

Israel and Palestine: History, Politics and the Pursuit of Peace

The Palestine-Israel conflict is over a piece of land the size of New Jersey and the self-determination of the Palestinians. Both people claim ancient rights to this contested land. Ever since the establishment of the State of Israel seven decades ago, the conflict has raged on with no real progress towards a settlement. In July 2014, the third Gaza War in seven years was launched. The following is a brief look at the history, politics and major peace talks leading up to the latest war.

In the Beginning...

From 3200 to 1200 BC the Canaanite civilization ruled over an area covering modern day Israel, the West Bank, Gaza, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. Different peoples passing through the area settled in the area alongside the Canaanites. Their descendants would later include Jews, Christians and Muslims. The biblical Jewish Kingdoms of David and Solomon lasted about 74 years. Including all the ancient Jewish kingdoms, Jewish rule lasted approximately 414 years: from King David (1000 BC) to the destruction of Judea (586 BC). In the first and second centuries CE, the Romans drove out the Jews from Palestine, beginning the Diaspora. Five centuries later, the Arabs invaded the area spreading Islam, settling and intermarrying with those already there, resulting in a predominantly Arab and Islamic Palestine. In the early 16th century, Palestine became an Ottoman Empire province.

After centuries of European antisemitism and Eastern Europe pogroms, Theodor Herzl started the Zionist movement by forming the World Zionist Organization in late 19th Century. After considering acquisition of land in Africa, South America and Palestine, the latter was chosen to be the Jewish homeland. Zionists encouraged Jewish immigration under the slogan, "a land without people for a people without land," although almost all the fertile land in Palestine was already occupied. The Ottoman Census of 1914 reveals that Palestine was already home to 602,000 Muslim Arabs, 81,000 Christian Arabs, and 39,000 Jews, most of whom had lived together peacefully in Palestine for almost 1400 years.¹

British Mandate of Palestine (1922 – 1948)

During WWI, the British promised to support Arab independence and a Jewish homeland. In a series of letters to Sharif Hussein in 1915 (Hussein-McMahon Correspondence), the British High Commissioner McMahon in Egypt pledged to help Arab independence if they would fight in World War I on the side of the Allies. Two years later, the British government, motivated in part by sympathy for the Zionist cause, declared its support for a national homeland for

Jews in Palestine in what is known as the Balfour Declaration.

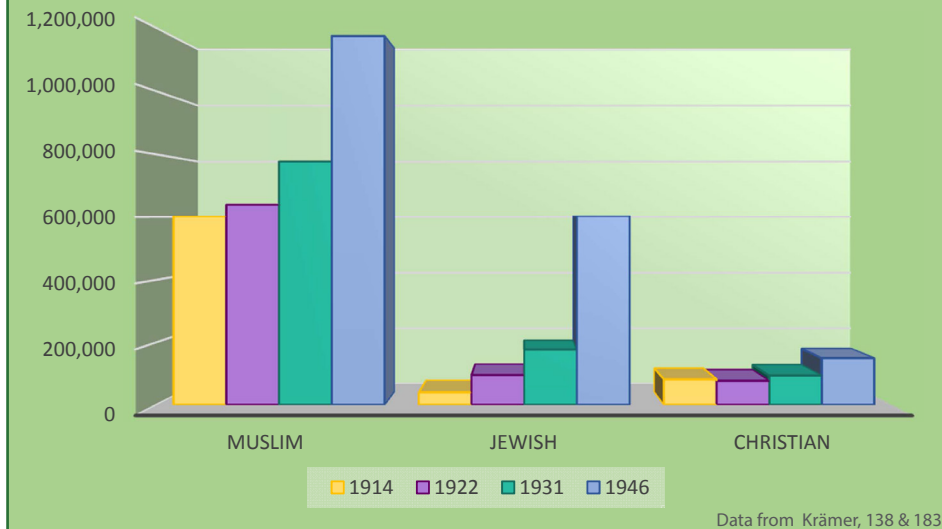
After the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, in July 1922, the League of Nations drafted the Mandate and confirmed the partitioning of the territories, with France procuring Syria and Lebanon and the British acquiring: Mesopotamia (Iraq) and Palestine (Palestine & Transjordan). Two months later, the Transjordan Memoranda was added which excluded Transjordan (now Jordan) from the

provisions regarding Jewish settlements. The Mandate was ratified in 1923.

History shows that for generations, the peasants of Palestine worked the land and passed on the right to cultivate it to their children, under a communal form of land tenure. In 1858, Ottoman law introduced the concept of registering individual land ownership. This enabled the educated Arabs to register communal/peasant lands as their own without the knowledge of the peasants. These new owners then sold this land to Zionists mainly for economic reasons, without awareness of the Zionists' political intention. The peasants only become aware of their dispossession when the new landowners came to live in their land. Erstwhile, the well-organized Zionists had created the Jewish National Fund (JNF) in 1901 for the sole purpose of buying, leasing and selling land in the name of and for the Jewish people. In addition, the organization supported new immigrants by providing funds for agricultural equipment and other capital improvements. A series of laws were later adopted that further facilitated the transfer of ownership of conquered Palestinian lands to the State of Israel and made it available for the benefit of its Jewish majority.² The majority of land



Census Data Under British Mandate



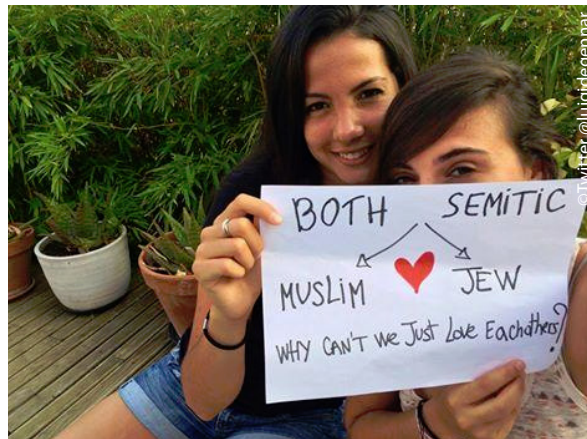
transfers were facilitated through these means. Arab-Israeli citizens who can demonstrate generations of Palestinian ancestry are still to this day not allowed to

return to their ancestral village or partake in JNF programs, while any Jew from anywhere in the world can participate.

Creation of the State of Israel

In 1947, the UN General Council passed Resolution 181 (a non-binding recommendation) to partition 55% of Palestine for a Jewish state and 45% for an Arab state. Jerusalem was to remain an international city. At this time 87% of Palestinian land was owned by Arabs and less than 7% by Jews. Due to a significant increase in Jewish immigration after the Holocaust, Jews now constituted 30% of the population. Furthermore, the land allocated for Israel by the UN plan was fertile land while that for the Arab state was mostly arid. As the major proponent of this resolution, the US got the General Assembly to delay a vote in order to “gain time to bring certain Latin American republics into line with its own view.” “Without ‘terrific pressure’ from the US on governments which cannot afford to risk American reprisals” said an anonymous editorial writer, the resolution “would never have passed.”³ The Arabs refused to agree to this partitioning. Upon the departure of the British, the Zionist leaders unilaterally declared the formation of the State of Israel.

After the resolution passed, Arab armed resistance against the British and attacks on new Jewish settlements increased. Although more numerous, the Arabs were without a central organization, less trained and poorly equipped militarily in relation to



their Jewish counterparts, who had smuggled weapons for years. As the British prepared to leave Palestine in 1948, Zionist paramilitary groups like Haganah and Irgun (led by David Ben-Gurion and Menachem Begin, respectively) launched a systematic campaign against Arab settlements. Their tactics included massacres, rapes, psychological warfare and forcible expulsion. Other Palestinians fled to avoid the brutality of war. After the

During the British Occupation, the British allowed the free migration of European Jews into Palestine, creating a tension between the Arabs and Jews. This led to periodic intercommunal riots in 1921, 1929 and 1936. In 1929, in response to Jewish demonstrations against restrictions involving rituals at the Western Wall, Arab mobs attacked the Jewish quarters. Arabs in Safad and Hebron also took to the streets. When the British quelled the riots, 116 Arabs and 133 Jews had been killed. In 1935, Sheikh Izz Al Din Al-Qassam, a Syrian born fighter who promoted armed resistance and the removal of the British and Zionists from Palestine, was killed by the British. This triggered a Palestinian revolt against continued and increasing Jewish immigration to Palestine. The revolt lasted until 1939, when the British banned the sale of land to Jews, again motivated by their need for Arab support in WWII.

British left Palestine the neighboring Arab states, who considered the declaration of the new State of Israel an illegal grab of Arab land, declared war against Israel. By the end of the war over 400 villages had been destroyed (by the deliberate actions of Jewish settlers and the Israeli army) and over 77% of the former Mandate was annexed by Israel.⁴ 750,000 Palestinians were either internally displaced or became refugees in neighboring Jordan, the West Bank, Lebanon, Gaza Strip and Syria. An Armistice between Israel and the neighboring Arab nations was signed in 1949. Israel's border specified in this agreement is called the Green line (aka “pre-1967” or 1967 lines). This war is known as the “War of Independence” by the Israelis and al-Nakba (the catastrophe) by the Arabs.

In December 1948, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 194 which recommended the right of return of Palestinian refugees or compensation for those not wishing to return. Despite yearly renewal of this resolution and multiple other resolutions including UN Resolutions 169 and 237 affirming the right of return of displaced Palestinians, Israel continued to refuse Palestinian refugees the right to re-patriate.

Israel's First Two Decades (1948 – 1967)

In 1956, Nasser confiscated the Suez Canal after the British and the US withdrew an offer to fund the building of the Aswan Dam. With the aid of Britain and France, Israel invaded Egypt in what is called Tripartite Aggression (aka Suez Crisis). Israel occupied the Sinai Peninsula until March of 1957. Under pressure from the US, USSR and the UN, Israel withdrew from Sinai and UN Emergency Forces (UNEF) were deployed in Egypt to facilitate the withdrawal of French, British and Israeli forces.

Ten years later, Nasser ordered the UN forces to leave and deployed two army divisions in Sinai. In June 1967, Israel launched the Six Day War on neighboring Arab countries stating

that the army deployed in the Sinai by Nasser was offensive in nature. However, documented statements by Israeli government officials during the time, such as Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Rabin, collaborated Nasser's claim that the nature of Egypt's deployment was defensive in nature rather than offensive. Six days later, Israel had annexed the Golan Heights from Syria, Sinai and the Gaza Strip from Egypt and the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan.

Under Article 2 of the UN Charter, land acquisition through war is inadmissible. None the less, Israel began building settlements in the newly occupied territories, despite the unanimous



Dyan, Rabin, Ze'evi and Narkiss in the Old City adoption of Security Council Resolution 242, the so called "land for peace" resolution recommending the withdrawal of Israel from the newly colonized territories (the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem). Secure and recognized borders would be negotiated later.

The Palestinian Liberation Organization, Yom Kippur War and the First Arab-Israeli Talks (1967 -1987)

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) was formed in 1964 to address the question of Palestine in the context of Arab politics, and with the idea that Arab states would deal with Israel. The PLO's focus was on liberating Palestine, securing the return of exiled

Palestinians and gaining political independence from other Arab states. After the resounding loss of the Arab armies to Israel in 1967, the PLO under Yasser Arafat became more militant, advocating for armed struggle against Israel. This armed struggle included acts such as multiple airplane hijackings and the 1972 Black September attack on the Israeli Olympic team.

As these tactics failed to achieve their goals, in the 1970s the PLO started working towards a political solution. By 1988, they changed their stated objective from

liberating the whole of Palestine to one of a two-state solution. The Palestinian State would include the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. After the occupation of the West Bank, the PLO moved to Jordan, where their involvement in local politics caused

King Hussein of Jordan to declare war on them in 1970. After the loss of 3,000 lives, a peace agreement was negotiated based on the PLO moving its headquarters to Lebanon. The PLO had majority Palestinian support (exiled, refugee and occupied territory



Palestinians) at least through 1993 and even until the death of Arafat (2004) when the fragmentation of the PLO accelerated.

In 1973, in the Yom Kippur War, Egypt and Syria attempted to retake Sinai and the Golan Heights. Israel had been illegally occupying these territories since 1967. Early success by the Arab states was thwarted after US economic and military aid to Israel eventually led to Israel winning the war. In retaliation

for US involvement in the war, OPEC imposed an oil embargo on the US, triggering unemployment and economic recession at an estimated cost of billions of dollars.

Based on Security Council Resolution 242 and the 1978 Camp David agreements, Egypt and Israel signed a peace treaty in 1979. It called for Egypt to reacquire the Sinai Peninsula, and give up its claim on the Gaza Strip for the Palestinians. In doing so,

Egypt became the first Arab country to recognize Israel. To encourage more Arab countries to sign their own agreement, the US and Soviet Union sponsored the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991. These talks eventually led to the 1994 Jordan and Israel treaty in which Jordan relinquished its claim on the West Bank and East Jerusalem, so that the PLO could negotiate for a Palestinian State at a later date.

First Palestinian Uprising (Intifada)

The first Palestinian uprising (intifada) was sparked after the killing of four civilians by the Israeli army in Gaza in 1987. Palestinians in the occupied territories began the revolt against occupation by throwing rocks at the Israel army and tanks but the uprising which lasted until 1993 was overwhelmingly characterized by civil disobedience. Israel retaliated by punishing the entire population, introducing a system of checkpoints to control people and the movement of goods. They imposed a curfew and detained thousands of Palestinians

without charge or trial. According to human rights reports, many of the detained were abused, tortured and mistreated while in custody. Palestinian activists were killed without warning after they had surrendered or been subdued, and many deaths and injuries were avoidable. Over the years groups of prisoners have been released but many still remain in custody.

and Russia): renunciation of violence, recognition of Israel, and acceptance of prior international agreements. In 1997, the US and EU designated Hamas a terrorist group.

The Oslo Accords of 1993 was the first time Palestinians were allowed to represent themselves in negotiating terms for self-determination.

Negotiating with Chairman Arafat, Prime Minister Rabin agreed to establish limited Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories with the new autonomous areas to be administrated by the Palestinian Authority (PA). The West Bank was divided into three areas:

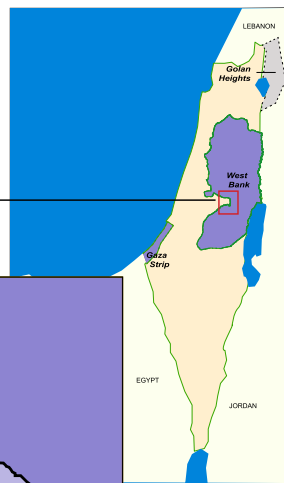
- Area A (12%)—urban areas under full Palestinian control
- Area B (28%)—rural areas under PA civil control and Israel security control
- Area C (60% of the West Bank)—under full Israeli control

In return, all terrorist activities by Palestinians were to cease and the PLO would recognize Israel's right to exist. Over a five-year period, control of all areas was to be gradually transferred into the hands of the PA. The latter did not happen.

Segments of both populations had problems with the accords. In 1995, angry over the Oslo Accords, an Israeli radical assassinated Prime Minister Rabin. On the Palestinian side, many refugees in neighboring Arab countries felt betrayed by Arafat for giving up the right of return of refugees dispossessed of land currently within Israel's border.



Source: UN Report *The Humanitarian Impact of the West Bank Barrier on Palestinian Communities*, 2007



The largest and most powerful Islamist group is Hamas, a local branch of the Muslim Brotherhood which arose during the first intifada. From 1993 to the end of the second intifada in 2005, Hamas employed

suicide bombings for the stated purpose of waging war against Israel while at the same time delivering social welfare programs for Palestinians. After 2005, they changed tactics to the indiscriminate and ineffective methods of launching rockets and mortar, in part because Israel had become effective at stopping suicide bombings. Hamas does not recognize the three principles insisted on by the Quartet (US, EU, UN

UN August 2014 Report

Facts about Area C of the West Bank:

- Area C is 60% of the West Bank and is controlled exclusively by Israel, including law enforcement, planning and construction.
- About 300,000 Palestinians live in about 530 residential areas, 241 of which are located entirely in Area C. There are no Arab-only settlements.
- Since 1967 and against international law, 341,000 Israeli settlers live in 262 Jews-only settlements built on confiscated Palestinian land; the area available for settlers' expansion is nine times larger than their current fenced/patrolled area.
- Palestinian construction in 29% of Area C is heavily restricted; only approximately 1% of Area C has been planned for Palestinian development.

On August 31, 2014, Israel confiscated another 1,000 acres of private Palestinian land in Area C, near Bethlehem.



Area C checkpoint

Second Palestinian Uprising (Intifada)

During the 2000 Camp David Summit, Prime Minister Barak's best offer was for Israel to annex 9% of the West Bank and keep important parts of the Old City in exchange for leaving 91% of the West Bank and 1% of Israel land for the Palestinians. While some of the 9% was important land to the Palestinians, the 1% was land whose location wasn't even specified. Israel would also contribute to a fund for Palestinian refugees and would keep major settlement blocks and most of East Jerusalem. Moreover, two east-west Israeli-controlled roads all the way across the West Bank would essentially divide the West Bank into three. Israel would be entitled to declare emergencies during which Palestinians couldn't cross the road. With little or no control over its water resources, no independently controlled border access to neighboring countries, and with its internal freedom of movement and commerce subject to continued Israeli closures, the already impoverished Palestinian state would be economically completely dependent on and vulnerable to Israel. Arafat refused to agree to this, and the talks fell apart.

By fall of 2000, no significant progress had been made on these agreements, with Israel still effectively controlling 88% of the West Bank and 20% of Gaza. Meanwhile, successive Israeli governments continued to demolish Palestinian homes, took over Arab neighborhoods in East Jerusalem for Jewish housing and seized Palestinian



lands for Jewish settlements. This fueled Palestinian frustrations and disillusionment. Ariel Sharon's visit to the sacred Jerusalem site of Al Aqsa with 1,000 troops was the final straw that sparked the second intifada, which lasted until 2005. In contrast to the first intifada, the second was notable for suicide bombings by Islamist militant groups, including Hamas. Israel

responded by reoccupying cities in the West Bank, tightening security, and isolating Palestinian towns and villages from each other by crisscrossing Jews-only highways. In 2001 Israel began building a physical barrier for the stated purpose of reducing the number of terrorist attacks and prevented thousands of Palestinians from working and trading in Israel.

With the resumption of conflict and the continuous building of Jewish settlements, Arab countries proposed the Arab Peace Initiative in Beirut in 2002. The plan called for Israel to withdraw to 1967 borders, the establishment of a Palestinian State in Gaza and the West Bank with East Jerusalem as its capital and a just solution for the refugee problem based on UN Resolution 194. In return, the Arab countries would recognize and establish a normal relationship with Israel. Israel rejected this proposal. The next attempt at peace was the 2003 Roadmap. Drawn up by the Quartet, this plan suggested a phased-in roadmap based on first gaining security before settling on a two-state solution. A plan to agree on a roadmap by 2005 never materialized. In 2002, President George W. Bush became the first US president to call for a Palestinian State.

Gaza Under Hamas Administration

In 2005, Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza, forcibly removing 8,000 Jewish settlers. During the 2006 elections, Palestinians disillusioned by the corruption of Fatah, democratically elected Hamas. Disagreement and subsequent armed power struggles between Hamas and Fatah led to Hamas control of Gaza, dissolution of the unity government by the Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas and establishment of the Fatah government in the West Bank. According to the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, 600 Palestinians were killed during the power struggle.

Israel imposed air, sea and land blockades to punish Gaza residents when their newly elected government took control of Gaza. Designated a terrorist group, Hamas and therefore Gaza could not receive any funding from the US and EU. Hamas struggled under these conditions. Furthermore, Israel began to hold Hamas accountable for all attacks launched from the strip, where several other Islamist groups also reside.

The seven years of Hamas Gaza administration are notable for extended periods of low-level hostilities punctuated by war waged among civilians.

Using the underground tunnels, Hamas kidnapped Israeli soldier Gilad Shalit in 2006. He was released five years later in exchange for the release of 1,027 Palestinian prisoners.

In the winter of 2008, Israel invaded Gaza in Operation Cast Lead with the stated goal of halting rocket fire and weapon smuggling into Gaza. In three weeks of armed conflict, 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis were killed and heavy infrastructural damage was incurred in the overcrowded Gaza Strip. A UN fact-finding mission concluded



President Abbas and Prime Minister Netanyahu

that Israel's policies were premised on a "deliberate policy of disproportionate force", aimed not at the enemy but at the "supporting infrastructure", and "the attacks amounted to reprisals and collective punishment and constitute war crimes."⁵

Under the pretext of demolishing structures built without permits, Israeli authorities have demolished over 28,000 Palestinian homes in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and Gaza since 1967. This has the intended result of Palestinians leaving their ancestral homes from Area C to move to Areas A and B so that now only 5% of the West Bank population lives in 62% of the land. It has also driven out the educated

and middle class making the remaining population more vulnerable to Israeli rule. In November 2009, President Obama persuaded Prime Minister Netanyahu to enact a 10-month partial freeze on building settlements in the West Bank. Abbas wanted a Palestinian State based on 1967 lines and to include East Jerusalem. Weeks of talks held in Washington in 2010 were unsuccessful. When the partial freeze on settlement construction expired in September, talks were suspended. Despite US attempts, the Israeli government would not renew the settlement freeze, and Abbas refused to resume talks until Israel halted all settlement construction activities.

In late 2012, the US devoted extensive efforts to block a General Assembly resolution upgrading Palestine's status to that of a "non-member observer state." The effort failed when the resolution passed overwhelmingly on November 29th.

From January to November 14, 2012 one Israeli was reported to have been killed by fire from Gaza while 78 Palestinians were killed by Israeli fire.⁶ In November of 2012, the low-level hostilities between Israel and Hamas escalated to an eight-day war after the killing of Hamas military leader Ahmed Jabari. Six Israelis and 133 Palestinians were killed during the war, including many children. The Egyptian brokered 2012 ceasefire agreement constituted bilateral cessation of all hostilities including land, air and sea incursions, rocket attacks and individual targeting. Crossings were also to open and facilitate the movement of goods and people.

UN August 2014 Report

Facts about East Jerusalem:

- About 298,000 Palestinians and 200,000 illegal Israeli settlers currently reside in East Jerusalem
- About 4 million Palestinians are prohibited from entering East Jerusalem without Israeli-issued permits, which are difficult to obtain.
- East Jerusalem access is controlled by physical barriers and administrative obstacles. With permits, only four of the 13 checkpoints can be used by Palestinians.
- 35% of the land in East Jerusalem has been confiscated for Israeli settlements; only 13% of East Jerusalem is zoned for Palestinian construction, much of which is already built-up.

Israel Proponents Starting Arguments:

1. Israel is the historical homeland of the Jewish people who have lived in the land continuously since biblical times.
2. The Jews deserve a Jewish state because of historical injustices, such as centuries of European anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. Concept of a Jewish state has international support and recognition through the United Nations.
3. The Palestinians do not have an independent state because of Palestinian rejectionism and terrorism.
4. A majority of Israelis support a two-state solution.
5. A minority of Israelis support a one-state solution, a single Jewish state or a secular democratic state.

Palestinian Proponents Starting Arguments:

1. The Palestinian people have lived in the Israel/Palestine area since biblical times. Israeli Jews are foreign colonizers who began arriving within the last 100 years, and have no right to establish a state on Palestinian land.
2. The Palestinians deserve the inalienable right of self-determination.
3. Forty seven years of Jewish settlement activities have made it impossible to create a Palestinian state and shows that Israel has no intention of making peace.
4. A majority of Palestinians support a Palestinian State from "river to sea."
5. A minority of Palestinians support the two-state solution or a secular democratic one-state solution.

Summer 2014

Hamas was increasingly isolated in the wake of the Arab Spring and the Gaza blockade by Israel and Egypt: the latter after the Muslim brotherhood leadership was forcibly removed by a military coup. Hamas was politically and economically weakened due to the embargo and loss of popularity among Palestinians. Unable to pay government employees, Hamas agreed to a Unity Government with Fatah in April 2014, in which all ministers are Fatah. The Unity Government was recognized by the US and EU. Nonetheless, Israel refused to hold peace talks with any government that included Hamas.

In June 12, 2014, three Israeli teens were kidnapped and murdered in the West Bank by the Al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of Hamas. In retaliation, Israeli security forces went into the West Bank demolishing homes and re-arresting some of the Palestinian ex-prisoners released in the Shalit deal, accusing them of recidivism. On July 2, settlers captured a Palestinian teenager and burned him alive in retaliation for the murder of the 3 teenagers. Six Jewish suspects were subsequently arrested for the crime. On July 7th, Hamas started launching rockets into Israel for the first time in 20 months after several members of Hamas' armed wing were killed through Israeli airstrikes. The next day,

Israel launched Operation Protective Edge with the stated aim of destroying Hamas' military capabilities and rocket attacks. Ten days later, Israel began a ground offensive in order to destroy tunnels leading from Gaza to southern Israel. Israel says they destroyed 32 tunnels.



Israeli and Palastinian children

A week into the war, an Egypt-brokered ceasefire was accepted by Israel but not by Hamas, who initially said that they were not consulted and then rejected it saying that it amounted to surrender. Since then there have been multiple short-lived ceasefires including some for humanitarian purposes. Israel says it accepted several proposals but restarted strikes after Hamas resumed launching rockets. Hamas says they would accept a ceasefire if the Gaza Blockade is lifted while Israel insists Gaza be demilitarized before removal of the blockade. Hamas' additional conditions for stopping the

fighting include that Israel release re-arrested prisoners, stop all aggression on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem, stop undermining the newly formed Palestinian Unity Government and accept Conditions of the 2012 Ceasefire.

According to the August 20th and 28th UN report, there have been:

- 3,700+ rockets fired at Israel
- 4,870+ air strikes on Gaza
- 2,104 people killed in Gaza: 70% civilians, 495 children, 253 women
- 69 Israelis killed: 64 soldiers, 4 civilians including a child and an international civilian
- 10,224 Palestinians injured including 3,106 children
- Dozens of Israelis injured including 6 children
- 400,000+ people displaced
- 108,000 people had their homes destroyed (Est. 18,000 housing units)
- Armed groups in Gaza have killed 25 Palestinians accused of collaborating with Israel.⁷

An Open Ceasefire was declared on August 26.

On August 31, Israel confiscated 1,000 acres of the West Bank land near Bethlehem belonging to five Palestinian villages.

The US spends an average of \$8.5 million a day on military aid to Israel and \$0 on Palestinian military aid.

Reflection

1. What new insight and/or understanding do I have about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict?
2. How has the media helped, hindered or influenced my/our analysis of the situation?
3. How do you envision people of faith might support efforts for peace, justice and reconciliation among the people of Israel and Palestine?
4. In what way do I want to further explore or engage this issue?

Glossary

al-Nakba: (Arabic for The Catastrophe) Name given by Palestinians to the war of 1948.

Fatah: Major and leading faction of PLO originally headed by Chairman Arafat and then by President Mahmoud Abbas. Fatah heads the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank.

Green Line (aka pre-1967 line, 1967 lines): 1949 Armistice lines between Israel and the Arab states it borders.

Haganah: Zionist paramilitary group formed in 1920 and led by David Ben Gurion.

Hamas: A militant arm of the Muslim brotherhood, formed in 1987 and current administrator of Gaza Strip. Traditionally called for the elimination of Israel and was against the Oslo peace accords. Formed a unity government with Fatah in April 2014.

Intifada: Arabic for uprising; Name used by the Palestinians to refer to their uprising against Israeli Occupation.

Irgun: Zionist paramilitary group led by David Ben Gurion and precursor to the Israel Defense Force (IDF).

Islamist: An entity that advocates for Islamic law, acts as the law of the land and basis for a constitution.

Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigade: Military wing of Hamas. Its namesake was a Syrian born fighter who advocated for armed resistance against the British and Jewish immigration. His death under the British in 1935 sparked the 1936 revolt that lasted for 3 years.

JNF: Jewish National Fund

Levant: The countries bordering the eastern Mediterranean Sea from Turkey to Egypt.

Mandate: System of trusteeships established by the League of Nations for the administration of former Ottoman territories following World War I.

OAPEC: Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries

PA: Palestinian Authority led by Fatah.

PLO: Palestinian Liberation Organization

Tripartite Aggression (aka Suez Crisis): 1956 war waged by Britain, France and Israel against Egypt.

Zionism: A Jewish Nationalist movement created to establish and support a Jewish State in Palestine.

Footnotes

1. Krämer, 138.
2. Said, 98-99.
3. Quigley, 33-37.
4. Krämer, 322.
5. Richard Goldstone, "Statement by Richard Goldstone on behalf of the Members of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict before the Human Rights Council" (statement, Human Rights Council, Geneva, September 29, 2009. tiny.cc/lnkmlx)
6. Noam Chomsky, "Palestine 2012—Gaza and the UN Resolution" *Chomsky.info* December 1, 2009, chomsky.info/articles/20121201.htm
7. *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Emergency Situation Report*, UNOCHA, August 28, 2014. tiny.cc/fokmlx

Bibliography

- Sami Adwan et al., *Side By Side: Parallel Histories of Israel-Palestine*, 2012.
- "History of Mid-East Peace Talks," *BBC News: Middle East*, July 29, 2013. tiny.cc/bqkmlx
- Jews for Justice in the Middle East. "The Origin of the Palestine-Israel Conflict" Berkeley, CA, 2001. tiny.cc/qqkmlx
- Krämer, Gudrun. *A History of Palestine; From the Ottoman Conquest to the Founding of the State of Israel*. Translated by Graham Harman and Gudrun Krämer, 2008.
- Lesch, David W. *The Arab-Israel Conflict: A History*, 2008.
- Quigley, John. *The Case for Palestine: An International Law Perspective*, 1990.
- Said, Edward W. *The Question of Palestine*, 1992.

Resources

Websites

- If Americans Knew: What every American needs to know About Israel/Palestine—ifamericansknew.org
- American Friends Service Committee—afsc.org
- Carter Center—cartercenter.org
- Seeds of Peace—seedsofpeace.org
- UNRWA—unrwa.org
- The Parents Circle—theparentscircle.com
- US Conference of Catholic Bishops—uscbb.org
- Film (available at IPJC)**
- Another Side of Peace*, 2004



Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center

a collaborative venture of:

sponsoring communities: Adrian Dominican Sisters
Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace • Oregon Province Jesuits
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary, U.S. Ontario Province
Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province • Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia • Tacoma Dominicans
affiliate communities: Benedictine Sisters of Cottonwood, Idaho • Benedictine Sisters of Lacey
Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel • Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose • Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
Sinsinawa Dominicans • Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary • Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon • Society of the Holy Child Jesus • Sisters of the Presentation, San Francisco
Society of the Sacred Heart • Sisters of St. Francis of Redwood City • Ursuline Sisters of the Roman Union

1216 NE 65th St • Seattle, WA 98115 • Phone: 206-223-1138 • Fax: 206-223-1139

E-mail: ipjc@ipjc.org • Web: www.ipjc.org