

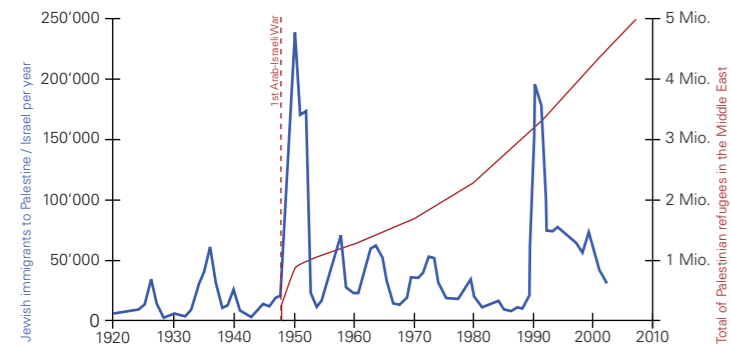
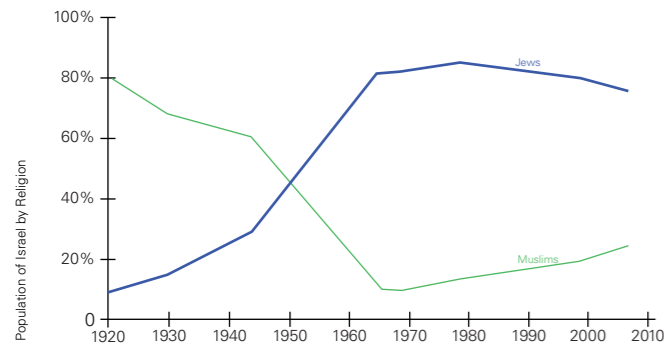
# Arab-Israeli Conflicts

## A CHRONOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

Only due to its military strength, the state of Israel has been able to survive to the present day. Here in Palestine, the Jews who have been persecuted for centuries, finally found a home country. The Palestinians on the other hand lost their homeland. This is where the root of the Middle East conflict lies.

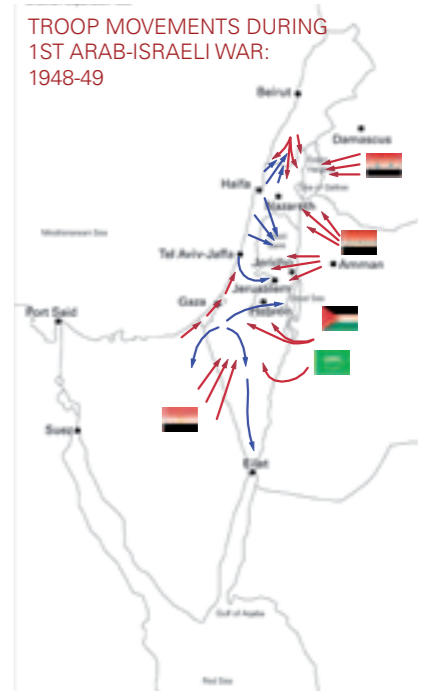
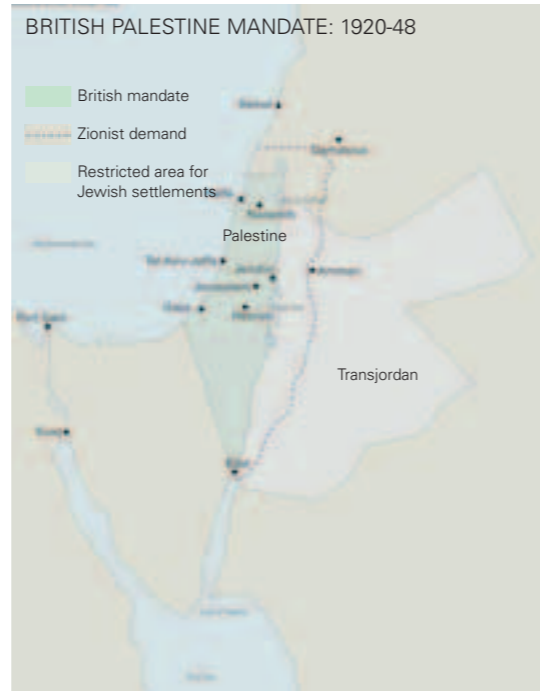
More than 60 years have now past since the establishment of the state of Israel. A timespan that has been characterized by armed conflicts of all kinds and numberless international attempts to resolve one of the most complex disputes of the modern world. So far without any definite solution.

The following pages give a chronologically organized overview of the past 130 years, showing the major events and territorial shifts and putting them into a regional and international context.



### Glossary:

- Aliyah:** Hebrew for ascent; the immigration of Jews to land of Israel, a tenet of Zionist ideology.
- Arab League:** The League of Arab States, a voluntary association of independent Arab countries, founded in 1947 by Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Transjordan, Yemen and Saudi Arabia.
- Irgun:** A militant Zionist group and military organisation that operated in Palestine between 1931 and 1948 and was then included in the IDF.
- IDF:** Israel Defense Forces, the armed forces of Israel.
- Theodor Herzl:** May 2 1860 - July 3 1904, an Austro-Hungarian journalist and the father of modern political Zionism.
- Pogrom:** A form of riot directed against a particular group, originally used to denote extensive violence against Jews.
- Zionism:** Political ideology for the establishment of a Jewish state



April 1920  
**San Remo Conference** allots Palestine mandate to Britain

November 29, 1947  
**UN Resolution 181** recommends the division of Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state with Jerusalem as a neutral zone under UN administration

February 24, 1949  
**Israel signs armistice agreements with Egypt** and later the same year with the other participants  
May 14, 1948  
**End of British mandate; Ben Gurion declares the state of Israel**

### ARAB REVOLT

**Timeframe:** April 1936 - March 1939  
**Events:** Palestinian general strike, followed by uprising in protest against mass Jewish immigration by Arabs in the British Mandate of Palestine  
**Fatalities:** 5'000 Arabs, 400 Jews, 200 Britons  
**Consequences:** Revolt didn't achieve its goals, led to the destruction of Arab political leadership structures

### FIRST ARAB-ISRAELI WAR (ISRAELI WAR OF INDEPENDENCE)

**Timeframe:** May 15, 1948 - March 1949  
**Triggering event:** United armies of several Arab states (Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Arab Liberation Army) launch attack on Israel in response to Israel's declaration of independence  
**Process of war:** Israel wins decisive military victories over invading Arab states, more than 700'000 Palestinian Arabs are displaced from their homes, Israel defeats attackers and adds a plus of 21% to its territory  
**Fatalities:** Egypt - 1650, Israel - 186, UK - 16, F - 10  
**Consequences:** Division of Jerusalem in East (Jordan) and West (Israel), Gaza Strip goes to Egypt, West Bank to Jordan. Large-scale Jewish immigration from Europe and Arab lands begins.

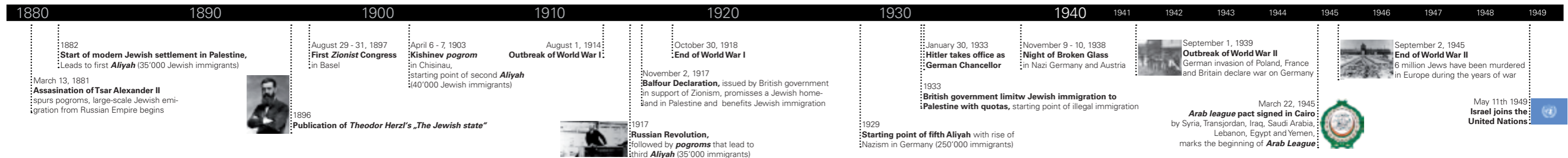
August, 1929  
**Anti-Jewish riots in Jerusalem, Hebron and elsewhere**

### PALESTINE RIOTS (OR NABI MUSA RIOTS)

**Timeframe:** April 4 - 7, 1920  
**Events:** Anti-Zionist riots in Jerusalem  
**Consequences:** Trust between the British, Jews, and Arabs erodes, Jewish community increased moves towards an autonomous infrastructure and security apparatus

### KING DAVID HOTEL BOMBING

**Timeframe:** July 22, 1946  
**Events:** Bomb attack on the south-eastern corner of the King David Hotel (where a headquarter of the British forces is located) by the **Irgun**  
**Fatalities:** 91 people die





1950  
Jordan annexes the West Bank

October 29, 1956 - November 7, 1956: Israel occupies the Gaza Strip; Withdrawal of Israeli forces from and the Sinai peninsula  
November 1956 - January 1957: Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula

June 5 - 11, 1967  
Israel occupies Golan Heights, West Bank, East Jerusalem, Gaza Strip and Sinai peninsula

July 26th 1956  
President Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal

May 1967  
Nasser orders UN forces out of Sinai, blockades Strait of Tiran and cuts off Israeli access to the Red Sea

April 13, 1975  
Outbreak of Lebanese civil war

## Arab-Israeli conflicts

### 2ND ARAB-ISRAELI WAR (SUZ CRISIS)

**Timeframe:** October 29, 1956 - November 7, 1956

**Triggering event:** Nationalisation of the Suez Canal by Egypt under president Gamal Abdel Nasser

**Process of war:** United Kingdom and France are forced to intervene in order to preserve their interests in the Suez Canal (source of income, strategical importance), Israel joins in to overthrow Nasser (due to his pro-Sovjet and anti-Semitic position), UK and F bomb Cairo and occupy Suez, Israel attacks Egypt, occupies Sinai and Gaza Strip (Operation Kadesh), USA & UDSSR enforce end of the war.

**Fatalities:** Egypt - 1650, Israel - 186, UK - 16, F - 10

**Consequences:** Nasser becomes leading figure within the Arab world, Arab states orient themselves towards UDSSR, radicalization of the Palestinians, **Eisenhower Doctrine**



### 3RD ARAB-ISRAELI WAR (SIX DAY WAR OR JUNE WAR)

**Timeframe:** June 5 - 11, 1967

**Triggering event:** Egypt blocks Gulf of Akaba and Israel's access to the Red Sea, Arab armies gather around Israeli boundary

**Process of war:** Israel initiates a preventive war, defeats forces from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and Syria, occupies Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights and Sinai, Israeli territory gains two times its previous size

**Fatalities:** Israel 800, Egypt 11000, Jordan 6000, Syria 2500, Iraq 10

**Consequences:** Israel installs military administration in the occupied areas, Arab countries demand withdrawal of occupiers and formulate the slogan: No negotiation, no peace, no recognition



### 4TH ARAB-ISRAELI WAR (YOM KIPPUR, OCTOBER OR RAMADAN WAR)

**Timeframe:** October 6 - 26, 1973

**Triggering event:** Israel is aware of military strength, no concessions, Egypt wants Sinai (oil fields) back and reopen Suez Canal (closed since 1967), Egypt (at Sinai and Suez Canal) and Syria (at Golan Heights) surprisingly attack Israel on the day of Yom Kippur, the highest Jewish holiday

**Process of war:** After initially losing ground Israel launches a successful counterstrike and quickly advances direction Cairo until the USA enforces a ceasefire, shortly before Egypt is completely defeated

**Fatalities:** Israel approx. 2'700, Egypt and Syria approx. 25'000

**Consequences:** Arab countries reduce oil production to increase oil price and to apply pressure on Israel, which leads to the **oil crisis**



### BLACK SEPTEMBER IN JORDAN

**Timeframe:** September 16 - 27, 1970

**Events:** Jordan drives out PLO

### DAWSON'S FIELD AIRPLANE HIJACKING

**Timeframe:** September 6 - 30, 1970

**Events:** Members of PFLP hijack 5 jet aircraft, 3 of them to Dawson's field in Jordan, where they blow up the airplanes and take crew members and Jewish passengers as hostages. They eventually succeed to enforce the release of 4 imprisoned Palestinians from European prisons.



### OLYMPIC GAMES IN MUNICH

**Timeframe:** September 5 - 6, 1972

**Event:** Israeli athletes are taken hostage by members of the Group of Black September to enforce the release of 234 Arab and 2 German (RAF) prisoners. Israel refuses to negotiate. Although Germany lacks a police special unit, a freeing of the hostages is attempted. It fails.

**Fatalities:** 11 Israeli athletes, 5 hostage takers, 1 German police officer



## Glossary

**Black September in Jordan:** Jordanian forces are deployed into areas within Jordan under Palestinian control. As a result of this intervention, the PLO and other Palestinian organisations will eventually move their bases of operation to Lebanon and Syria.

**Eisenhower Doctrine:** Proclaimed by President Eisenhower in 1957 promising US assistance to Middle Eastern states threatened by „International Communism“

**Oil crisis:** The OPAEC members (consisting of the Arab members of OPEC, plus Egypt and Syria) proclaimed an oil embargo in response to the U.S. decision to re-supply the Israeli military during the Yom Kippur war. It led to a shortage of crude oil, rising oil prices and an economy crisis.

**PFLP:** „Popular front of the liberation of Palestine“ A Marxist-Leninist, secular, nationalist Palestinian political and paramilitary organization, founded in 1967. It is constantly the second largest of the groups forming the PLO.

**PLO:** „Palestine Liberation Organization“ The Umbrella organisation of the Palestinian national movement, consisting of Fatah, PFLP, DFLP and others. Its declared goal is the creation of an independent arabic state of Palestine. The PLO is the sole globally recognized representative of the Palestinian people.

1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955 1956 1957 1958 1959 1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972 1973 1974 1975 1976 1977 1978 1979

1952  
Free Officer Coup in Egypt



1954  
Gamal Abdel Nasser becomes President of Egypt

July, 1951  
King Abdullah of Jordan assassinated at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

October 1957  
France signs secret agreement to transfer nuclear materials and know-how to Israel

January 1957  
Eisenhower Doctrine issued by US government Middle East becomes scene of the cold war

May 29, 1964  
PLO founded under Arab League auspices with Yassir Arafat as chairman



1967  
PFLP founded

1968  
Israel starts building settlements in the occupied territories



October 15, 1970  
Anwar as-Sadat becomes President of Egypt after the death of Nasser



June 16 - 19 1974  
Arab League conference in Rabat recognizes PLO as sole representative of the Palestinians;

1978  
Peace Nobel Prize for Sadat and Menachem: After that Arafat calls Menachem a betrayer;

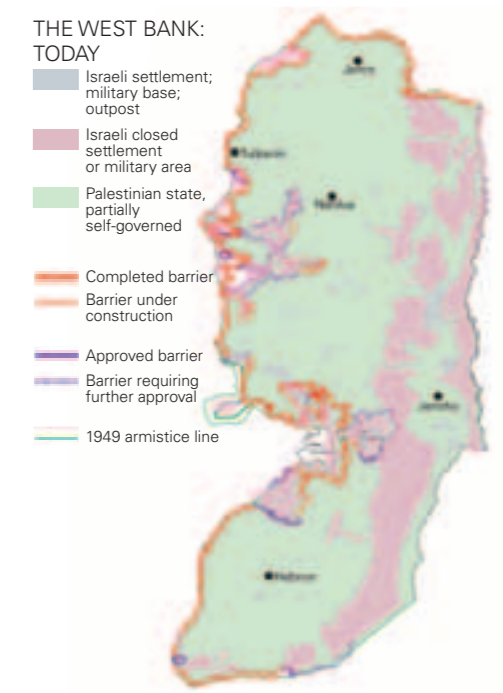
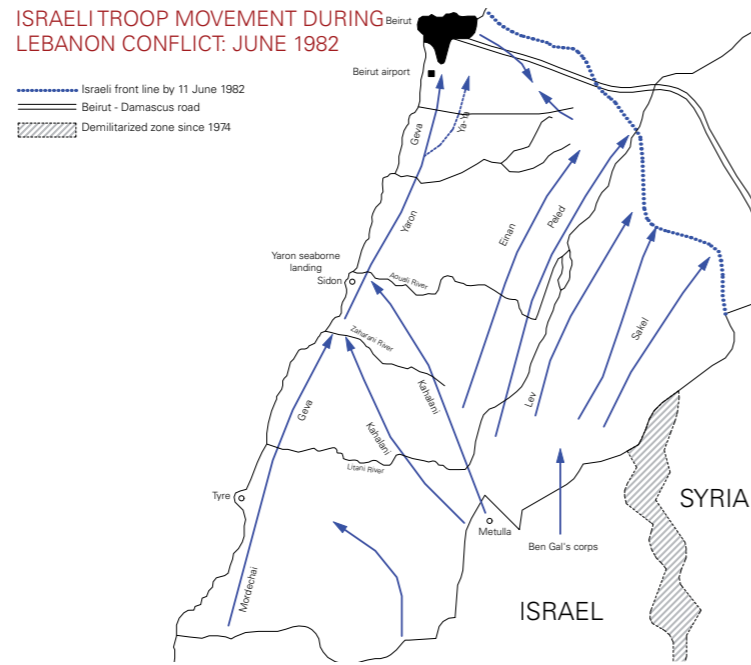
September 17th 1978  
Israel and Egypt sign Camp David Agreement;



March 26 1979  
Israel - Egypt peace treaty;

1979  
Islamic revolution in Iran, starting point of an anti-Israel policy;





**Territorial situations**



**Arab-Israeli conflicts**

**LEBANON CONFLICT**

**Timeframe:** June 6, 1982 - September 1983

**Triggering event:** Assassination of Israeli ambassador in London and continuous attacks by Palestinian militants on settlements in Galilee, as a reaction Israel invades the Lebanon

**Process of war:** Israel lays siege on Beirut, Tyrus and Sidon, West Beirut gets totally devastated

**Fatalities:** Approx. 100'000 (whole war)

**Consequences:** PLO withdraws from Lebanon, moves head-quarter to Tunis, Israel reaches its goal but isolates itself more and more internationally

**FIRST INTIFADA**

**Timeframe:** December 8, 1987 - September 13, 1993

**Triggering event:** A traffic accident between an Israeli military vehicle and a car carrying Palestinian labourers on their way home from a days work in Israel kills 4 Palestinians and injures several others. It triggers the Palestinian uprising against Israeli repression in the occupied territories.

**Process of conflict:** The *Intifada* quickly spreads from the Jabalia refugee camp throughout Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Palestinian actions range from civil disobedience to armed resistance and even suicide bombings carried out by militants towards the end of the Intifada. The Israeli security forces try to prevent violent demonstrations with force, power and repression.

**Fatalities:** Approx. 1'100 Palestinians and 160 Israelis

**Consequences:** By engaging the Israelis directly, the Palestinians were able to globally cement their identity as a separate nation and draw international attention to their cause.

**SECOND INTIFADA**

**Timeframe:** September 28, 2000 - February 2005

**Triggering event:** Likud party leader Ariel Sharons visit of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, which is also the location of Al-Aqsa mosque and Haram as Sharif (holy to Muslims) unleashes a revolt against the Israeli military occupation.

**Process of conflict:** Similar to the first *Intifada* but much more violent. While Hamas and Islamic Jihad perform suicide bombing attacks and fire Qassam rockets into Israeli residential areas, Israeli security forces execute targeted killings and execute rigorous riot control.

**Fatalities:** Approx. 5'500 Palestinians, 1'000 Israelis, 64 foreign citizens

**Consequences:** Most visible result is the construction of the 700km long boundary wall, now separating the occupied West Bank from Israel.

**ISRAEL-HEZBOLLAH WAR (KNOWN IN ISRAEL AS SECOND LEBANON WAR)**

**Timeframe:** July 13, - August 14, 2006

**Triggering event:** Hezbollah militants fired rockets at Israeli border towns and attack Israeli military patrol, killing five soldiers and taking two of the bodies to Lebanon.

**Process of war:** Israel launches airstrikes against targets within Lebanon, imposes air and naval blockade and invades southern Lebanon with ground forces. Hezbollah then launches more rockets into northern Israel and engages the Israeli military in guerrilla warfare. An UN resolution eventually enforces a ceasefire.

**Fatalities:** More than 1000 Lebanese citizens (mostly civilians), 121 Israeli soldiers and 44 Israeli civilians loose their lives.

**Consequences:** Large parts of Lebanese civilian infrastructure and southern Beirut are destroyed. The two abducted bodies are only released in a later prisoner swap.

**Intifada:** The Arabic word for „a shaking off“. It stands for an uprising among Palestinian Arabs of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, in protest against continued Israeli occupation of these territories.

**Oslo Agreement:** The agreement called for the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in portions of the West Bank and Gaza Strip over a five year period, along with an immediate halt to and gradual removal of Israeli settlements in those areas.

**Sharm El Sheikh Summit Conference:** Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, President Mubarak of Egypt and King Abdullah II of Jordan meet in Sharm El Sheikh. Abbas and Sharon announce an end to the violence. Israel will release over 900 Palestinian prisoners and withdraw from Palestinian cities. Jordan and Egypt will return ambassadors to Israel. The Second Intifada is deemed to be over.

**Punctual agressions**

**SCUD MISSILE ATTACKS**

**Timeframe:** August 2, 1990 - February 28, 1991

**Event:** Iraq fires 36 Scud missiles direction Israel during the second Gulf War

**TOMB OF PATRIARCHS MASSACRE**

**Timeframe:** February 25, 1994

**Event:** Baruch Goldstein kills twenty-nine Arabs at Tomb of Patriarchs in Hebron

**SHELLING OF QANA**

**Timeframe:** April 18, 1996

**Event:** Israeli artillery hits the area of a UN compound near Qana in the South of Lebanon where Lebanese civilians are taking refuge.

**Fatalities:** 106 civilians



**ISRAELI RAID ON GAZA**

**Timeframe:** December 27, 2008 - January 18, 2009

**Triggering event:** Israel begins a bombardment of the Gaza Strip with the stated aim of stopping rocket attacks from and arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip.

**Process of war:** Israeli forces mainly targets Hamas facilities. Nevertheless private homes and civilian infrastructures are attacked and destroyed. Hamas intensifies its rocket and mortar attacks against civilian areas in Israel throughout the conflict until Israel launches a ground invasion that only ends after two weeks

**Fatalities:** Approx. 1'300 Palestinians and 13 Israelis loose thir lives.

**Consequences:** Hamas eventually suspends its use of rocks. But the massive destruction of livelihoods, infrastructure and basic services leads to a humanitarian crisis.

