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Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Timeline

Date: Aug. 1, 2018

From: Gale World History Online Collection

Publisher: Gale, a Cengage Company

Document Type: Image; Timeline

Content Level: (Level 2)

Full Text:

The graphic is a vertical timeline titled "ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT TIMELINE" in large, bold, black letters on a textured, parchment-like background. The timeline consists of several entries, each with a date in a brown box, a specific date, and a brief description of the event.

1882
The Jews begin the first major wave of Zionist immigration (aliyah) to Palestine in the modern era.

1897
AUGUST 29
Theodor Herzl, the founder of the modern Zionist movement, convenes the First Zionist Congress.

1914
JULY 28
World War I breaks out. The Ottoman Empire joins the war a few months later, thus drawing Palestine into the conflict.

1915
Hussein bin Ali, the Sharif of Mecca, and the British High Commissioner to Egypt, Sir Henry McMahon, begin planning an Arab uprising against the Ottoman Empire.

1916
MAY 16
The Sykes-Picot Agreement is signed, dividing the Middle East between the French and the British.

JUNE 10

The Great Arab Revolt breaks out in Mecca as a result of the McMahon-Hussein correspondence. This later results in the British gaining control of Palestine from the Ottomans.

1917

NOVEMBER 2

The British issue the Balfour Declaration, promising a "National Home" for the Jews in Palestine.

1920

After a period of military occupation, the British establish a civilian government in the formerly Ottoman territory of Palestine. This territory is considered "Mandatory Palestine," or the British Mandate of Palestine.

1921

MAY 1-7

The Jaffa riots break out and result in the deaths of nearly a hundred people. This marks the first major riot against the Jews in Palestine.

1922

The League of Nations approves the British mandate for Palestine and its objectives of establishing a Jewish homeland.

1936

A three-year long Arab revolt ("The Great Revolt") takes place in Palestine to protest Jewish immigration. The White Paper of 1939 is later issued by the British government to restrict Jewish immigration and land purchase in Palestine. In the meantime, the Arabs begin establishing ties with Nazi Germany.

1937

JULY 7

The Peel Commission, tasked by the British government with investigating the conflict in Palestine, is ratified. The commission is notable for being the first to suggest dividing Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.

1939

MAY 23

The British government responds to the revolt by releasing the White Paper of 1939, which provides the British governing policy for Palestine. The White Paper rejects the partitioning idea proposed by the Peel Commission in favor of a one-state solution, though it is rejected by both Arab and Jewish groups.

SEPTEMBER 1

World War II breaks out. The Nazis begin their global campaign against the Jews.

1947

MAY 15

The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) is established to address the Palestinian question.

NOVEMBER 29

A resolution is passed by the United Nations (UN)

General Assembly, calling for Palestine to be partitioned between Jews and Arabs to allow for the formation of the Jewish state of Israel.

NOVEMBER 30

In response to the UN resolution, civil war breaks out between the Arabs and the Jews in Palestine.

1948

MAY 14

The Israeli Declaration of Independence is proclaimed by David Ben-Gurion, the executive head of the World Zionist Organization.

MAY 15

The first Arab-Israeli War between the State of Israel and an Arab military coalition erupts. Meanwhile, the British withdraw, ending the British Mandate in Palestine. In addition, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Jordan invade the newborn state.

1949

Israel and the invading Arab states agree to an armistice. Israel gains about 50% more territory than was originally allotted to it by the UN Partition Plan.

1956

OCTOBER 29

In collaboration with France and Britain, Israel invades the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, marking the start of the Second Arab-Israeli War.

1964

MAY 28

The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is founded with the aim of liberating Palestine through armed struggle.

1967

MAY 22-23

Egypt closes the Straits of Tiran to Israeli shipping and dismisses the UN peacekeeping force stationed in the Sinai peninsula. Negotiations with the United States to reopen the Straits of Tiran fail. Israel considers this closure an act of war.

JUNE 5-10

The closure of the Straits of Tiran jump-starts the Six-Day War, with Israel launching a pre-emptive attack against Egypt and capturing major territories such as the Gaza Strip as well as Jerusalem. In the aftermath of the war, UN Security Council Resolution 242 is adopted, calling for the negotiation of permanent peace between the parties and a "withdrawal from all the territories occupied" by Israel.

1972

SEPTEMBER 5-6

Black September, a Palestinian terrorist group, takes Israeli athletes hostage during the Munich Olympics and later kills them.

1973

OCTOBER 6

The Yom Kippur War begins as a coalition of Arab states launch a surprise attack against Israeli-

occupied territories. Egypt and Syria lead the charge and manage to occupy key areas, but are later pushed back by Israeli troops.

1979

MARCH 26

A peace treaty is signed between Egypt and Israel.

1981

JUNE 7

Israel destroys the Osirak nuclear reactor in Iraq. Though the international response to this is largely negative, the attack brings up another point of contention between Israel and the Arab states—the possession of nuclear weaponry.

1982

JUNE 6

Israel invades Lebanon with a massive force to fight the PLO.

1987

DECEMBER 8

Palestinians rebel against the Israeli occupation of Gaza and the West Bank in what is known as the "First Intifada" (rebellion).

1988

NOVEMBER 15

The Palestinian Declaration of Independence is announced.

1993

The Oslo Accords begins a peace process between Israel and the PLO.

1994

The Palestinian Authority is established by the Oslo Accords as a transitional government in contested areas.

1995

NOVEMBER 4

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by right-wing Israeli fanatic Yigal Amir, who is opposed to Rabin's support of the Oslo Accords. Rabin is replaced by Shimon Peres, who continues to support the peace efforts.

1996

SEPTEMBER 24

The Western Wall Tunnel riots break out as Israel opens up a tunnel built next to an ancient wall in the Old City of Jerusalem. It is one of the deadliest riots between the Jews and Palestinians at the turn of the century.

1997

JANUARY 17

Israel and the PLO sign the Hebron Protocol, which authorizes the redeployment of Israeli soldiers in areas of Hebron populated by Palestinians.

1998

OCTOBER

The United States mediates the negotiations between Israel and Palestine after the Oslo peace efforts reach a stalemate. The Wye River Memorandum, the result of these talks, attempts to reach agreements about both continued troop deployments and provisions for security.

1999

MAY 17

Israel elects Labor Party leader and former general Ehud Barak as prime minister in a landslide victory. Barak promises rapid progress toward peace.

2000

SEPTEMBER 28

The Second Intifada breaks out as Israeli politician Ariel Sharon visits the Al-Aqsa Compound in Jerusalem, which is seen as a highly provocative move by the Palestinians. Israel later builds a barrier in the West Bank as a security measure against terrorism.

2001

FEBRUARY 6

Sharon is elected prime minister of Israel. Because of the deteriorating political situation, he refuses to continue negotiating with Palestine.

2002

MARCH 27

A Palestinian Islamist fundamentalist organization, Hamas, conducts a suicide bombing at an Israeli hotel. The incident is known as the "Passover massacre."

MARCH 28

The Arab League proposes the Arab Peace Initiative, designed to end the conflict by calling for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from occupied territories and a "just resettlement" of lands. It is deemed by many Israelis to be too favorable to the Palestinian cause.

MARCH 29

In response to the Passover massacre, Israel conducts Operation Defensive Shield in the West Bank, a large-scale military campaign to capture terrorists.

2004

JULY 9

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) rules that the West Bank security barrier violates international law and must be torn down, and that the Arab residents must be compensated for damages.

2005

FEBRUARY 8

Sharon and Mahmud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, form a truce. A ceasefire is later declared.

MAY 26

Abbas visits U.S. President George W. Bush at the White House, a symbolic gesture signaling U.S. backing for Abbas and Palestinian aspirations.

SEPTEMBER 21

Israel finishes evicting its settlements and evacuating its army from the Gaza Strip.

2006

JANUARY 25

Hamas wins a large majority in the new Palestinian parliament, causing the United States and other countries to cut off their support to Hamas and the Palestinian Authority. Israel likewise refuses to deal with Hamas, which still refuses to recognize the State of Israel.

JUNE 25

Hamas initiates hostilities against Israel in the Gaza Strip, jump-starting an ongoing conflict in the region. An Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit, is taken captive.

2007

JUNE

A civil war in Palestine between its two main political parties, Hamas and Fatah, splits the Palestinian Authority.

NOVEMBER 27

In the Annapolis Conference, a peace conference, held in Annapolis, Maryland, a "Roadmap for peace" is established in an attempt to revive Israeli-Palestinian peace efforts.

2009

JUNE 14

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu endorses a "demilitarized Palestinian State" while giving a speech at Bar-Ilan University.

2010

SEPTEMBER 2

The United States conducts direct negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority to facilitate the peace process.

2011

MAY 4

Hamas and Fatah sign a reconciliation pact to end a four-year rift between the two.

SEPTEMBER 23

Abbas applies to the United Nations for Palestine's membership into the organization.

OCTOBER 18

Shalit is transferred from Gaza to Egypt as part of a prisoner exchange between Israel and Hamas.

NOVEMBER 11

The Palestinian appeal for statehood is effectively stalled after the UN Security Council states its inability "to make a unanimous recommendation."

2012

NOVEMBER 14

Israel launches Operation Pillar of Defense in response to sustained rocket attacks by Gaza militants. The operation ends in a ceasefire brokered by Egypt over a week later, with both sides claiming victory.

NOVEMBER 29

The State of Palestine is recognized as a non-member

The state of Palestine is recognized as a non-member observer state by the United Nations, which can be interpreted as an implicit recognition of statehood.

2014

JULY 8

Israel launches Operation Protective Edge against Hamas militants in Gaza after Hamas kidnaps and murders three Israeli teenagers. Egypt once again brokers a ceasefire between the two sides over a month later.

2015

JUNE

The Vatican signs a treaty with Palestine, recognizing the latter as a de facto state. Israel condemns the act, considering it an impediment to the peace process.

2017

FEBRUARY 6

Israel passes the Regulation Law, which retroactively legalizes almost 4,000 Jewish settler homes built on Palestinian land.

FEBRUARY 15

U.S. President Donald Trump expresses openness to a one-state solution, a change in the decades-long U.S. policy of advocating a two-state solution.

APRIL 6

Russia affirms its support for the two-state solution by recognizing West Jerusalem as the future capital of Israel and East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

MAY 1

Hamas declares willingness to accept an interim Palestinian state alongside Israel.

DECEMBER 6

U.S. President Trump declares recognition of Jerusalem as capital of Israel. This move defies decades of U.S. policy that resists the aforementioned recognition before the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is resolved.



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A selective chronology of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

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Source Citation (MLA 8th Edition)

"Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Timeline." *Gale World History Online Collection*, Gale, 2018. *Gale In Context: World History*, <https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/IKEMBN360460221/WHIC?u=kenn1483&sid=WHIC&xid=508c840b>. Accessed 27 Sept. 2019.

