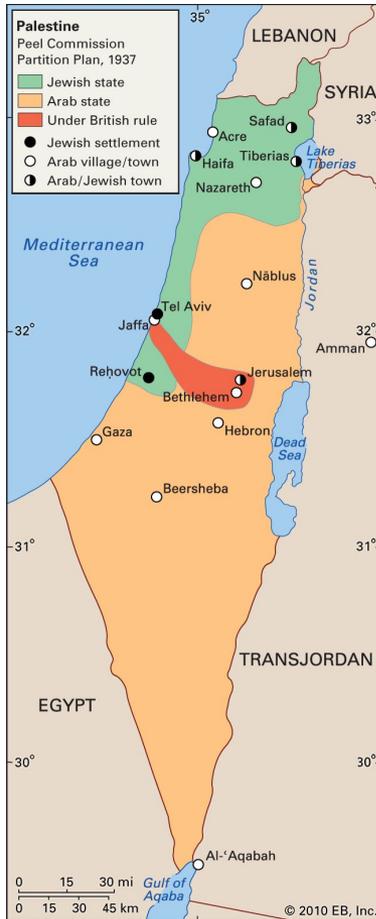
Arthur James Balfour



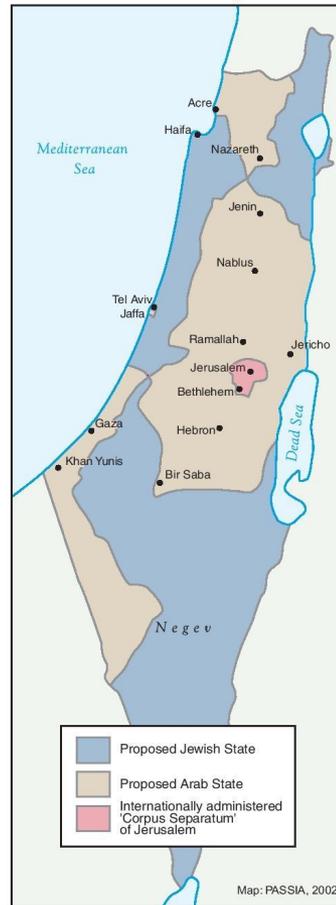
Creation of Jordan 1922



Peel Commission



UN Partition Plan



Peel Commission – 1937

- 20% of land to Jews
- 70% of land to Arabs
- 10% British Control

UN Partition Plan – 1947

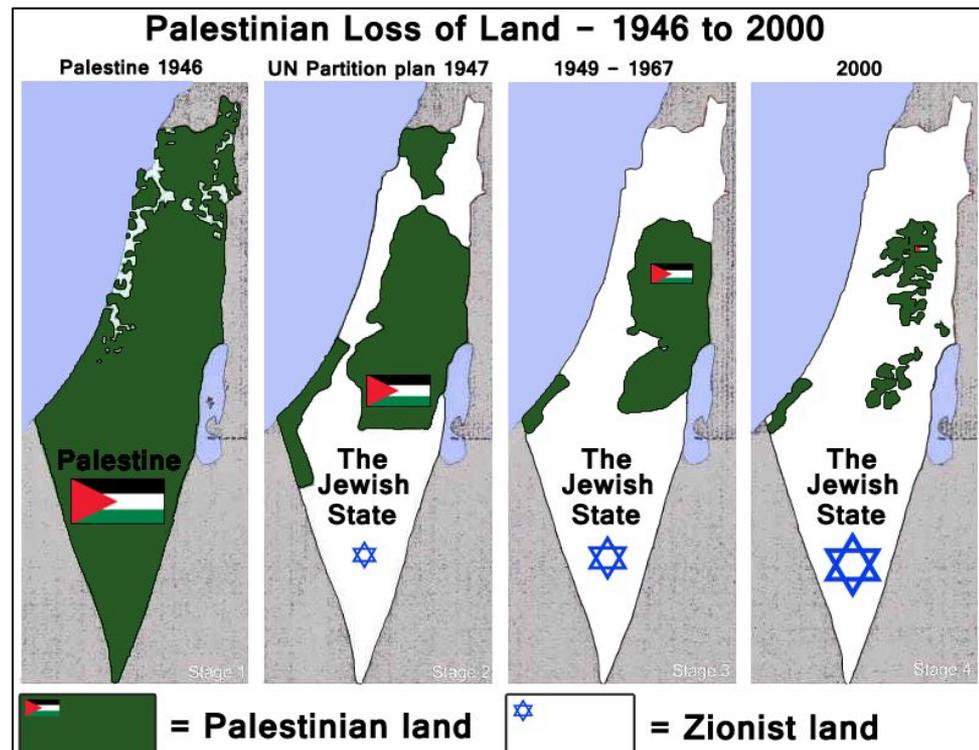
- 55% of land to Jews
- 42% of land to Arabs

1st & 2nd Partition Plans

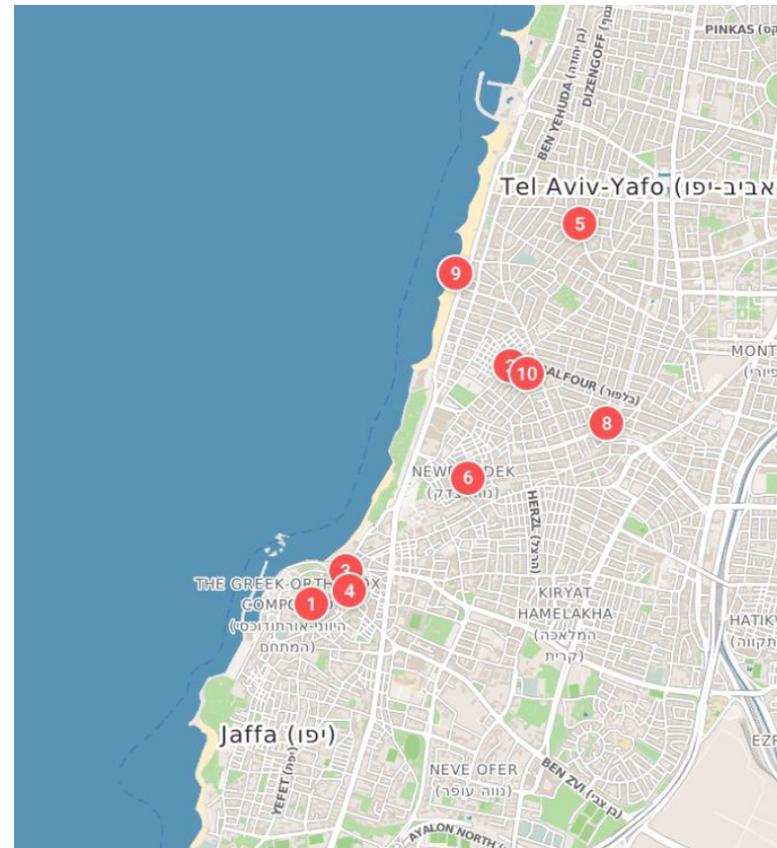
How did the Jews acquire the land?

Anti-Zionist Map Found All Over the Internet

- Did they buy it?
- Did they steal it?
- Was it legal or illegal?



Founding of Tel Aviv in 1909

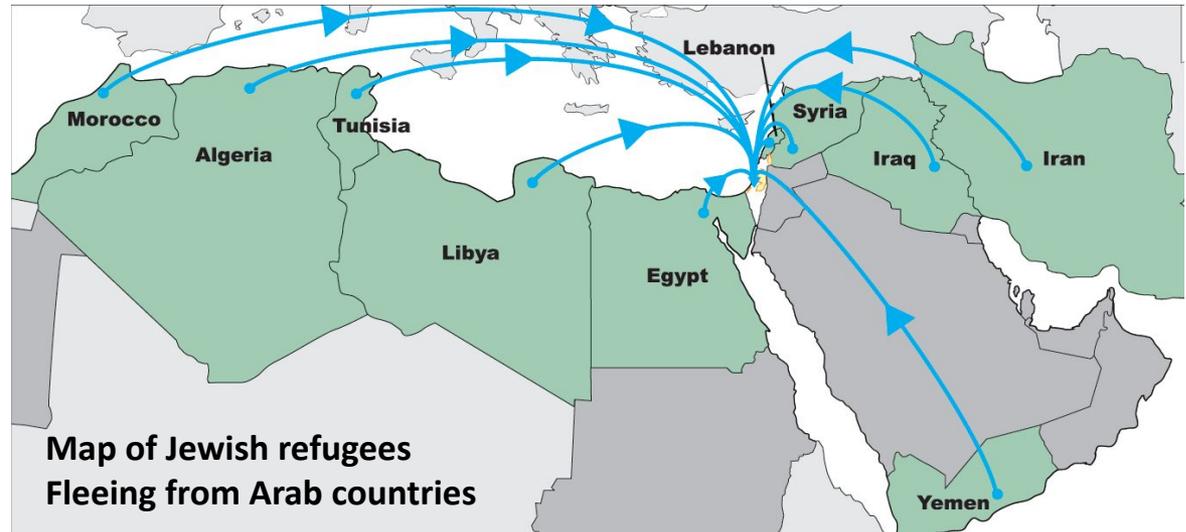
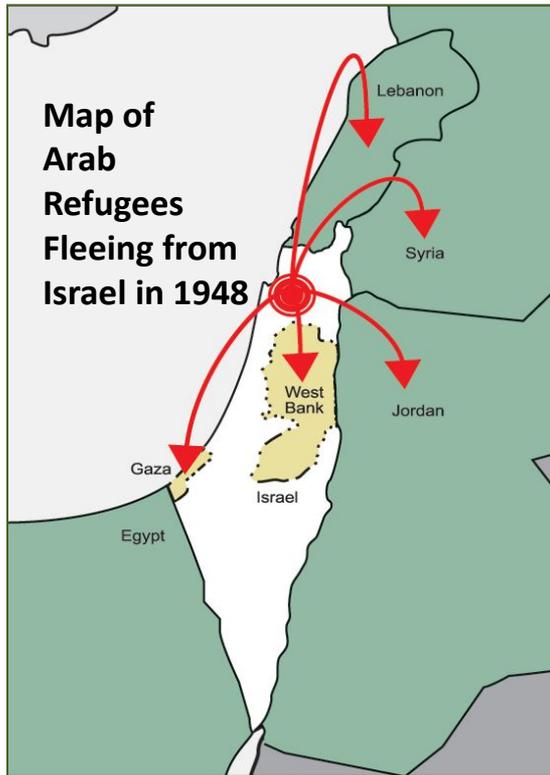


What Happened in 1948?

War of Independence

- British Mandate ends on May 15, 1948 – Israel declared itself independent on May 14, 1948
- Five nations invade – Jordan, Syria, Egypt, Iraq, Saudi Arabia
 - 5,800 Jews killed = approx. 1% of the population
 - 12,000 Arabs killed (rough estimate)
- Creation of refugee problem
 - 700,000 Arab refugees – not absorbed by other Arab countries
 - 850,000 Jewish refugees from Arab countries

Jewish and Arab Refugees 1948

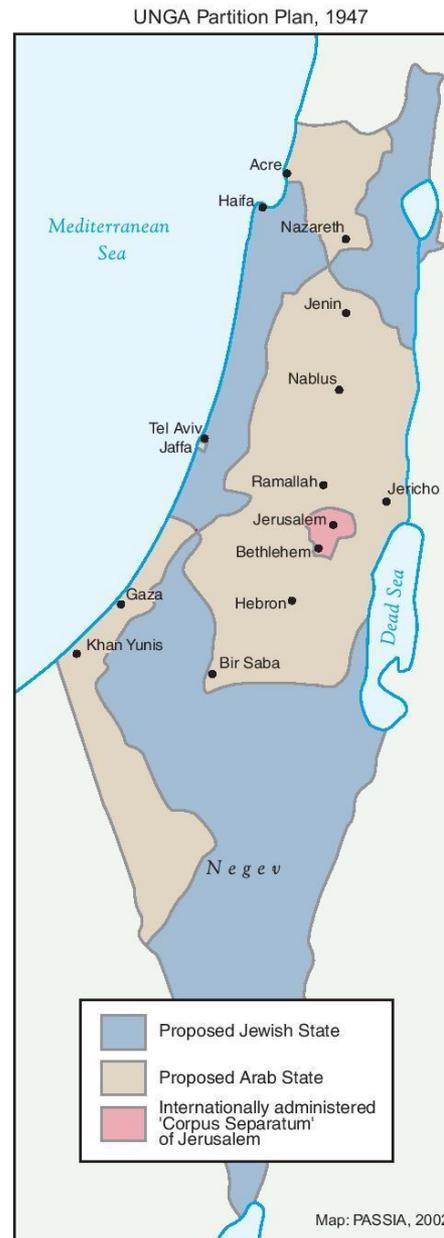


- 160,000 Arabs accepted Israel's offer of citizenship.
- 472,000-750,000 Arabs sought refuge from the fighting in neighboring Arab countries.

- 850,000 Jews lived in Arab/Muslim lands in 1948. Persecuted by nine Arab countries after 1948 and forced to flee, hundreds of thousands found refuge in Israel.
- 70,000 Jews were forced out of the Mandate land occupied by Jordan, Egypt and Syria in 1948.

After the War of Independence

- Jerusalem Divided
- West Bank Belongs to Jordan
- Gaza Belongs to Egypt
- Golan Heights Belong to Syria



2.1 - How did the Conflict Start?

How did the conflict start?

Until 1908 it was very quiet

Arabs were not initially nationalistic

By approx. 1915 – Arab Nationalism begins to rise

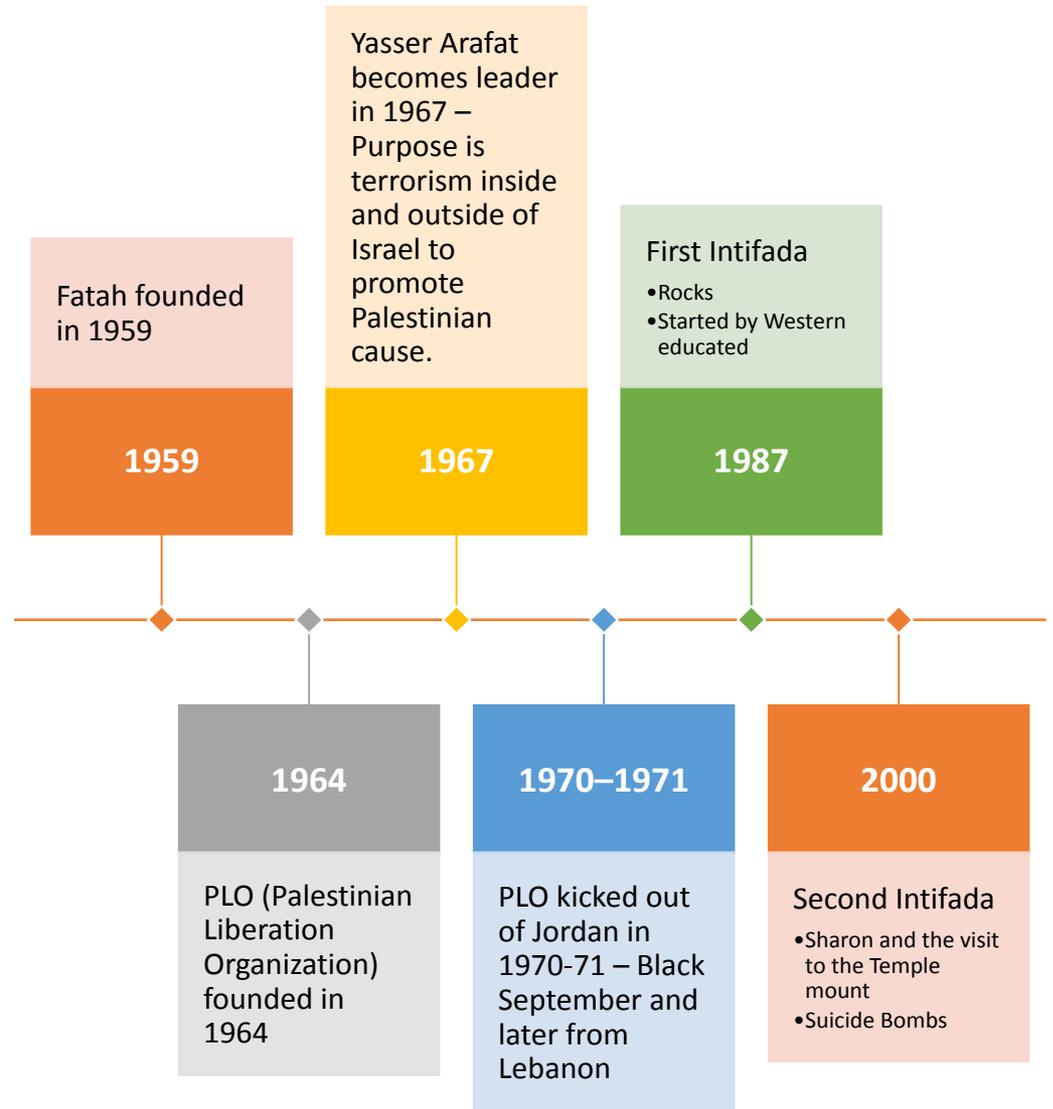
Violence begins mostly as criminal activity – not coordinated

Arab Riots in 1929 – kills 133 Jews

By 1936 – Arab violence increases fueled by Axis propaganda

Jews develop strategy of reprisals – by 1936 Jews want their own army – no one else will do it for us.

Rise of Fatah and PLO



PLO Charter - 1964

- We, The Palestinian Arab people, who faced the forces of evil, injustice and aggression against whom the forces of International Zionism and colonialism conspired and worked to displace it, dispossess it from its homeland to realize its freedom and dignity and who has determined to amass its forces and mobilize its efforts and capabilities in order to continue its struggle and to move forward on the path of holy war until complete and final victory has been attained.
- Article 2. Palestine with its boundaries at the time of the British Mandate is a regional indivisible unit.
- Article 7. Jews of Palestinian origin are considered Palestinians if they are willing to live peacefully and loyally in Palestine.
- Article 17. The Partitioning of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of Israel are illegal and false regardless of the loss of time, because they were contrary to the wish of the Palestine people and its natural right to its homeland, and in violation of the basic principles embodied in the charter of the United Nations, foremost among which is the right to self-determination.
- Article 18. The Balfour Declaration, the Mandate system and all that has been based upon them are considered fraud. The claims of historic and spiritual ties, ties between Jews and Palestine are not in agreement with the facts of history or with the true basis of sound statehood. Judaism because it is a divine religion is not a nationality with independent existence. Furthermore, the Jews are not one people with an independent personality because they are citizens of the countries to which they belong.
- Article 19. Zionism is a colonialist movement in its inception, aggressive and expansionist in its goals, racist and segregationist in its configurations and fascist in its means and aims.
- Article 24. This Organization does not exercise any regional sovereignty over the West Bank in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, on the Gaza Strip

You can read full text at

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/the-original-palestine-national-charter-1964>

The Six-Day War and Birth of the Settlements

Six-Day War and the Settlements

- Begins June 5, 1967
- From the brink of destruction to the victor in 6 days
- Government is paralyzed afterwards
- Facts on the ground take over
- Western Wall
- First Settlement in Hebron – Moshe Levinger – Pesach 1968
- Israel now occupies 1.25 million Palestinians

Israel's Borders Before and After Six-Day War



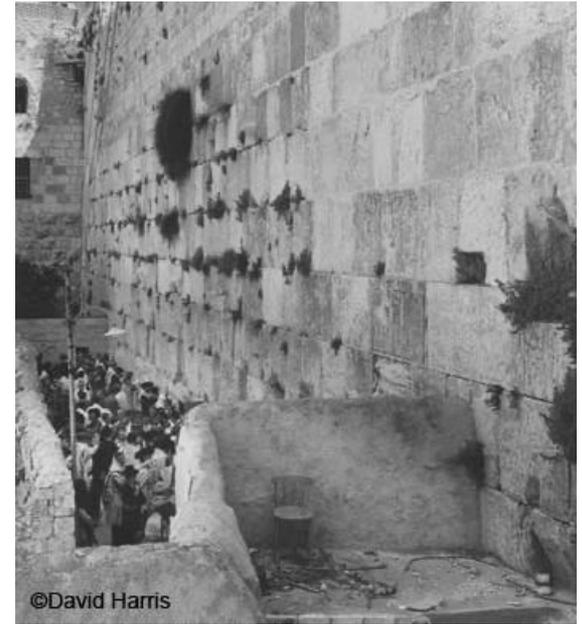
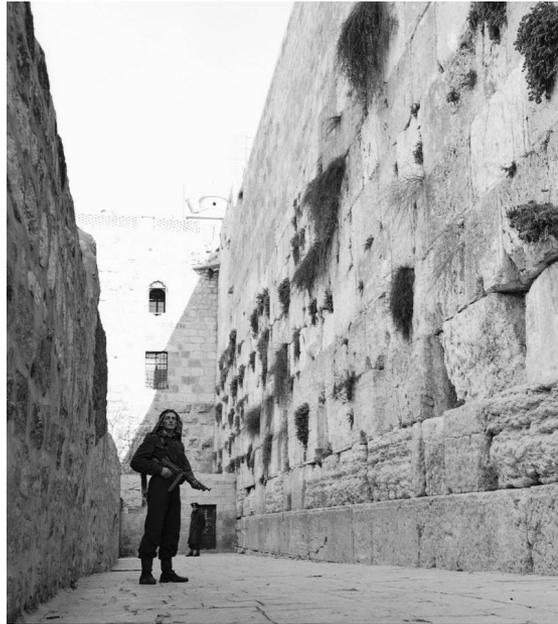
1949-1967
Jordan annexed area it renamed the "West Bank." Egypt occupied Gaza.



1967-1979
After the Six Day War, Israel captured the Golan Heights, Sinai, Gaza, and the West Bank.



Founder of Hevron Settlement
– R. Moshe Levinger



Creation of the Kotel Plaza

Trading Land for Peace

1979-2008

- **1979**–Israel ceded the Sinai for peace with Egypt
- **2000**–Israel withdrew from security zone in southern Lebanon
- **2005**–Israel withdrew from Gaza



The Intifadas and the Oslo Peace Process

First Intifada

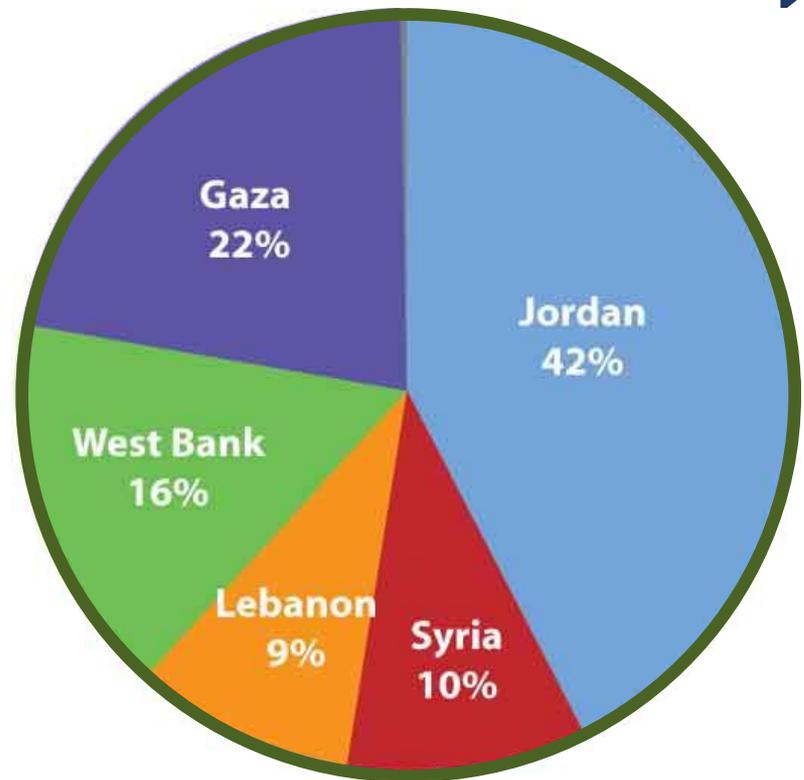


Rise and Current Status of Hamas

- Founded in December of 1987 by Sheik Ahmed Yassin
 - Yassin perched and did charity work since 1960s in West Bank and Gaza
- Spin off of Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood
- Hamas is an acronym that means Islamic Resistance
- Published first charter in 1988 - called for destruction of Israel and establishment of Islamic State
- Generally more strict about Islam, drinking and corruption than Palestinian Authority
- Hamas created revised charter doc in 2017 to moderate their image - accepted interim Palestinian State along Green Line but still refused to recognize Israel
- Designated as a terrorist group by US and EU since 1990s
- Not in control of Gaza after civil war among Palestinians
- Funded by Iran and other gulf states
- Political Bifurcation is not popular among Palestinians
- No election since 2006 - Abbas afraid PA would lose
- Hamas always more popular after conflict with Israel - 53% for Hamas vs. 14% for PA after most recent conflict in 2021

Distribution of UN-Registered Palestinian Refugees Today

- The UN set up UNRWA to provide welfare that Arab states would not provide for the Arab refugees created by the war they launched.
- All the world's other refugees are cared for by one UN agency (UNHCR).
- Sixty years after the War in 1948, UNRWA still provides support to Palestinian refugees. They are the only refugee group in the world whose descendants are also designated as refugees.
- Arab states continue to promise refugees they have the “right of return” to Israel.



Oslo Process

- Starts b/c of two major changes: fall of Soviet Union & PLO backing Iraq in first gulf war
 - PLO finds itself along without a benefactor
- Bush sets up negotiations between Palestinians and Israelis
 - Meetings in Madrid and Washington
 - Negotiations are idle and really go nowhere
- 1992 – Rabin takes office – he is convinced, in large part by Shimon Peres, that the Intifada is an existential risk for Israel
- Secret negotiations take place in Oslo in 1992 and 1993
- Declaration of Principles signed in Sept of 1993
 - Israel Recognizes PLO as spokesman for Palestinian people
 - Phased retreat from territories (West Bank is broken down Areas ABC)
 - Creation of Palestinian Authority
 - Leave Jerusalem, refugee & right of return for later
- Peace with Jordan soon after

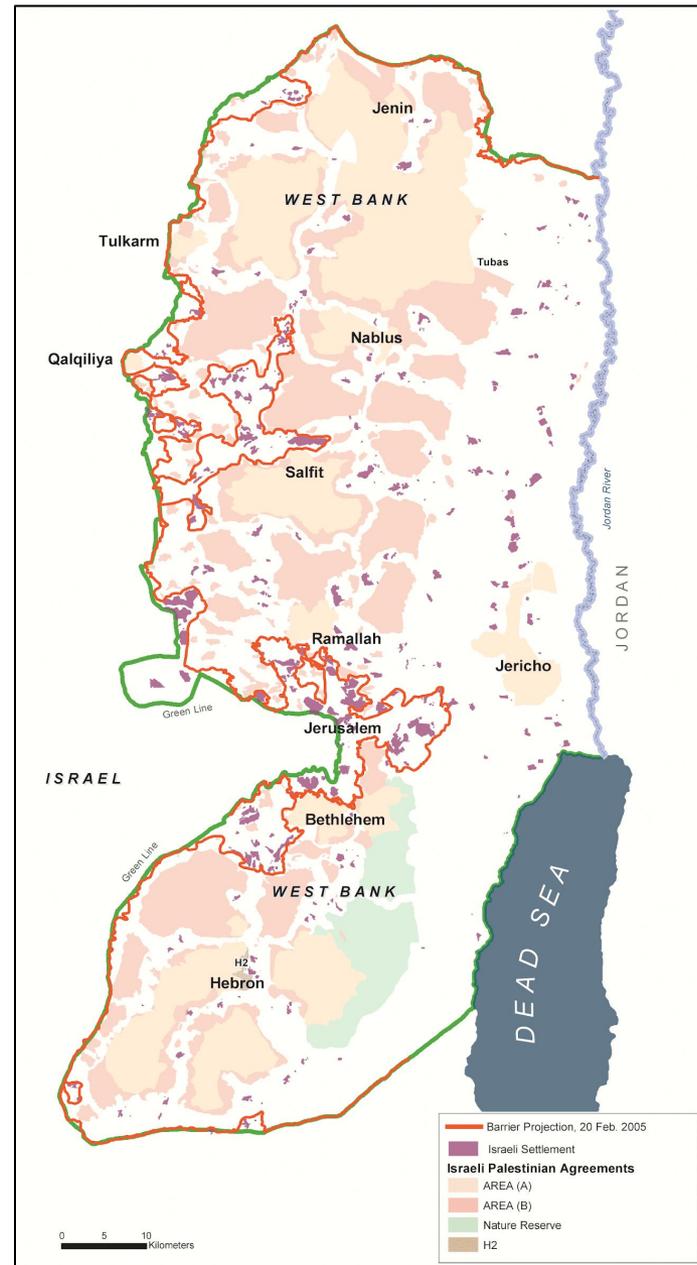
Oslo Peace Process Map

Palestinian Authority Est.
'94

Area A = Direct control of
the PA

Area B = Civil control by PA
/ Security by Israel

Area C = Israeli Control



The Different Types of Settlements



Picture of Emuna Settlement

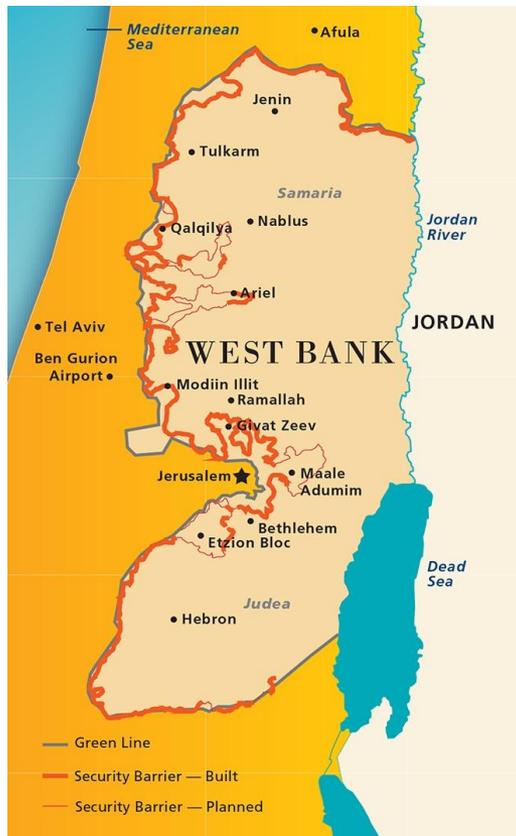


Picture of Maale Adumim Settlement

Cracks in the Oslo Process

- Settlements continue
- Terrorism continues
- Far right in Israel demonizes Rabin and Land for Peace - “Din Rodef”
- Arafat doesn’t bring Palestinians along

West Bank Today





The Security Fence

- 96-97% chain link fence
- 93% drop in suicide bombers

Book Recommendations

1. Best Overall History of Israel - [Israel: A History by Anita Shapira](#)
2. Best History of 1948 War - [1948: A History of the First Arab-Israeli War by Benny Morris](#)
3. Best Survey of Zionist Thought - [The Zionist Idea by Arthur Hertzberg](#)
4. Best Super Short History of Israel - [A Short History of the Jewish People by Scheindlin](#)
5. Best History of Founding of Settlements - [Accidental Empire by Gershom Gorenberg](#)
6. Best History of the 6-day War - [Six Days of War by Michael Oren](#)
7. Best YouTube Resource - [Unpacked Channel on YouTube](#)