



SPECPOL

TBMUN '19

SPECPOL Study Guide

TBMUN '19

**8-9th MARCH '19
TED BODRUM COLLEGE**



**RAISING
GLOBAL AWARENESS**

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Letters from the Chairs of SPECPOL

Most esteemed SPECPOL delegates,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to TBMUN once again. This is my second year serving as the president chair of SPECPOL and I'm highly excited to meet each and every one of you. Me and my deputy chair will be there for you throughout the conference. My expectation from you is to be well read so we can have fruitful debates on the issues that concerns the world of today deeply. I am hoping for this conference to create a free environment that will allow opinions can be discussed peacefully because I believe that each of you have a lot to offer.

Best Regards,

Elvan GALATALI

President Chair of SPECPOL

Most honourable SPECPOL delegates,

I feel more than joyful to welcome all of you into TBMUN'19. I firmly believe we are going to achieve wonderful debates and discussions in our committee that will be embedded in our memories as unforgettable experiences that will last a life time. This is my first time being a chair in a committee and I am absolutely honoured to be given this position. I cannot describe how thrilled I am to meet all of you. Me and my chair will make this MUN as enjoyable as possible for all of you as it will be for us. We hope to see all of you in the committee.

Kindest of regards,

Yusuf Ege ÖZMEN

Deputy Chair of SPECPOL

Introduction to the Committee

The Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL) Committee is the fourth committee of the United Nations General Assembly and it was founded by the United Nations charter in 1993. SPECPOL is entrusted with addressing the issues of decolonization, refugees, atomic radiation, human rights, outer space, mine action, peacekeeping, public information and University for Peace.

It is important for the delegates participating in SPECPOL to be informed of the matter that this is a General Assembly committee and therefore resolutions should be ***non-binding***. This means that operative clauses which are more emblematic of a Security Council resolution (e.g. 'Instructs, Requests, Demands') should not be used and non-binding language (e.g. 'Encourages, recommends') should be used instead.

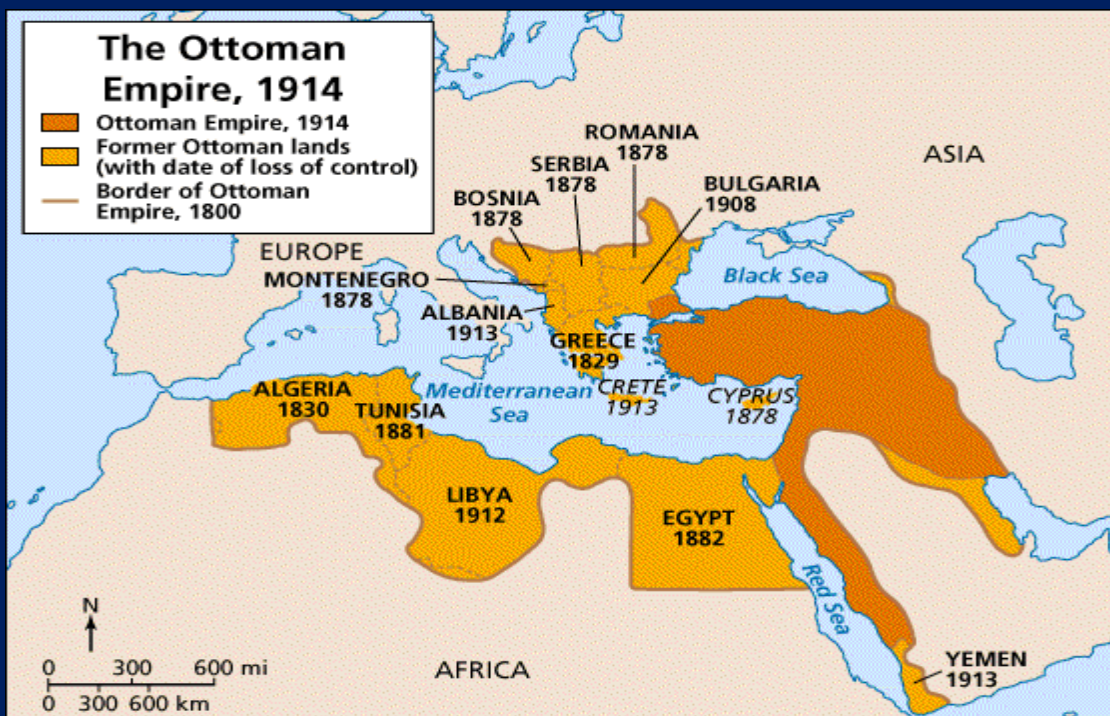
Topic: Conflict between Israel and Palestine

Palestinians and Israelis have been fighting over control of the *holy land* for decades. This area is called the holy land because many religions believe that this land has holy buildings and monuments such as Dome of the Rock, Al-Aqsa Mosque and so on. Israeli zionists believe that they should live in the holy land because it is their home. Same goes for Palestinians as they define themselves a different ethnicity from Arabs and they think that they themselves deserve their own country to live in. When both nations claimed the same land as their own this disagreement led to catastrophic wars and misery.



History of the conflict

In the beginning, the late 19th century, Ottoman empire ruled over Israel-Palestine. People who lived there were mostly Christians and Muslims with a minority of Jews and they lived mostly in peace. It wouldn't last long however mainly because of two reasons. People in this region started to be recognized as not Arabs but Palestinians. Secondly, a movement began in Europe called "Zionism" said that Judaism was not just a religion but a nationality, a nationality that needed its own country. Zionists saw their historic homeland in the Middle East as their chance of forming it.



After the Collapse of Ottoman Empire (1923)

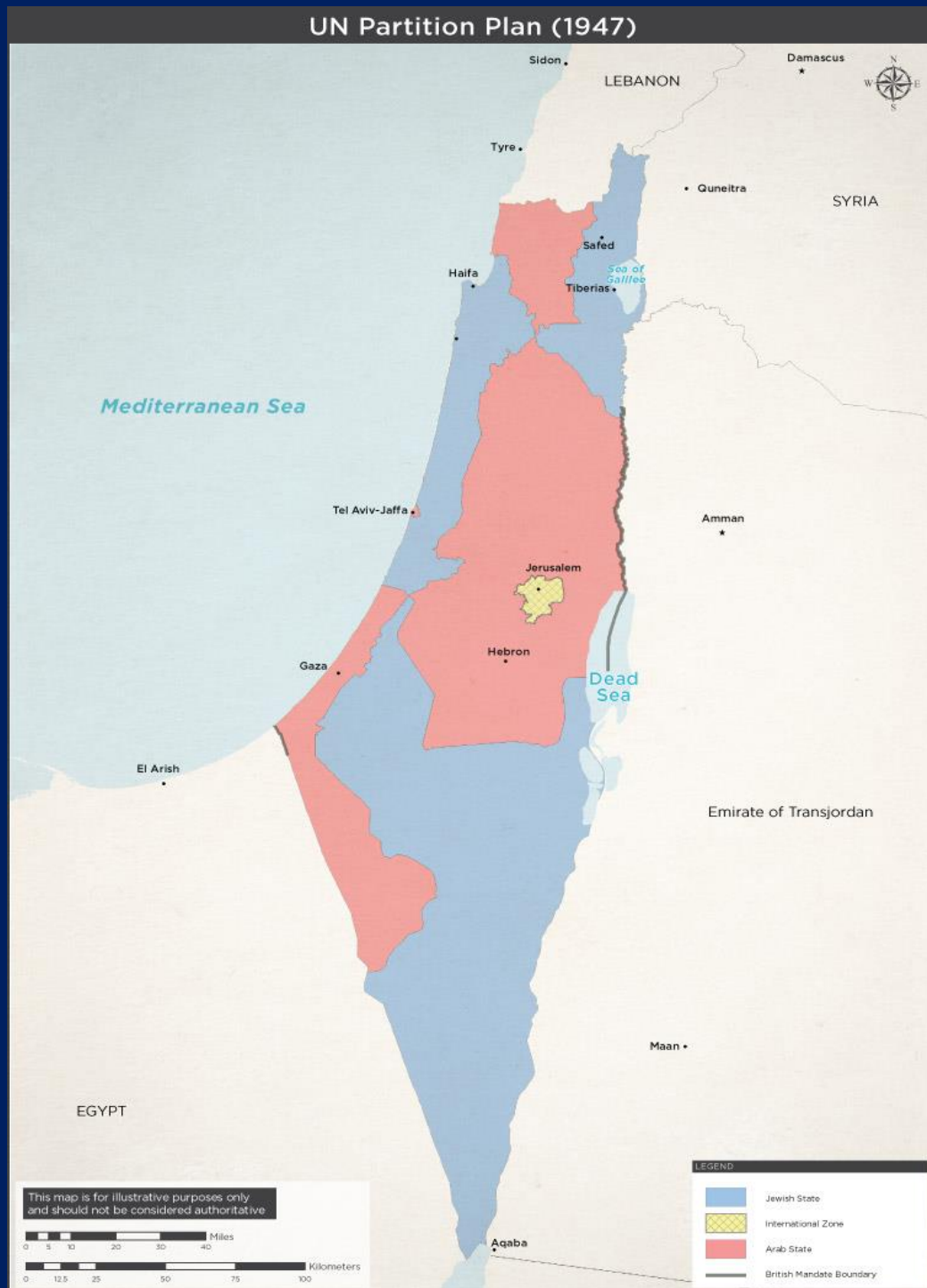
After the WWI Ottoman Empire collapsed leaving France and Britain in charge of Middle East. British took control of the land it called British Mandate for Palestine. As more Jews arrived settling in these lands tension between Jews and Arabs advanced with both sides partaking in violence. By the 1930s Britain began narrowing down Jewish immigration, in return Jewish militias were formed to fight off Arabs and British rule. After *the Holocaust* many more Jewish people fled from Europe to British Palestine making the situation even worse. As the violence between the two nations grew United Nations stepped in to settle this dispute. British Palestine was divided into two different states, Palestine was formed for Arabs, Israel was formed for Jews and the city of Jerusalem was made into international land.

Map of British Mandate for Palestine



Great Britain's Division of the Mandated Area, 1921-1923

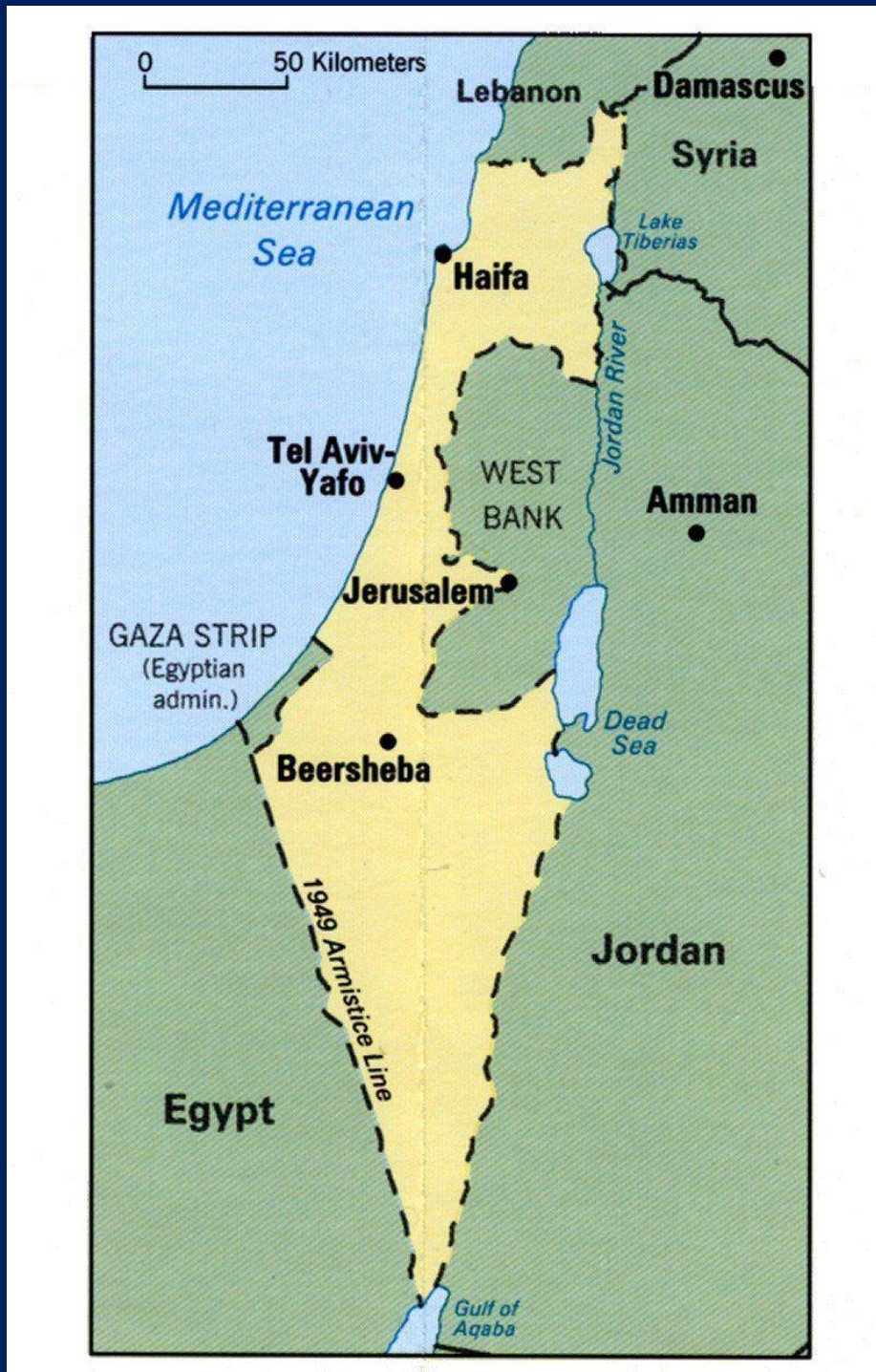
Map of Israel and Palestine according to UN Plan



Arab-Israeli War (1948-1949)

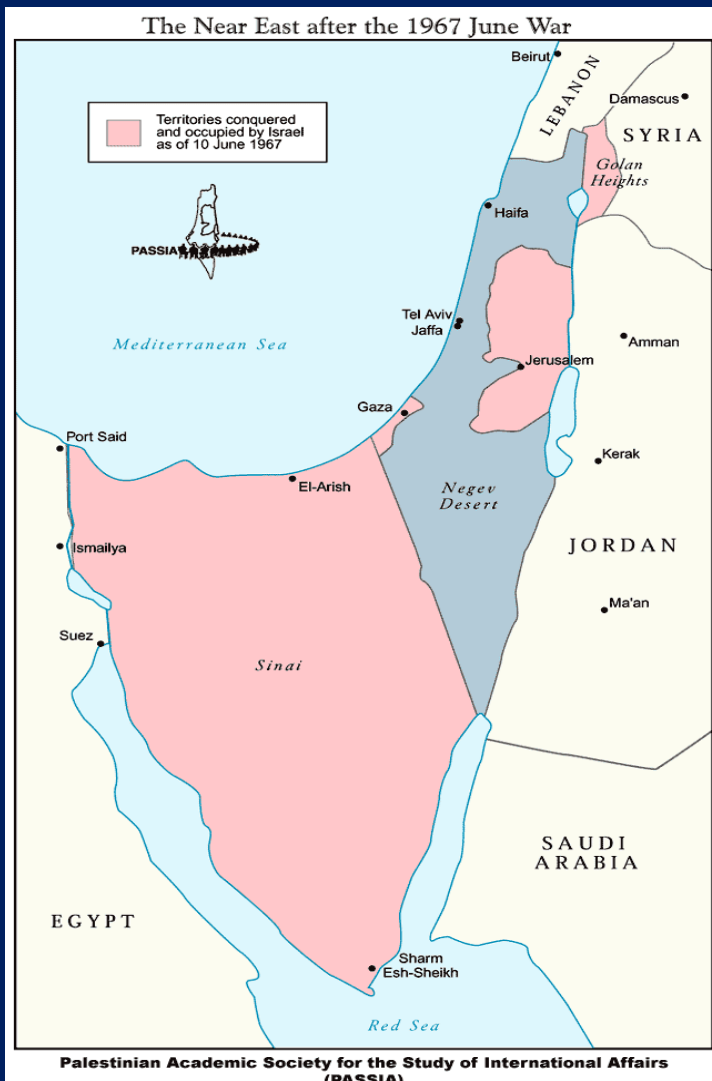
Although Israel was quite comfortable with the new UN plan, Arabs thought of this plan as European colonialism trying to take their land away from them. Many of the Arab countries declared war on Israel to eradicate all Jews and install a unified Arabic Palestine. Israel won this war but in the process of doing so pushed well past their UN plan borders. As a result of this act, many Palestinians were forced out of their homeland creating an immense refugee wave. Many Jews fled from Arab-majority countries to arrive at Israel. This was the beginning of Arab-Israeli conflict which would affect people horribly decades and generations to come.

Map of Israel and Palestine after the Arab-Israeli War



SIX – DAYS WAR (1967)

The Six-Days War was similar to Arab-Israel war and as the name suggests, it only lasted six days. When the war came to an end Israled had gained control over the West Bank from Jordan Golan Heights from Syria and both Gaza and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. This meant that Israel was now left responsible for governing the Palestinians, the people they fought for decades.



CAMP DAVID ACCORDS (1978)

In 1978 Israel and Egypt signed the US-brokered *Camp David Accords*. Israel gave the Sinai back to Egypt in result of the peace treaty. This meant a great deal as it was deeply controversial to the Arab world. Egyptian president Anwar Sadat was assassinated because of the outrage against it. Over the next few decades, other Arab nations made peace with Israel even though there were no peace treaties signed by the nations. However, this didn't change the fact that Israeli forces were still occupying Palestinian territories of the West Bank and Gaza. **this is when the conflict became an Israeli-Palestinian problem.**



Map of Israel and Sinai Peninsula after Camp David Accords



The Palestinian Liberation Organization

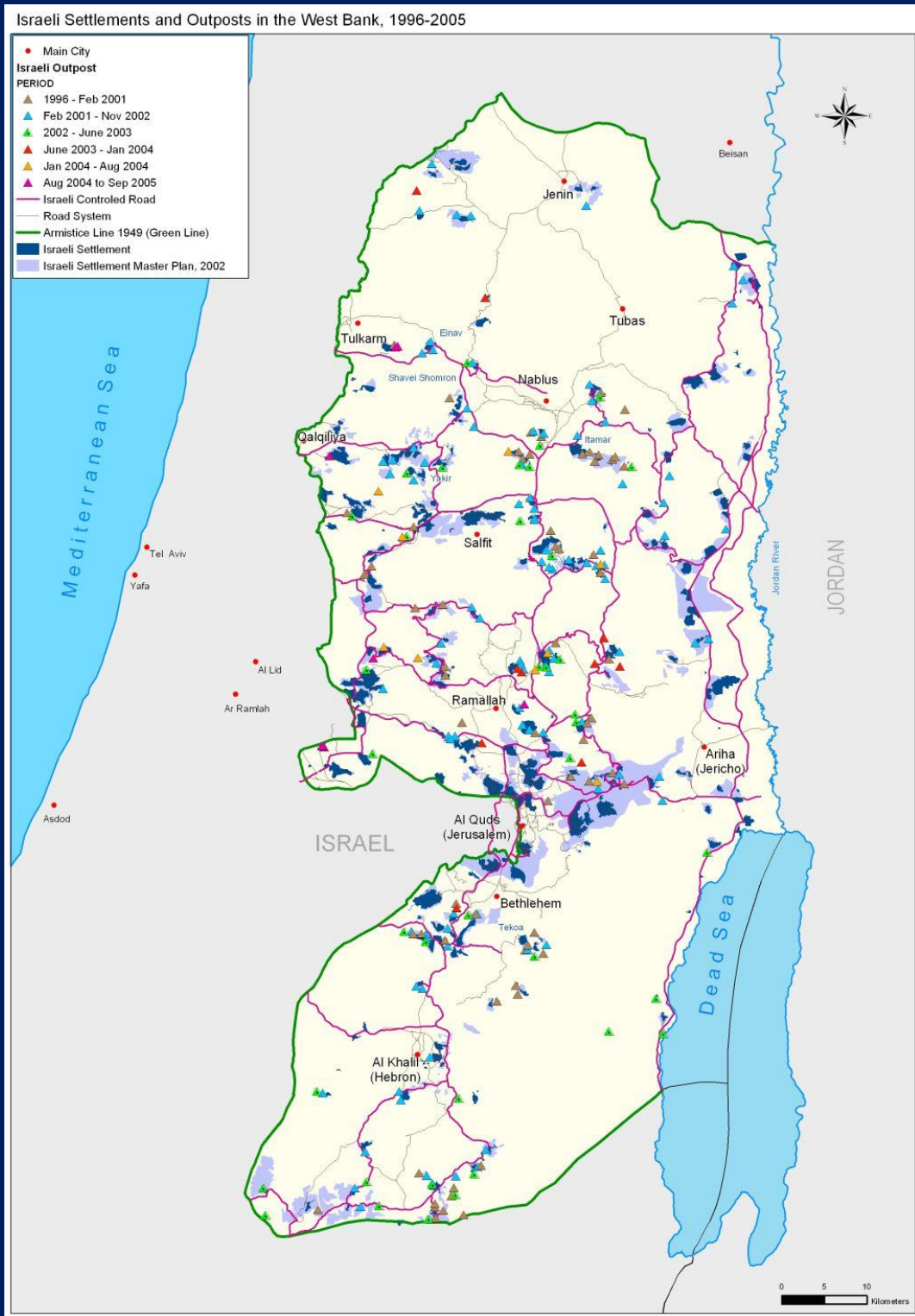
The Palestinian Liberation Organization was formed in 28th of May, 1964. Their main objective was to establish a Palestinian state and they didn't hesitate to resort to violence and terrorism. PLO wanted to end Israel entirely and claim the land for Palestinians. Combat between PLO and Israel went on for years including an Israeli offensive against Lebanon to wipe out the group from Beirut in 1982. After many years of warfare PLO accepted dividing the land between Israel and Palestine but unfortunately this couldn't put an end to the conflict.



Israeli Settlers

While the PLO – Israel conflict was still happening something sensational was going on in Israel occupied Palestinian land. Israelis were settling down in Gaza and West Bank and they didn't care about Palestinians' opinion. Some of the Israelis moved into these territories for religious reasons, some did because the low housing prices due to Israeli government's financial support and some did because they wanted to claim these lands for Israel. Some settlements were big cities and some were small communities. The settlers from Israel came with military soldiers to protect them and this affected Palestinians badly as their communities were being divided forcefully. This made the Israeli occupation much more difficult for Palestinians. Today there are more than 600,000 Israeli settlers in 143 locations in the West Bank (132) including East Jerusalem (11) even though settlements are illegal according to international law as reaffirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 2334 (2016)

Map of Israeli Settlements



First Intifada (1987-1993)

In 1987 Palestinian stress broke out into the Intifada, meaning “uprising” in Arabic. Initially it wasn’t much of a threat to anybody’s livelihood consisting of boycotts and protests but soon became dangerous. Israel couldn’t overlook such violence and responded with heavy force. Hundreds of Israelis and over a thousand Palestinians lost their lives in the process. It was about this time when a group of Palestinians in Gaza thought PLO was too secular and too compromise-minded and because of this they founded Hamas, a violent extremist organization devoted to Israel’s destruction.



Oslo Accords (1&2) (1993)

After the First Intifada it was clear that both sides had to make peace. That's when leaders from both sides signed the Oslo Accords. This was meant to be the first leap towards Israel potentially withdrawing from Palestinian land and ultimately making way for an independent Palestine. The Oslo Accords authorized the Palestinian Authority granting Palestinians slight bit of freedom to manage themselves in certain areas. Hard-liners on both nations ran counter to the Oslo Accords. Members of Hamas used suicide bombers to try to jeopardize the process. Israeli rightists protested peace talks, called Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin a traitor and a Nazi. After the signing of Oslo 2, a far-right Israeli shot Rabin to death in Tel Aviv. This was an example of how both sides could use violence to prevent peace.

Map of West Bank according to Oslo Accords



Second Intifada (2000-2005)

Camp David II in 2000 was meant to bring peace onto these lands for good. When it failed, Palestinians were left hopeless. They thought that peace wasn't coming anytime soon and this resulted in a *Second Intifada* which was much more violent and chaotic than the First Intifada. By the time it diminished a few years later, there were around 1000 Israelis and 3200 Palestinians dead. This had a massive effect on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israelis started to believe that Palestinians were never going to accept peace as an option. Israeli politics drifted right, they started to build walls and checkpoints which are used to manage Palestinians. That same year Israel pulled out of Gaza leaving Hamas in charge after a civil war between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas. This divided Gaza and West Bank as Hamas ruled Gaza and Palestinian Authority ruled over West Bank. Israel put Gaza under a blockade and unemployment skyrocketed to %40 percent.

One-state and Two-state Solutions

There are currently two possible solutions for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. One-state solution suggests that Israel, Gaza and West Bank should be united in order to achieve a single state in the middle east. The Two-state solution suggests that there should be two different countries, one for Israelis and one for Palestinians.



Past UN Actions

[This was a resolution that condemned Israeli settlements and was adopted with 14 votes in favour and a US abstention.](#)

[This resolution called for an immediate, durable and fully respected ceasefire leading to the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.](#)

[This resolution declared Council support for the Annapolis peace process and its commitment to the irreversibility of bilateral negotiations.](#)

You can research more about past UN actions [here](#)



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