

# Jews and Palestinians: Two Claims to Palestine

## Reading Follow Up

1. Why did the majority of Jews leave Palestine in 73 AD?
2. What is the aim of Zionism?
3. Why did Palestine fear the immigration of Zionists? (2 reasons)
4. What were the effects of the Sykes Picot and Balfour Declaration on Palestinian Arabs? What about on Jews? Explain.
5. Why did Great Britain reconsider their Jewish immigration policy in the 1930's?
6. Why did Great Britain turn the Mandate of Palestine over to the UN?

# World War I // The Great War



It is generally acknowledged that World War I was a transformative event in world history, possibly the single greatest catalyst for change on a global scale, marking the end of 19th century institutions and the beginning of a new era. This statement is especially true in the Middle East. Studying the Great War in that area of the world raises important military, social, political, and health issues that even one century later, continue to affect the world in which we live.

# EUROPE AT THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I



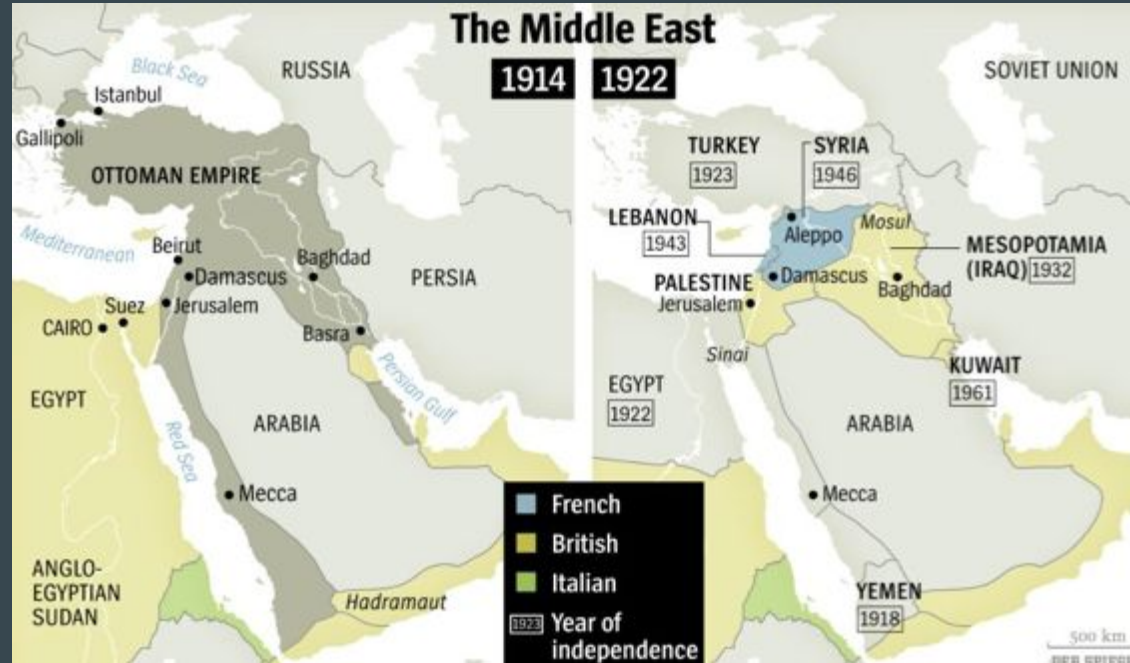
# Some say that the roots of many contemporary conflicts in the Middle East go back to the Great War

The Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of Germany, Austria-Hungary and Italy.

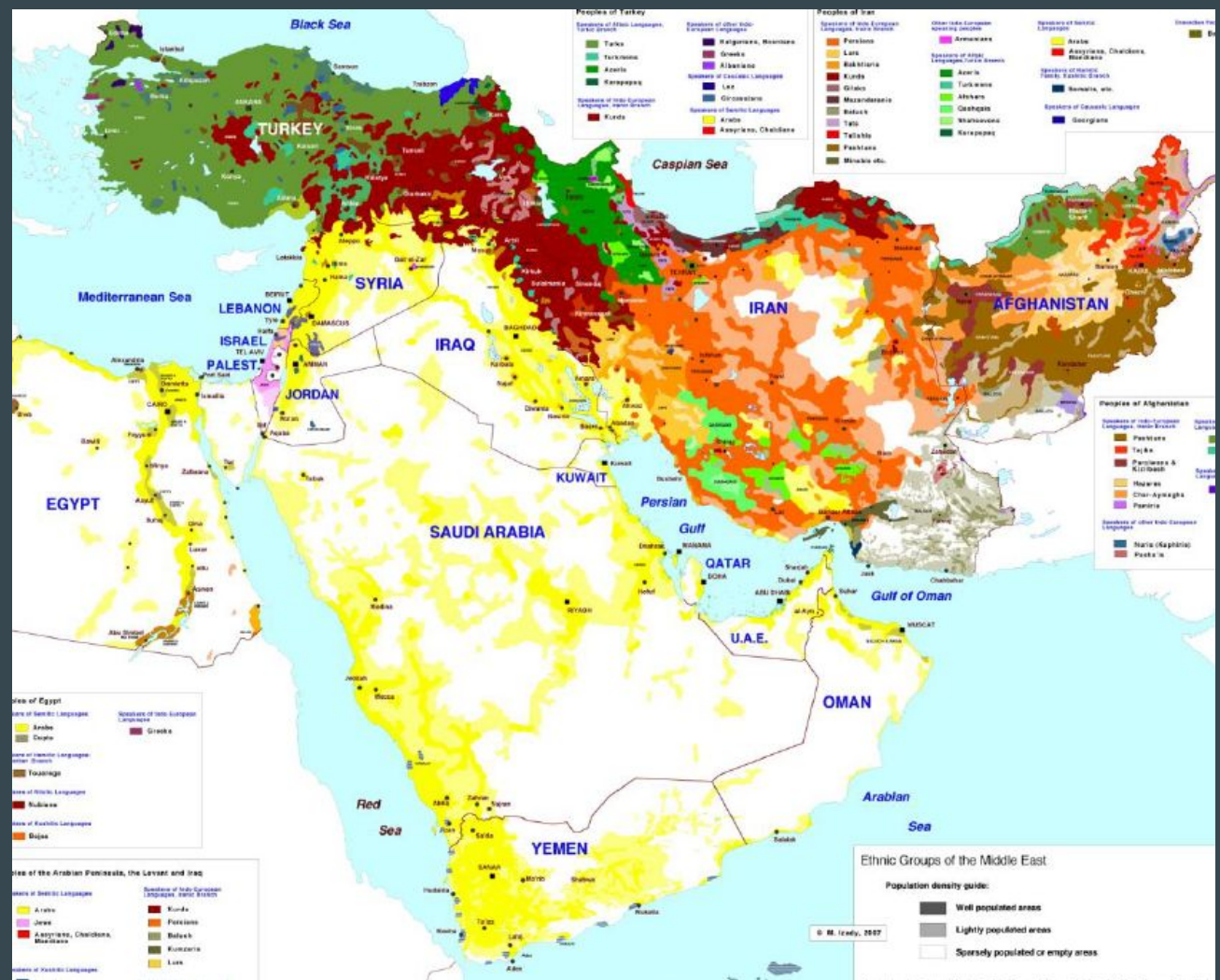
When a war ends or a game is over there is a winner and a loser. This team lost the war.

The winners got to choose how the losers were punished.

In this case, the winners also got to choose what the “new” world would look like.



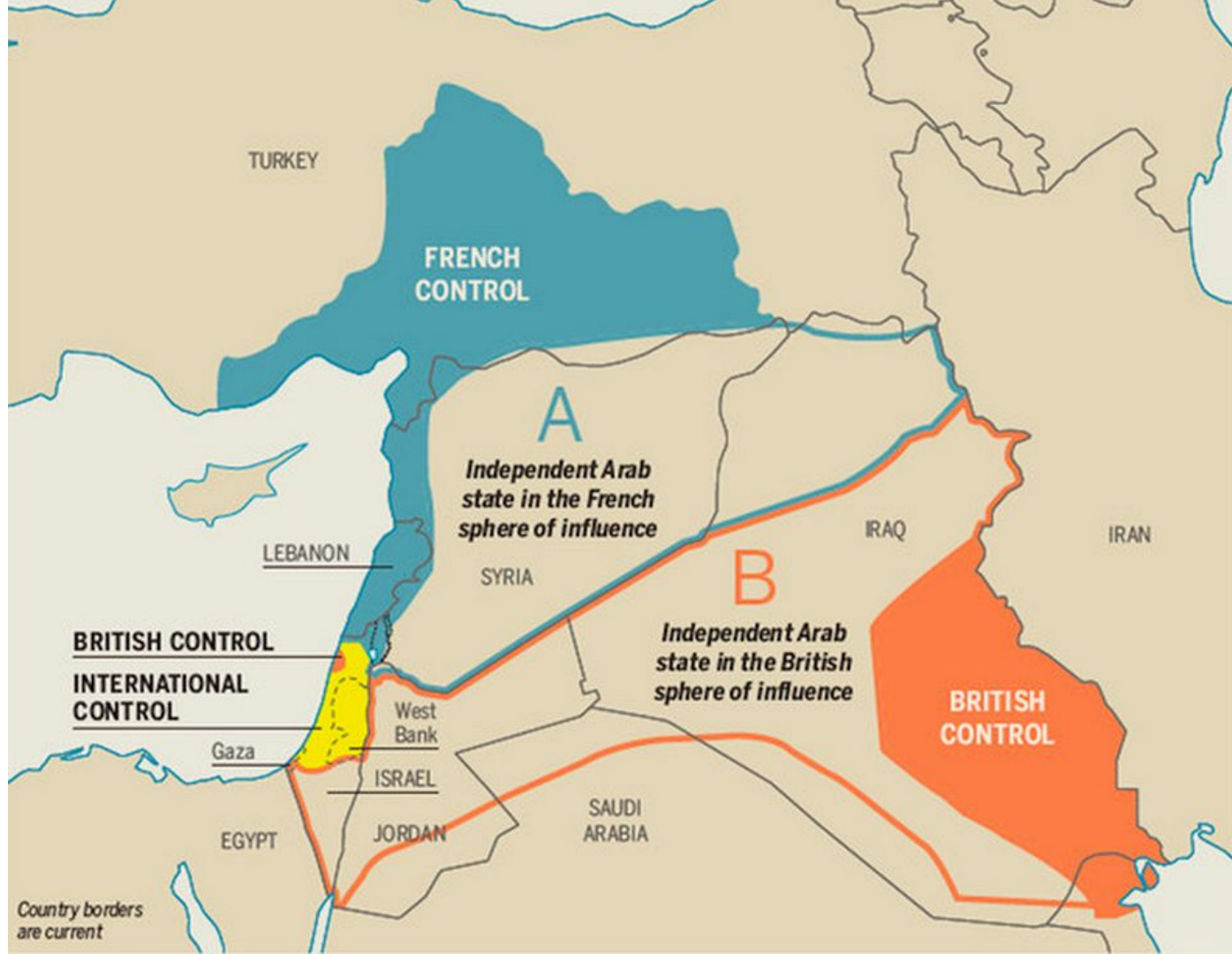
# Ethnic groups of the Ottoman Empire



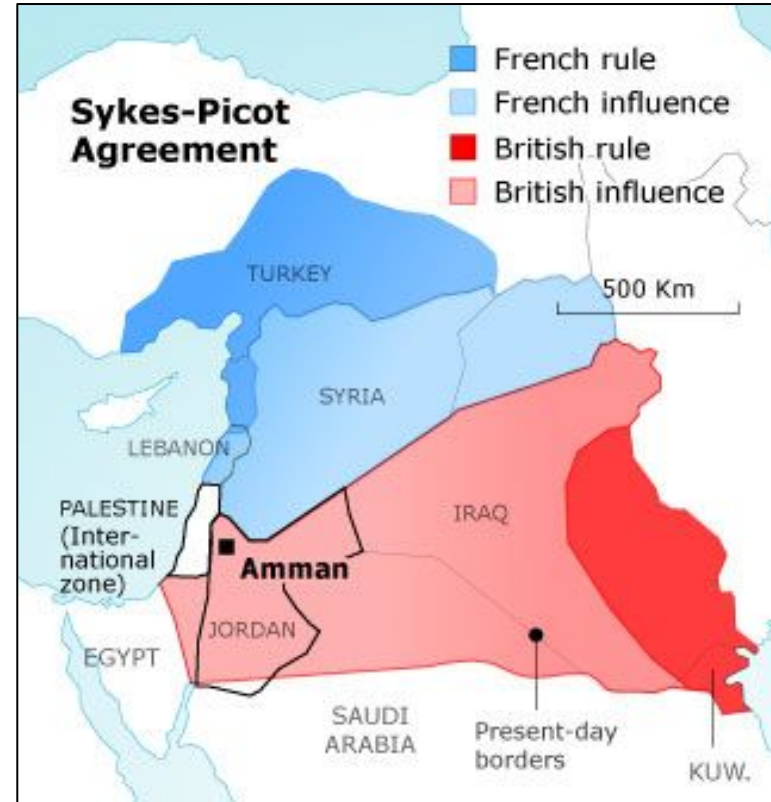
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Sykes-Picot Agreement: divided the land of the Middle East into **British** and **French** mandates and protectorates, similar to colonies.

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On May 19, 1916 at the end of WWI, representatives of Great Britain and France secretly reach an agreement known as the Sykes-Picot agreement. This agreement affected most of the Arab lands under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. The agreement stated that those lands were to be *divided* into British and French spheres of influence.





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To maintain alliances in the region, the **British** placed two of Husayn ibn Ali's sons as kings of Iraq and Jordan (he was the head of Shia Islam).

The majority of **Arabs** living in the Europeans-carved mandates **resented** the interventions of Europeans. They felt **thrust into** new regional entities that **did not reflect their identities** and to which **they had no allegiance**. Middle Eastern borders have not changed significantly since the British and French division.

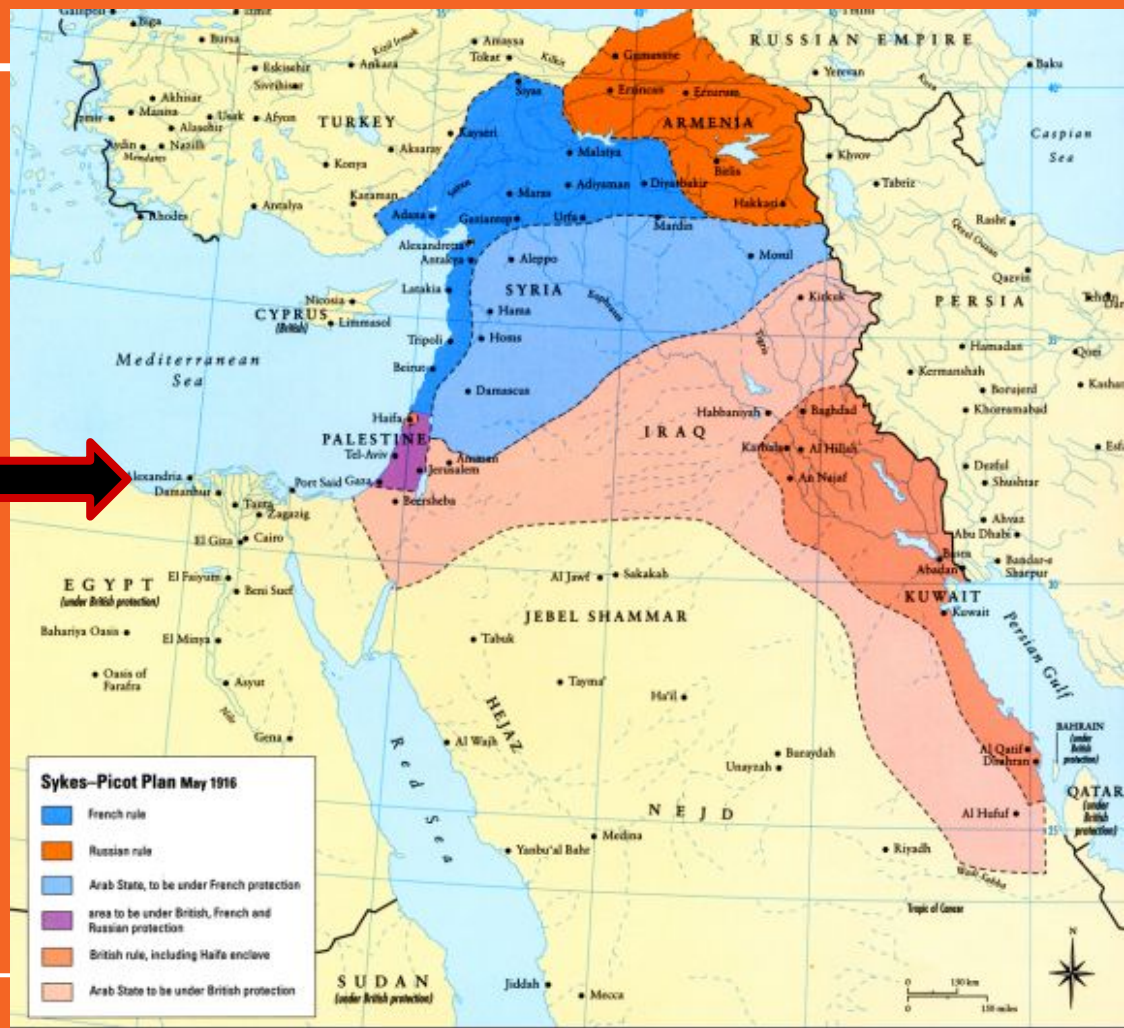


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France and Britain drew the borders of the six new nations -- Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Palestine, and Syria -- based on their own interests in the region, including:

1. *Access to potential oil resources*
2. *Strategic military bases*
3. *Control of security for trade routes.*





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# Origin/Purpose Practice

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# The 1948 War

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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

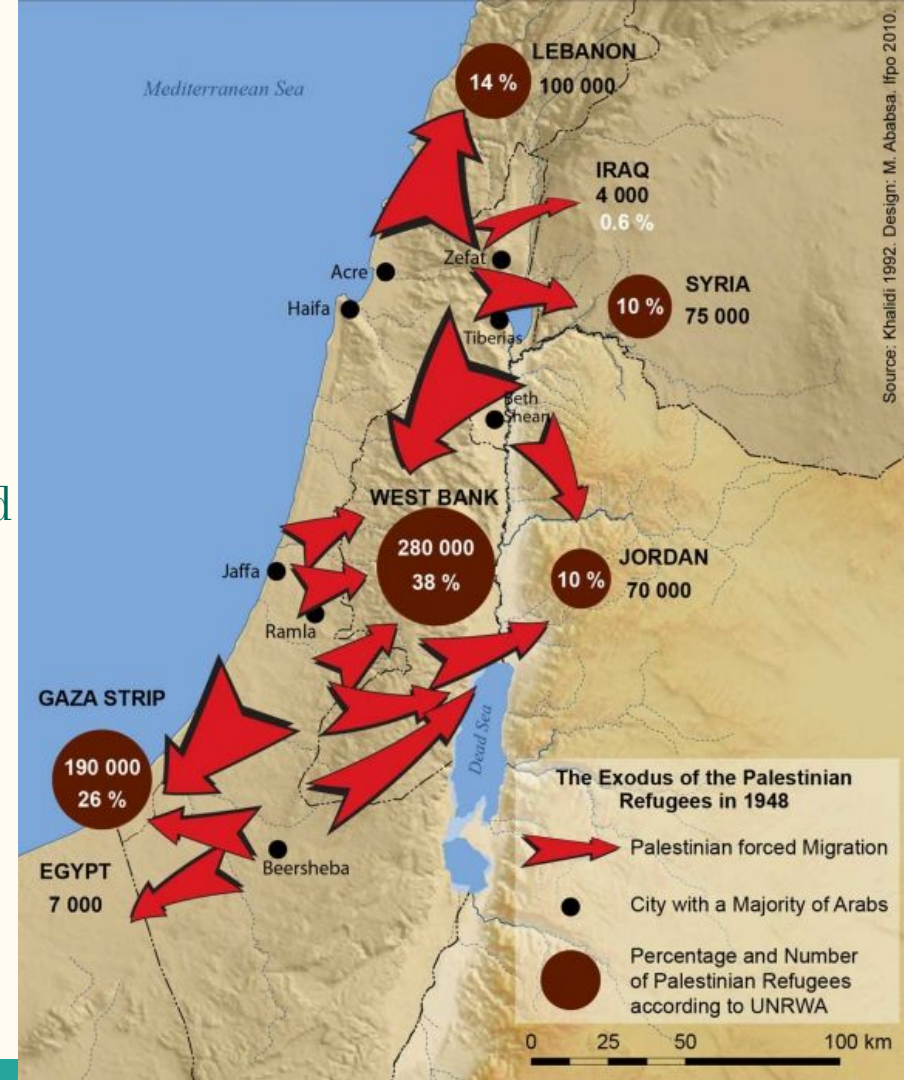
- Arab troops from: Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Egypt and Saudi Arabia invade Palestine and attack Israel.

# 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**

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# Israel and Palestine Explained

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# 1967 War

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# 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

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# 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.

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# 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.



1966

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.

