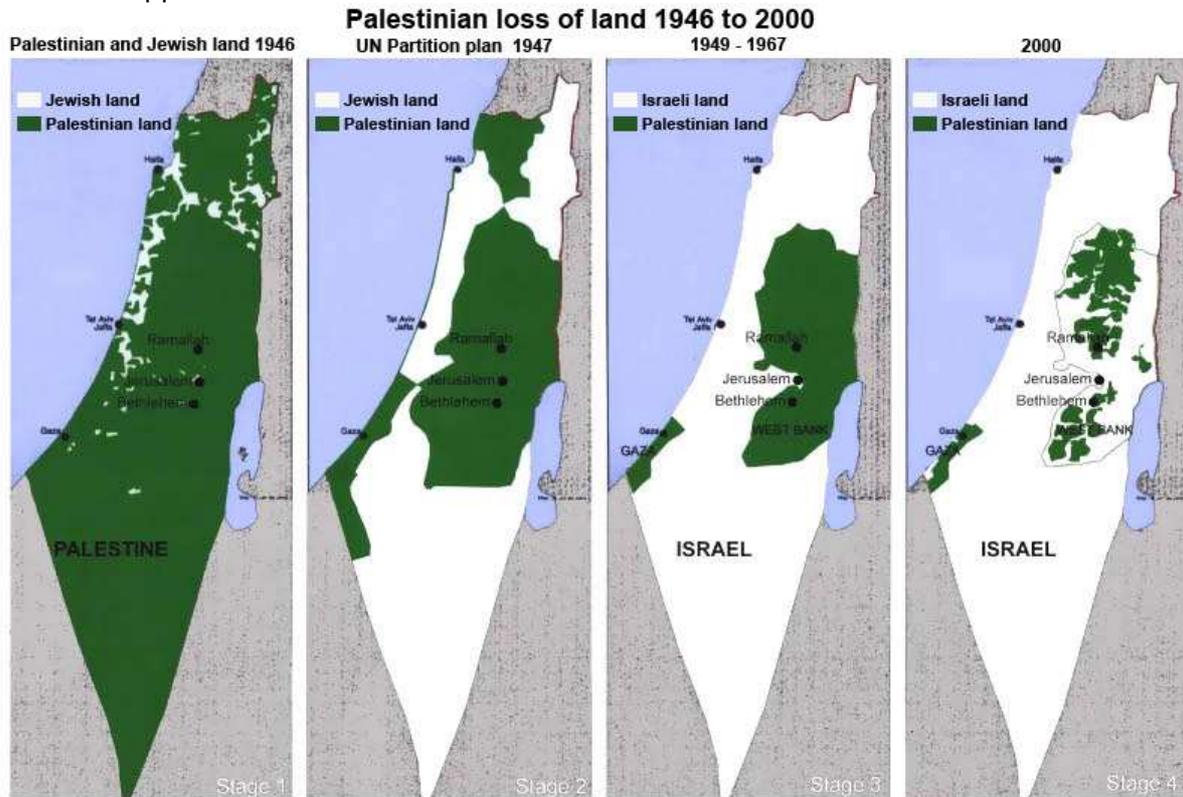


# The Conquest of Palestine

Since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, mostly European and American Jews have attempted to conquer Palestine. What was before 1880 practically void of Jews has now been practically (not yet officially) deleted from the map. It is the purpose here to describe how this happened.



## The Diaspora

The term **Diaspora** (in Greek, *διασπορά* – "a scattering [of seeds]") refers to the movement of *any* population sharing common ethnic identity who were either forced to leave or voluntarily left their settled territory, and became residents in areas often far remote from the former. It is converse to the nomadic culture, and more appropriately linked with the creation of a group of refugees. However, while refugees may or may not ultimately settle in a new geographic location, the term Diaspora refers to a permanently displaced and relocated collective. It subsequently came to be used to refer interchangeably, but exclusively, to the historical movements of the dispersed ethnic population of Israel, the cultural development of that population, or the population itself. In that sense, it is used both concerning the Babylonian exile (607 BC) and that occurring in 70 AD by the Romans. Today it is more justified to consider the Palestinian Diaspora.



Palestine for Palestinians in 1866

## Ottoman Palestine

The end of the 19th century saw the beginning of Zionist immigration. Jews who migrated to Palestine in this wave came mostly from Eastern Europe and from Yemen. This wave of an estimated 25,000 Jews lasted 1881-1903. In a second wave, 1904-1914,

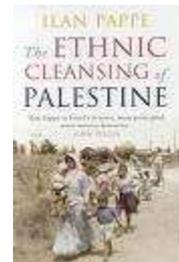
40,000 Jews immigrated. During the 19th century, the Ottoman Government employed the term *Ardh-u Filistin* (the 'Land of Palestine') in official correspondence, meaning for all intents and purposes the area to the west of the River Jordan which became 'Palestine' under the British in 1922".<sup>[</sup>

In the 1<sup>st</sup> World War, mainly the British conquered Palestine. The Arab population raised in 1920 against the increasing Jewish colonisation.

## Zionism

Zionism is the international political movement that originally supported the (re)establishment of a homeland for the Jewish People in Palestine – after 1,900 years. Zionism is based on the foundation of historical ties and religious traditions linking the Jewish people to the Land of Israel. In as far as Zionism is a desire for return to a homeland, it could seem acceptable if it does not harm anybody already present in the area. The reality looks different: Jews claim a biblical right to Palestine. When considering this practice, regardless which theory may stay behind, it seems justified to maintain that Zionism is an expression of racism, as the United Nations general assembly voted for in 1975 (annulled 1991). Zionism stand for the ethnic cleansing, that since 1947 has taken place towards the Arab population of Palestine (ongoing process), as brilliantly described in a recent book by an Israeli historian [1,2]. You can therefore tell all Zionist allies that they are supporting the racists.

The political movement was formally established by the Austro-Hungarian journalist Theodor Herzl in the late 19th century following the publication of his book '*Der Judenstaat*'. The movement seeks to encourage Jewish migration to the "Land of Israel" and was eventually successful in establishing Israel in 1948, as the homeland for the Jewish people. Today roughly 40% of the world's Jews live in Israel.



## The Balfour Declaration

The **Balfour Declaration of 1917** was a statement of policy – certainly not a binding treaty – by the British government stating that *"His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."*

The declaration was made in a letter from Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Baron Walter Rothschild for transmission to the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Ireland. The letter further stated that the declaration is a sign of *"sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations."*

Overestimation of the importance of this non-obliging statement prompted Winston Churchill to the issue of a "White Paper" five years later, an "interpretation which His Majesty's Government place upon the Declaration of 1917." By now, there were 80,000 Jews in Palestine, as cited in the document, and a third of those had come in the short period of British government. The increase in Jewish population was foreseen, but only to an amount for which there was an economical basis.

## The Second World War

It is slowly forgotten, that the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War was not primarily concerning anti-Semitism and any Jewish problem. The holocaust, the extermination of millions of Jews, is still discussed in many countries, while a discussion is blocked by the '6-million-Dogma' in others. Whatever the exact occurrences, the aftermath of the war opened for an uncontrolled immigration from Europe to Palestine, in turn leading to the creation of the State of Israel – and the State of Palestine – in 1948.

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1 Ilan Pappé: The ethnic cleansing of Palestine, 2006

2 Ilan Pappé: Der ethnische Säuberung von Palästina, zweitausendundeins

In 1944, the later Israeli Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion stated: "Zionism is a TRANSFER of the Jews. Regarding the TRANSFER of the [Palestinian] Arabs this is much easier than any other TRANSFER. There are Arab states in the vicinity ... and it is clear that if the [Palestinian] Arabs are removed [to these states] this will improve their condition and not the contrary."

## **The Formation of the State of Israel and the Nakba**

In November 1947, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted Resolution 181 concerning the future Government of Palestine' with a division of the country according to the plan left, with Jerusalem under UN administration. According to polls conducted in 1922, 1931 and 1945, Jewish population increased from 11% over 17% to 31%. Less than 6% of the country was owned by Jews in 1947. The new Jewish State was immediately involved in war with its Arab neighbours. Israel's Declaration of Independence of May 1948 cites the UN resolution among the items recognizing the right of the Jewish People to establish a state.

750,000 Palestinian Arabs fled in what is in Arabic termed the Nakba – most were expelled from their homes by Jewish forces. Others were terrorized of being made victims to a massacre like the one of Deir Yassin (April 9, 1948), a cooperation of Menachem Begin's Irgun and the Stern Gang. But the ethnic cleansing started from a definite plan towards the end of 1947, involving all sorts of crimes.

The borders of the State of Israel 1948-67 are now considered the **Green Line**. Israel has never defined any borders in a constitution.

## **The Six-Day War 1967**

In May 1967, Egypt's president Nasser closed the Strait of Tiran for Israeli vessels to Eilat. Simultaneously, he expelled the UN troops and mobilized troops in Sinai. The signs stood on war, which led the Israeli forces to perform a preventive opening of the hostilities on June 5. The air-force of its neighbours was effectively destroyed, leading to Israeli superiority, subsequently used to make huge land conquest in the coming days. They also attacked an American war-ship, USS Liberty with unmarked planes on June 8, a false-flag assault with the purpose of involving USA against Egypt, nearly sinking the ship and causing heavy casualties. In spite of overwhelming indication of their bad intentions, the Israeli claim of mistaken identity was immediately accepted by the American government. Other allegations of Israeli war-crimes were made but until now, the winning part is never formally accused.

With the huge territorial accessions, Israel was left with the key to peace. They have shown no intentions to use it for this purpose. The conquest of Sinai, Gaza-Strip, Golan Heights, West Bank and East-Jerusalem has led to colonization in all areas, and only the first two Areas were later cleansed from Jewish settlements.

## **The Modern Settlement Movement**

The conquest of Palestine is carried out by use of the settler movement and its unofficial support through the Israeli authorities. In Jerusalem, only Jewish-owned buildings are given building permits (whether for modernization or rebuilding), and regularly buildings are demolished with the argument, that they were erected without an Israeli building permit (which is always the case when the construction was dated before 1967). In the occupied territories, the technique is different: On a hilltop, some containers are placed, creating an illegal outpost. From there and nearby settlements, the legal owners are prevented from harvesting their land. When this was successful in three years, the land is transferred to the Israeli state according to the 'Absentee Property Law'. Other areas were seized by the IDF for 'security purposes. In addition, the Israeli government used the absence of modern legal documents for the communal land as a legal basis for expropriating it.

Ones expropriated (without compensation), the land is being sold exclusively and cheap to Jewish settlers, except what is used for building the Apartheid Wall (since 2001)

or the settler-only roads. In spite of these advantages, an Israeli study revealed 2006 that 40% of the West Bank settlements were built on still private Palestinian soil. Generally, settler criminality is seldom punished, whereas Palestinians are suffering unbearable discrimination from the occupying forces. In this climate, an unsuspected behaviour of both parties is, of course, made impossible.

## **The Oslo Peace-Accord 1993**

This was the first direct agreement between Israel and political representatives of Palestinians. It was intended to be a framework for the future relations between Israel and the Palestinians, when all outstanding final status issues between the two sides would be addressed and resolved in one agreement. Permanent issues such as *Jerusalem, Palestinian refugees, Israeli settlements, security and borders* were deliberately left to be decided at a later stage. Interim self-government was to be granted by Israel in phases.

The remaining content was meagre but at least gave rise to a Palestinian Authority, from which the demand for self-determination has been kept alive, in reaction to the continuing Jewish conquest.

## **The Geneva Peace-Accord 2003**

In the absence of other Palestinian-Israeli agreements, the Geneva Peace Accord of 2003 deserves respect. It is a good opening for any other negotiations – and being refused from both official sides does not alter that status. These accords are the closest approach to a permanent settlement of the conflict to date. According to this agreement, Palestinians would be granted most of the territory captured from Jordan during the 1967 war by Israel. Israel would annex several densely populated areas near the Green Line (such as *Gush Etzion* and *Ma'ale Adumim* which will be connected to Jerusalem). Other cities (such as *Ariel*) and communities (such as *Hebron*) will be removed and their residents will be evicted (or granted Palestinian but not double citizenship). In return for areas annexed by Israel from the West Bank, the Palestinians would receive territory of equal area (but not quality) adjacent to the Gaza Strip. There was disagreement over the degree to which the Geneva Accord would oblige Israel to accept Palestinian refugees.

A poll carried out by Israeli and Palestinian organisations in December 2006 found support for the agreement running at about 50% among members of both communities

## **The Palestine Election 2006**

On January 25, 2006, elections were held for the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC). The elections had been demanded by an attentive outer world, but its result was not respected: Hamas 44% (74 seats) to Fatah 41% (45 seats) and various 14% (13 seats). So much for the democratical part of the show. Now, however, The European Union and the United States, pressed by Israel, remembered that they had classified Hamas as a terrorist organization for its refusal to recognize the state, which had always attempted to wipe Palestine off the map (it is more reasonable to designate the Israeli Government and several of its institutions as terrorist organizations). What then followed were anti-democratic tendencies at their worst: Israel arrested (and still keeps incarcerated) most Hamas parliamentarians, while Hamas and Fatah clashed in their respective strongholds – Hamas in Gaza and Fatah in part of the West-Bank.

The hypocrisy related reaction, 'we support democracy but only if our candidates win,' is supported by a majority of the parliamentarians in Europe and North Europe.

## **The End of Palestine**

There can be no doubt that Israel aims at total conquest after ethnic cleansing of the remaining Palestine. Their tactic of endless 'peace-talks' is only part of this strategy. It is a heavy responsibility under these circumstances to consider Israel an ally. Conversely, the return to the stolen land of the Palestinian refugees must be supported by all honest humans, regardless their race. The broad support that Israel experiences in civilized

countries is a symptom of serious malfunction in these countries, as reflected in other documents in this serial

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