

The 1948 War

The UN Partitioned Palestine → War Ensues

NOVEMBER 1947

United Nations voted to **partition** Palestine into:

- Jewish State (51%)
- Arab State (44%)
- Jerusalem (5%)

This made the Jews happy.

The Arabs were outraged.



MAY 14th 1948

- British left Palestine.
- Zionist leader David Ben-Gurion proclaims independence for Israel.

MAY 15th 1948

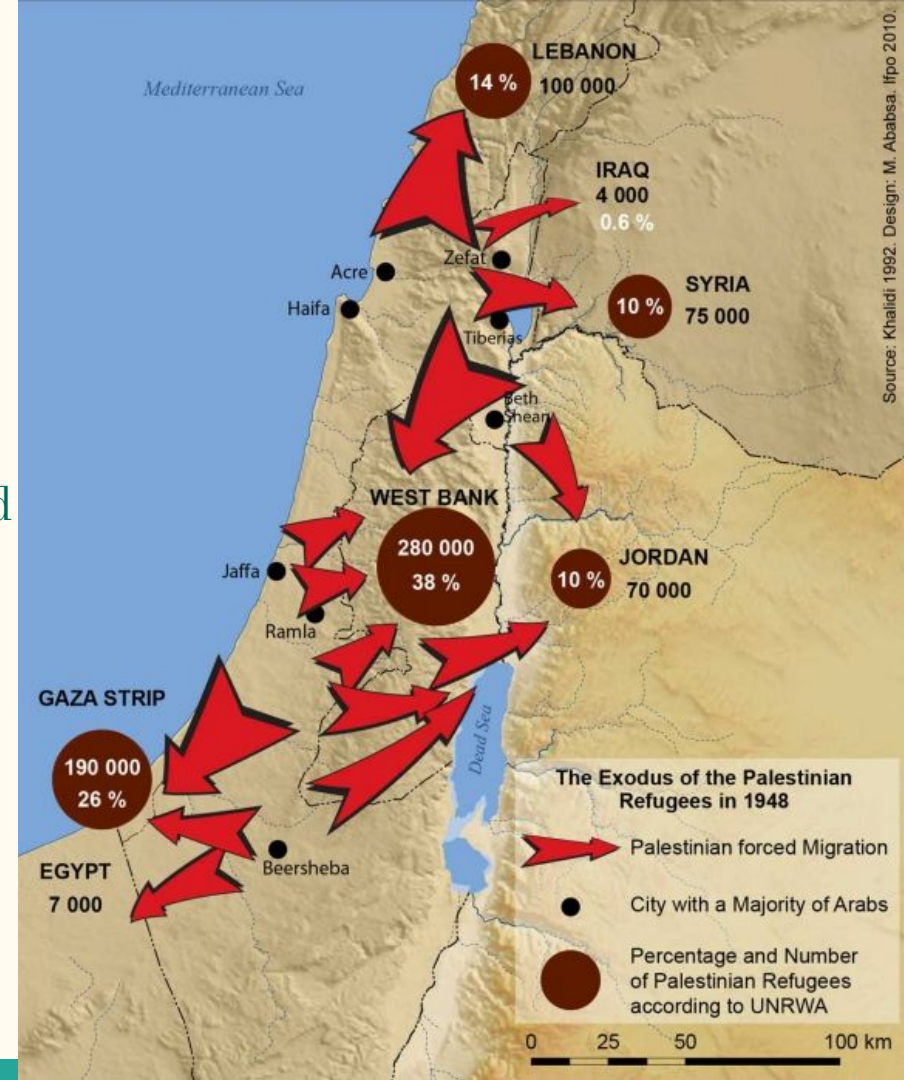
- Arab troops from: Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia invade Palestine and attack Israel.

By the end of 1948...

Israel now controlled most of the land that the UN had given to the Arab state.

Over 900,000 Palestinians fled and became refugees → Gaza Strip (controlled by Egypt) and West Bank (controlled by Jordan)

Israelis immediately began to settle into the former Palestinian villages and resettle them - many of them were immigrants coming into Israel from all over the Middle East and Europe.





1947: United Nations Partition Plan



June 1948: Arab armies invade



July 1948: Israeli army counterattacks



Palestinians demanded that either:

1. They be allowed to return to their homes
2. Or they be compensated for their lost land and property

Israel claimed that:

1. Most Palestinians chose to leave the land
2. The Israeli army had rightfully won the land after the Arabs attacked the state of Israel

The United Nations Steps In

They did not officially respond to the outcome of the war, however the General Assembly of members were concerned for the high number of refugees that were a result of the war

500,000 refugees in Transjordan were offered citizenship (many accepted) → **renamed to Jordan**

Other Arab states refused to allow refugees to settle → **many Palestinians remained in refugee camps hoping to be able to return to their land**

Refugees in Gaza Strip, West Bank, Egypt, Syria and Lebanon became people without countries → **no health care, employment, housing or education**

Israel and Palestine Explained

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1967 War



The 1967 Six-Day War



Israel before June 1967



צנחנים בכותל
PARATROOPERS AT THE WESTERN WALL

Jews return to the Western Wall for the first time since 1948 when Jordan occupied East Jerusalem



Cease-Fire Lines After the Six-Day War

United Nations Resolution 242

Resolution of the United Nations Security Council that condemned the Israeli invasion and refused to acknowledge Jerusalem as the Israeli capital.

The Israelis supported the resolution because it called on the Arab states to accept Israel's right "to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force." → Interpreted it to mean that they could keep all Occupied Territories for "security reasons"

Palestinians denounced the resolution because it made no mention of a Palestinian state.

The Arab states eventually accepted it because it called for Israel to withdraw from the territories conquered in 1967.

The Intifada



The United Nations took no official steps to end the Intifada.

Because the conflict did not involve sovereign states the UN considered the Intifada to be an important *but internal* Israeli affair.

In 1991, US brought Israel and Arab states - but NO Palestinian leadership - into negotiations for peace.

New Israeli leadership was elected in 1992 and worked more seriously to pursue negotiations with Palestinians in secret meetings.

Declaration of Principles

In 1993, those secret negotiations resulted in an agreement known as the Declaration of Principles. This was agreed upon between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Israeli government.

This general agreement was followed up by a formal and specific agreement in 1995. This one called for a gradual withdrawal of Israelis from parts of the Occupied Territories.

The final status of the Occupied Territories was left unresolved at this time.

[More explanation.](#)

LOSS OF LAND

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has dragged on for more than 115 years, where both claim historic and religious ties to the land. The geopolitical disputed area stretches over a 100,000 square-miles landscape, sitting between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River with an unresolved conclusion and far-reaching implications. Over the period of the conflict, Israel's share of land has gradually expanded.

العربية
Al Arabiya



1897

The World Zionist Organization Founded by Theodor Herzl in Basle during 1897; the Basle Program stated: "Zionism seeks to establish a home for the Jewish people in Palestine, secured under public law."

1917

Under the Balfour Declaration, United Kingdom's Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour approves the establishment of a national home for Jews in Palestine.



1946

The illustrated map demonstrates that more than 90 percent of the land belongs to Palestinians.

During this period, Jewish settlers had paid for most of the land they occupied.



1947

U.N. Partition Plan:
The U.N. General Assembly initiates a plan to separate western Palestine into two states. While the Jewish leader accepts, the Palestinian leaders reject the plan, resulting in uprisings.



1948-1949

Arab-Israeli War:
The Jewish community declares itself independent in the new state of Israel.

Neighboring Arab states then intervened militarily, precipitating the first Arab-Israeli war.

The war left historic Palestine divided into three parts. The 1949 armistice gave Israel control over 77 percent of the territory.



1956

Suez Crisis

1967

The Six-Day War involves Israel fighting against three Arab states (Egypt, Jordan and Syria). It results in Israel claiming control over Gaza and the strategic Sinai peninsula from Egypt, the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria and East Jerusalem.



Present (2012)

Gaza Expulsion Plan:
As part of unilateral disengagement initiative, Israeli defense forces leave the Gaza Strip and four settlements in the northern West Bank.

Israel launches a massive air campaign on Gaza, with the declared goal of deterring Hamas.

Palestinians submit a proposal for membership and statehood to the U.N.



Challenges in Defining an Israeli-Palestinian Border



Israeli and Palestinian negotiators took part in peace talks in Washington in July of 2011 for the first time in three years. While the talks were initially expected to focus on procedural issues, they took on a last-ditch quality. We will explore some of the contentious issues that negotiators have faced in drawing borders between Israel and a possible future Palestinian state.

West Bank

- Home to 2.6 million Palestinians
- Israel took control in 1967 and has allowed Jewish settlers to move in, but Palestinians (and most of the international community) consider it illegally occupied Palestinian land.
- Israel has controlled the West Bank since the Six-Day War. Was the heartland of the ancient Jewish state and is home to many Jewish holy sites.
- There are about 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, many live near the border of Israel.
- In a two-state deal, some of these settlers would have to leave the West Bank, while some border settlements would become Israeli land.



The Gaza Strip

- **Gaza** is a densely populated strip of land that is mostly surrounded by Israel and the people are almost exclusively all Palestinians.
- 1967– 2005: Israeli military authorities controlled Gaza in the same way they control the West Bank, and Jews were permitted to settle there.
- In 2005, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon pulled out Israeli troops and settlers and it's currently under Israeli blockade.
- **Gaza is governed by the Islamist group Hamas**



The Two-State Solution

The "two-state solution" would create an independent Israel and Palestine, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict.

- Israelis and Palestinians want to run their countries differently; Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one.
- Palestinians DEMAND their own sovereign country
- Neither side can get what it wants in a joined state -- the only possible solution involves separating Palestinians and Israelis.

1949 Armistice
line resulting
from
Arab-Israeli
War in 1948





Borders and Barriers: An Overview

Divided Palestinian Authority

- Palestine's President:
Mahmoud Abbas
- Elected in 2005
- Extended his own term in 2009 due to internal conflict
- Current authority of West Bank territory



Divided Palestinian Authority

Hamas: Palestinian Islamist political organization and militant group that has waged war on Israel since the group's 1987 founding, most notably through suicide bombings and rocket attacks. It seeks to replace Israel with a Palestinian state. It also governs Gaza independently of the Palestinian Authority.



Israeli Authority

- ★ Benjamin Netanyahu is the current Prime Minister of Israel
- ★ Has been elected four times
- ★ Spent his teenage years in the United States and was educated there.



Netanyahu

2005 - Resigns in protest over the plan to withdraw Jewish settlers from Gaza and return their land to Palestinian control.

2011 - He says that he is prepared to make "painful compromises" for a peace settlement with the Palestinians. Repeats that Israel will not accept a return to its pre-1967 boundaries.

Has argued that Israel cannot negotiate with the government of Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas while it is backed by Hamas.

Abbas

Since their 2007 split, Abbas's political party, Fatah, which dominates in the West Bank, and Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, have signed four reconciliation agreements that have failed to come to fruition.

And when his four-year term ended in January 2009, Hamas declared him illegitimate.

Hamas has vowed to never recognize Israel. Recognition of Israel would imply the acceptance of the expulsion of more than 700,000 Palestinians during the Nakba in 1947 to 1949.



JOHN KERRY

- U.S. Secretary of State:
Feb. 2013-Jan. 2017
 - **Secretary of State:** a member of the President's Cabinet and is mainly concerned with foreign affairs
 - In 2013, he convinced Israel and Palestine to all meet together to begin peace talks
 - His goal was to help reach a Two-State Solution
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REX TILLERSON



- U.S. Secretary of State Jan 2017 - Present
- Served as President of ExxonMobil then CEO from 2006-2016
- Under Obama administration, the U.S. ramped up military assistance to Israel & Arab allies in the Middle East to try to calm their fears over Iran's intentions. Trump, however, has made it clear he will go further than Obama in siding with Israel in its disputes
- Has suggested moving U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, effectively recognizing it as the capital of Israel

In order for a two state solution to work...

The border between Israel and the West Bank would probably have to change in any peace deal. There are about 500,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank, many of whom live near the border with Israel proper. In a two-state deal, some of these settlers would have to leave the West Bank, while some border settlements would become Israeli land. In exchange, Israel would give over some of its territory to Palestine. These would be called "land swaps." No set of Israeli and Palestinian leaders has agreed on precisely where to draw the border.

In order for a two state solution to work...

The settlements in the West Bank are built on land the Palestinians and the international community, along with some in the Israeli community, see as a future Palestinian state. One concern is that if the settlements keep expanding it could make a contiguous, whole Palestinian state in the West Bank impossible.

If one contiguous Palestinian state cannot be recognized, then the two-state solution may be dead.

Palestinians demand a freeze to settlement construction before they are willing to resume negotiations.

The Israeli government's position, under PM Netanyahu, is that settlements are not an obstacle to peace and that settlement expansion is a function of natural growth within existing settlements. Netanyahu has repeatedly said that the refusal of the Palestinians to accept Israel as a Jewish state within any borders is the primary obstacle to peace.