Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Historical Perspective

I. Ancient Histories and Modern Conflicts
II. Modern History of the Arab-Israeli Conflict
III. The Contemporary Scene
Nationalism, Zionism and the Search for a Jewish Homeland

- Historical land of Palestine occupied by many groups, Jews, Muslims, Christians.
- 19th Century nationalism leads to search for Jewish homeland.
- Herzl and Zionism
- Where is the Jewish homeland?
Ancient and Modern Maps

Palestine/Israel in time of King David 1055-1015 B.C.

Israel today
Topography
Jerusalem
Milestones in the Founding of the State of Israel, 1948

• 1917 Balfour Declaration: Great Britain support for Jewish homeland in the British Mandate of Palestine without violating rights of Palestinians Muslims living there. Conflicts emerge.

• 1939-1945: Holocaust leads to 250,000 Jews to emigrate to British Mandate of Palestine.


• May 14, 1948-State of Israel founded. 78% of land Israeli. Conflict breaks out. 700,000 Palestinians flee from Israel into surrounding Arab countries.
1947 Partition
Founding of Israel, 1948
Founding of Israel, 1948
David Ben Gurion: Founding Leader of Israel, 1948
Palestinian Refugees, 1945
Breakdown of Religions in Israel

- 80.5% Jewish
- 14.6% Muslim
- 3.2% Christian
- 1.7% Druze & other

About 36 percent of the world's Jews live in Israel.
Major Modern Historical Events in the Arab-Israeli Conflict

- Jewish settlements begin in occupied territory.
- 1973-Egypt and Syria attack Israel to regain Golan Heights. Israeli army devastates Arab coalition and secure occupied territory, especially strategic Golan Heights.
- 1979-Egyptian and Israeli leaders sign Camp David Accords.
- 1987-Intifadeh (uprising) by PLO and Palestinians against Israeli occupation begins.
Israeli Advances, 1967 War
1967 War

In the 1962 war, land occupied and renamed the Palestinian sectors of Jerusalem. The Palestinians were not given a legal status as residents of Jerusalem. These residents were losing their residential status if they left outside Jerusalem.
1967 War
Strategic Golan Heights
Jewish Emigres to Israel
Jewish Settlements
Palestinian Refugees

Who am I? When asked to have his portrait taken, the man responded that who he was is in his Palestinian identity cards. He was a 1968 refugee from the Abu Acre area, and died at the Ayn Al-Hilweh camp in Lebanon.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Article 15

"Everyone has the right to a nationality. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality..."

Palestinians under occupation and Palestinians in refugee camps have been denied the right to a nationality and state.
Recent History and Contemporary Events

- 1993-1995-Israel and PLO sign Oslo Accords.
- Israel withdraws from Gaza Strip and most West Bank towns. PLO Arafat elected.
- Peace breaks down over Settlements and refugee question.
- 2002-suicide bombings and Israel occupation by force of towns and cities.
- Wall built in occupied territories.
- “Two-State Solution” – process begins.
- November 2004-Arafat dies.