

POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN ISRAEL

IRE215

SPRING 2019

Session 13



Maya Hadar

On The Agenda

2

■ **Peace in the Middle East**

- Timeline: Israel and Palestine
- Summarized Background to the Conflict
- Jewish & Palestinian National Movements
- The first + second Intifada
- The Security Barrier/Fence

■ **Contested Positions**

■ **Barriers to Peace**



Israel and Palestine



Timeline: Israel and Palestine

1882-1903	First wave of immigration (Aliyah), mainly from Russia
1897	1st Zionist Congress , organized by Herzl
1904-1914	2nd Aliyah , mainly from Russia and Poland
1917	Balfour Declaration issued
1919-1923	3rd Aliyah , mainly young people from Russia
1921	Arab anti-Jewish riots
1922	League of Nations confirms British Mandate for Palestine
1924-1929	4th Aliyah , mostly from Poland
1929	Widespread Arab riots – 70 Jews are killed in Hebron
1933-1939	5th Aliyah , mainly from Germany
1936-1939	Arab Revolt , led by Haj Amin Al-Husseini
1937	Peel Commission recommends partitioning Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states
1939	British White Paper is published , restricting Jewish immigration and purchase of land

Summarized Background

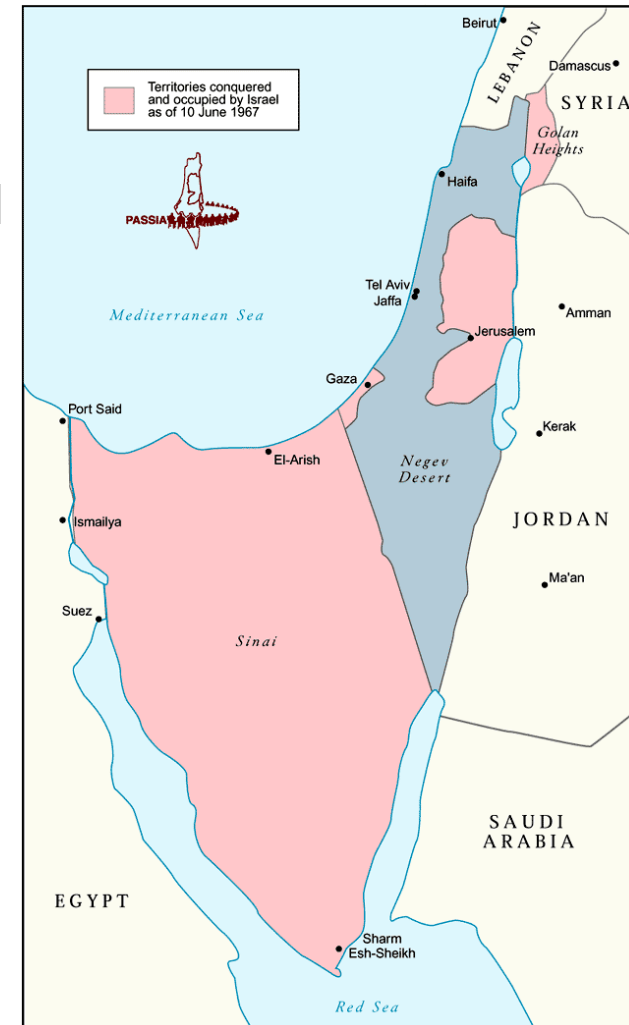
- With the **end of WWII**, the **Arab-Israeli conflict** became the **major political and military problem in the Middle East (now also Iran/Iraq/Afghanistan)**
- After the Holocaust, many of the Jewish survivors had no place to go
- **Jewish self determination** => believed that they should have a homeland in the biblical area of Israel (**Zionism**)
 - After WWI: British mandate of Palestine
- When **Jewish immigration** to Palestine **accelerated**, **friction** was created with **Palestinian Arabs**
- Both **Zionist Jews** and **Palestinian Arabs** wanted **individual nations** in the territory of **Palestine**

Summarized Background

- **Britain withdrew (1947) and the UN proposed that the country be partitioned**
- **Jews accepted, Israel was created (1948), Arabs objected and a war broke out**
- **Before, during and after the war, many Arab Palestinians left Palestine:**
 - Before => Some planned to return after the war (160k Arabs remained/returned in 1949)
 - During => Refugees fled to neighboring countries (Lebanon), the West Bank, and the Gaza strip, were kept in camps in host Arab countries, little to no integration
 - After => Despite Jewish assurances of safety, 600k Arabs left and did not return
- **The Jewish victory caused waves of persecution of Jews who had resided in Arab lands for over a thousand years**

Summarized Background

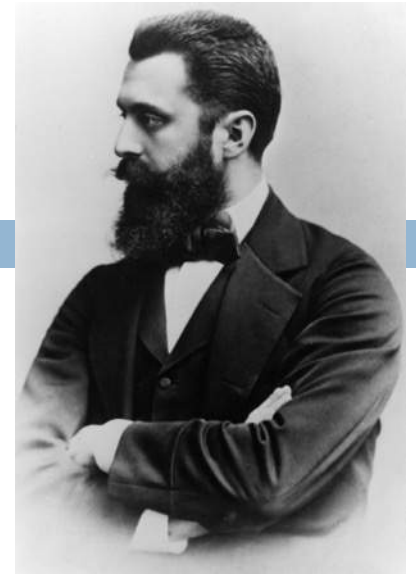
- During the next 19 years 580k Jews fled Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Yemen, Tunisia and Morocco
- **Jewish refugees arrived in Israel with very little, were helped into Israeli life**
- When fighting ended (1949), **Israelis** had more **territory** than what was included in the UN plan, and the rest of the territory was governed by **Egypt + Jordan** rather than forming an **independent Palestinian state**
- **Israel** fought **victorious wars** (1956: Egypt, 1967: Egypt, Syria, and Jordan) **securing further territories** around it
- **PLO** (1964): fight for Palestinian self-determination



Summarized Background

- **Yom Kippur War (1973)**: a surprise attack launched against Israel by Syria + Egypt
 - Soviet Union supplied the Arabs and the US supplied the Israelis- **brought the Middle East into the Cold War**
 - The seven Arab members of the **Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries** imposed a **boycott of oil sales** to countries friendly to Israel (1973-1974)
- **Peace between Egypt and Israel** (mediated by American president Jimmy Carter, 1979)
- **Palestinian Intifada** (1990s + 2000s)- uprising against Israeli control of the occupied territories

Jewish National Movement



Zionism =>

- Jewish Identity and the futility of assimilation
- The necessity of a state

*We have sincerely **tried** everywhere **to merge** with the national communities in which we live, seeking only to preserve the faith of our fathers. **It is not permitted** to us. 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 land in the arts and sciences, or her wealth by trade and commerce. **In our native lands where we have lived for centuries we are still decried as aliens...** The majority decides who the alien is; this, and all else in the relations between peoples, is a matter of power... If we were left in peace... But I think we shall not be left in peace.*

- Theodor Herzl, The Jewish State, **1896**

Palestinian National Movement

- The futility of assimilation: within Israel or within the Arab world
- The necessity of a state
- The Palestinian Charter (1968):
 - *Palestine is the homeland of the Arab Palestinian people (Article 1)*
 - *Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British Mandate, is an indivisible territorial unit (Article 2)*
 - *The liberation of Palestine, from an Arab viewpoint, is a national duty and it attempts to repel the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab homeland, and aims at the elimination of Zionism in Palestine (Article 15)*

Palestinian National Movement

- 1964: the Palestinian liberation organization (**PLO**) is formed under the leadership of **Yasir Arafat**
 - Was created with **autonomy over the West Bank and Gaza**
- 1988: **Palestinian** National Council, the legislative body of the **PLO** met in Algeria to adopt a **declaration of independence**: proclaimed an independent state of Palestine in East Jerusalem, the **West Bank** and the **Gaza Strip**
- The PLO led terrorist attacks against Israel, but in 1990's pursued for peace with Israel
- Arafat died in 2004, 2005: Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) the new Fatah/PLO chairman



Timeline: Israel and Palestine

1947	UN Resolution to create separate Jewish and Arab states in Palestine is approved
1948	Outbreak of 1948 Arab-Israeli War marks failure of UN partition plan
1958	Arafat founded Fatah (Palestinian National Liberation movement)
1956	Israel invades and occupies the Sinai peninsula
1964	Fatah took over the newly founded Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)
1967	Six Day War: Israel occupies Sinai and Gaza, West Bank, and Golan Heights
1973	Yom Kippur War => Israel is the dominant military power in the region
1982	Israel invades Lebanon to fight PLO; Israel completes withdrawal from Sinai
1985	Shimon Peres orders unilateral withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon
1987	Intifada begins in Gaza and West Bank
1993	Oslo Declaration of Principles
1995	PM Yitzhak Rabin assassinated by right-wing extremist Israeli
2000	Sharon visits Temple Mount. Renewed <i>intifada</i> . PM Barak resigns
2002	Israel begins construction of “ security barrier/fence ” in the West Bank

Camp David Accords

- **1979: Peace between Egypt and Israel** (mediated by Jimmy Carter)
 - Signed by Israeli prime minister **Begin** and Egyptian President **Sadat**
 - Israel **returned** the Sinai peninsula to Egypt in exchange for **recognition** and **peace**
 - **Resolution of the Palestinian refugee dilemma** was supposed to be negotiated
 - Formally ended the state of war that had existed between the countries for 30 years + established **diplomatic relations**
 - **Future all-out wars between Israel and the Arab world- less likely**
- **First Peace Treaty** between Israel and Arab nation
- **1981: Assassination** of Sadat



Camp David Accords

- 1994: **Peace Treaty** signed between Jordan and Israel
- Prime Minister **Rabin** and Prime Minister **Abdelsalam al Majali**
 - Jordan became the **second Arab country to recognize Israel**
 - Trade, business relations, tourism, cultural exchanges, and scientific cooperation between the two nations have increased (but at a slower pace than hoped for initially)
 - 2014, 2017: diplomatic incidents
 - 2018: Jordan's King Abdullah II announced that he would not renew part of the 1994 peace treaty that granted Israel use of two small agricultural areas along the border => the decision marks a Jordanian desire to effectively reduce diplomatic ties with Israel



The First Intifada (1987-1993)

- Mass uprisings by the Palestinians in territories held by Israel (PLO and Hamas)



- Palestinians were frustrated with their living conditions (under Israeli military rule) and lack of progress

- Often Palestinians fought the Israelis with low tech weapons (rocks, home-made bombs), but over time they gained access to guns and other explosives



The Second Intifada (2000-)

- Aka 'Al-Aqsa Intifada'
- Following the failed Camp David Summit + Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount/*Haram al-Sharif* (the holiest Islamic site in Jerusalem): seen as a provocation

The Oslo Accords

- Secret negotiations between Israel and the PLO/PA resulted in a treaty, signed in 1993
 - The first agreement between Israel and the PLO
 - Included mutual recognition, limited self-rule for Palestinians
- Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin agreed to work towards a Palestinian state
 - Were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994

The Oslo Accords



Was considered one of the greatest chances for peace



1995 Rabin assassinated

Camp David Summit (II)

- July 11-24, 2000: unsuccessful Peace Summit
- An effort to reach an agreement on permanent status by:
 - Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak
 - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat
 - United States President Bill Clinton
- No agreement, though negotiations were unprecedented in both scope + detail
 - Israel was willing to give up most of the occupied territory (90% of the territories in return for 10% percent of sovereign Israeli territory), no counter proposal
- A Trilateral Statement was issued defining the agreed principles to guide future negotiations



The Security Barrier

- 2000: Israel starts building the security barrier/fence near the West bank
- Goal: to prevent infiltrations of terrorists into Israel
- Very effective => dramatically reduced the number of suicide bombings in Israel
- Criticized for makes the access of some Palestinians to their land, places of work or study difficult (e.g., requiring them to pass through security checkpoints)
- Doesn't look good...



'Road Map' to Peace

- 2003: A plan developed by the European Union, Russia, UN, and United States, presented to the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government
- A three phase peace process that culminates with the creation of a Palestinian state
- 2005: Israel removed all Jewish settlements from Gaza

Hamas and Gaza

- Hamas is the largest and most influential Palestinian militant movement (Terrorism) + Islamic fundamentalist party
 - Provides social services to Palestinians
- 2006: won the Palestinian Authority's general legislative elections, defeating Fatah (the party of the PA's president Mahmoud Abbas), and set the stage for a power struggle
 - Abbas dismissed the Hamas government and currently rules by decree



Hamas and Gaza

- Since attaining power, Hamas has maintained its refusal to recognize the state of Israel, leading to crippling economic sanctions



Annapolis Conference

- 2007: Revival of the 'Road map to peace'
- The two states solution to Israeli Palestinian conflict is the most current solution that is currently 'on the table'
 - The establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel
- The proposal is supported by international parties
- Still no consensus



Potential Solutions to the conflict

Other potential solutions to the conflict include:

- The One state solution
 - The creation of a single Israeli-Palestinian state
 - Incorporation of the West Bank, East Jerusalem (Gaza Strip?)
- Possible return to pre-1967 Borders
 - Without east Jerusalem and the Golan Heights



Contested Positions

Israel:

- God gave us the land & holy places
- Balfour promised a homeland
- The Holocaust proved we need a country – a theocracy
- We've made a desert into a productive land
- Won't give up land taken until we have a guarantee of safety

Palestinian:

- We've lived here for centuries
- We have holy places here
- WWI promises of independence if we rebelled against Turkey (McMahon)
- Jewish immigration was making us a minority in our own land- had to fight
- No integration of Palestinian refugees in host countries
- Want a nation state

Contested Positions

Israel:

- **The Security Claim:** A nation without a state cannot survive
- **The Faith Claim:** Zion as God's home for the Jewish people
- **The Settlement Claim:** We were here first (ancient times) + What we have improved by our labor is ours

Palestinian:

- **The Security Claim:** A nation without a state cannot survive
- **The Faith Claim:** Jerusalem as the holy site of Islam
- **The Settlement Claim:** We were here first (modern times)

Obstacles to Peace

29

- Religious + territorial conflict
- Control of Jerusalem
- Palestinian Statehood (West Bank & Gaza - Borders?)
- Palestinian Refugees Right to return
- Jewish Settlements in the West Bank
 - Jewish/Israeli settlements in the occupied land are threatening the integrity of the future Palestinian state
- Security for Israel (no Terrorism, missiles etc.)



Thank You For Your Attention!

Questions???

Feedback?

Please email me

