

Israel-Palestine 101

Partition to First Intifada

Periods of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

- The Zionist Movement: 1882-1948
 - Zionist movement & Jewish immigration to Palestine
 - Arab resistance
 - International partition plans
- The Israeli-Arab Wars : 1948-1973
 - Israeli statehood
 - Rise of the refugee problem
 - Israeli-Arab wars
- The Israeli Occupation : 1967-2016
 - Peace negotiations
 - Israeli occupation & the rise of the settlement problem
 - Arab uprisings, terrorist attacks, the building of the wall

Partition 1947

- During and after Holocaust, Jewish immigration drastically increases
- February 1947 – Britain decides to turn problem over to UN – plans withdrawal
- Nov 29 1947 - United Nations Resolution 181
- Vote tally (needed 2/3 majority):
 - Yes – 33 –
 - The United States
 - No – 13
 - All the Arab States
 - Abstained – 10
 - Great Britain



Partition 1947

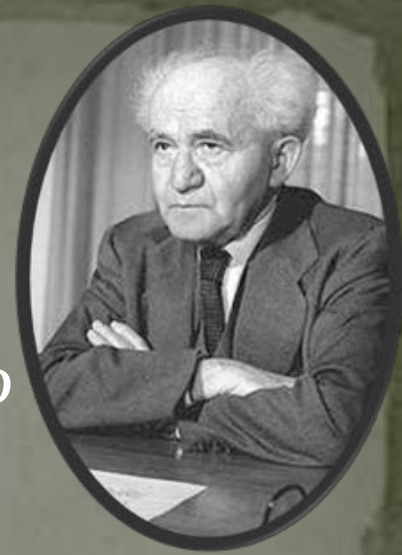
- Gave over *half* the land (55%) to the Jewish *minority* (37%)
 - At time, only owned 7%
 - 500,000 Jews with 400,000 Arabs
 - *But isn't the Negev uninhabitable?*
- What about the Negev?
 - Originally earmarked for Jews
 - U.S. State department frantically lobbied for Arab control
 - Weizmann personally intervened with Truman and secured Negev in exchange for Be'er Sheva and strip along Sinai



Quotes from Leaders

“If [the Arabs receive the Negev in partition and do not cultivate it], we will have to talk to them in a different language ... because we can no longer tolerate that vast territories capable of absorbing tens of thousands of Jews should remain vacant ... We must expel Arabs and take their place. Up to now, all our aspirations have [assumed] ... there is enough room in the land for [all]. But if we are compelled to use force – not in order to dispossess ... our force will enable us to do so.”

- David Ben-Gurion, Letter to son Amos, Oct 5 1937



Was this fair to Palestinians?

“Palestinians failed to see why they should be made to pay for the Holocaust ... they failed to see why it was *not* fair for the Jews to be a minority in a unitary Palestinian state, while it *was* fair for almost half the Palestinian population—the indigenous majority on its own ancestral soil—to be converted overnight into a minority under alien rule.”

– Walid Khalidi, *Before Their Diaspora*

Was this fair to Palestinians?

“The decision to partition Palestine ... into Jewish and Arab states was not a reflection of the discredited colonialism or imperialism of the past. Rather, it was among the first examples of the new self-determination that President Woodrow Wilson and many other progressives had championed.”

- Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Israel*

Was this fair to Palestinians?

“The settlement of every question, whether of territory, of sovereignty, of economic arrangement, or of political relationship [should be]

**upon the basis of free acceptance of that settlement
by the people immediately concerned,**

and not upon the basis of the material interest or advantage of any other nation or people...”

– Woodrow Wilson, *July 1918*, part of his Fourteen Points, emphasis added

UN PARTITION PLAN - 1947

— Boundary of Former Palestine Mandate

PLAN OF PARTITION, 1947

- Arabic State
- Jewish State
- Jerusalem



UN ARM

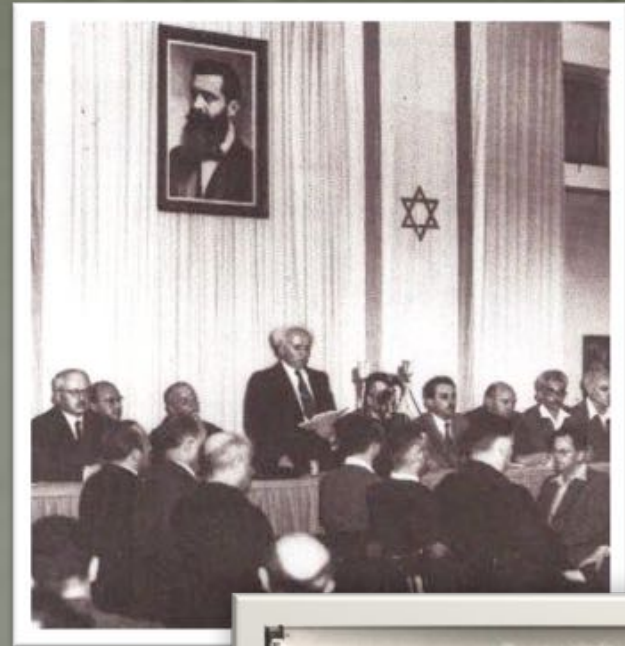


The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.



State of Israel

- May 14, 1948- British Mandate in Palestine ended
 - Zionists declare the establishment of the State of Israel under Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion
- May 15, 1948 – Surrounding Arab nations attack Israel
 - War of Independence begins
 - *Al-Nakba* (the Catastrophe)
 - 750,000 *refugees*



PALESTINIAN LOSS OF LAND 1946-2



Benyamin Netanyahu
2000, *A Durable Peace*

“consensus in the governing circles of the West, friendly and unfriendly alike, was that the pinhead-sized [Jewish] state would instantly be overrun by the Arabs, and Western military strategists concurred”

Did the Zionist leaders anticipate annihilation?

- Publicly, yes; privately, no

“If we will receive in time the arms we have already purchased and maybe even receive some of that promised to us by the UN, we will be able not only to defend [ourselves] but also to ... take over Palestine as a whole. I am in no doubt of this. We can face all the Arab forces. This is not a mystical belief but a cold and rational calculation based on practical examination.”

- *David Ben-Gurion, February 1948, letter to Moshe Sharrett, foreign minister*

Weren't the Palestinian refugees just the tragic consequence of war, which the Arabs started?

BEFORE

the War of Independence

- Skirmishes following UN vote – some say Zionist forces on defensive – violence retaliatory
- In March 1948, Zionist paramilitaries finalize Plan D offensive
 - March 30 begins coastal clearings
 - Operation *Nachshon*
 - Deir Yassin – 93 killed, contemporary accounts claim 254
- Between March 30-May 15, 1948, 200 villages cleared
 - Between January-May, approximately 200,000 people displaced



Quotes from Leaders



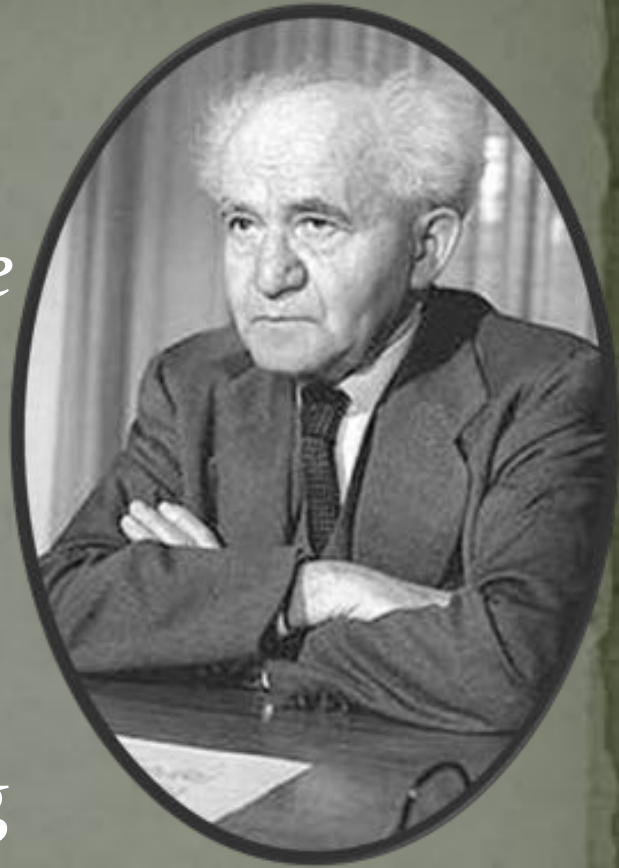
“We shall try to spirit the penniless population across the border by procuring employment for them in the transit countries while denying any employment in our country. Both the process of expropriation and the removal of the poor must be carried out discretely and circumspectly.”

- Theodor Herzl, diary entry, 1897

Quotes from Leaders

“After we constitute a large force following the establishment of the [Jewish] state—we will cancel the partition of the country and we will expand throughout the Land of Israel.”

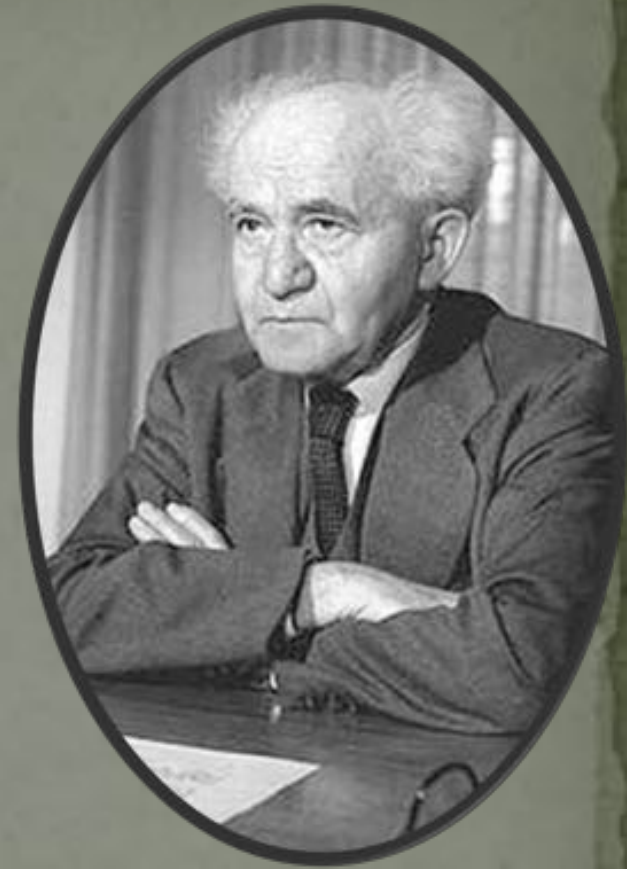
– David Ben-Gurion, following Peel Commission of 1937



Quotes from Leaders

“I support compulsory transfer. I do not see in it anything immoral ... The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war.”

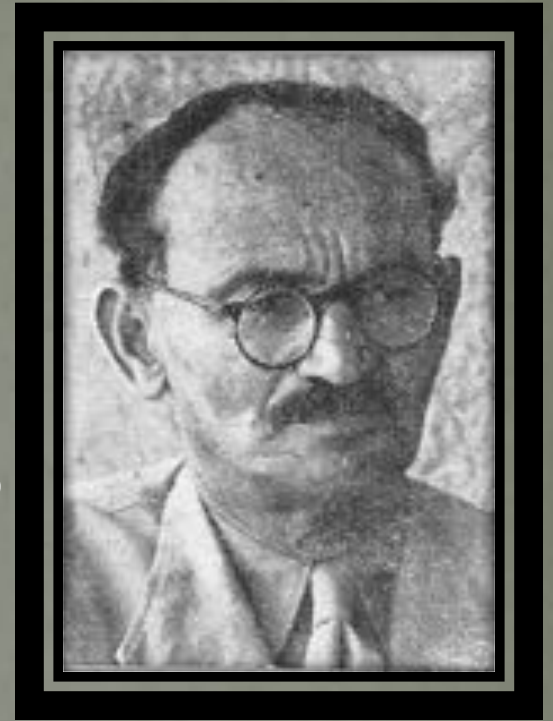
– David Ben-Gurion, 1937



Quotes from Leaders

“Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both peoples together in this country ... The only solution is a Palestine, at least a western Palestine [west of the Jordan river] without Arabs ... And there is no other way than to transfer the Arabs from here ... not one village, not one tribe, should be left....”

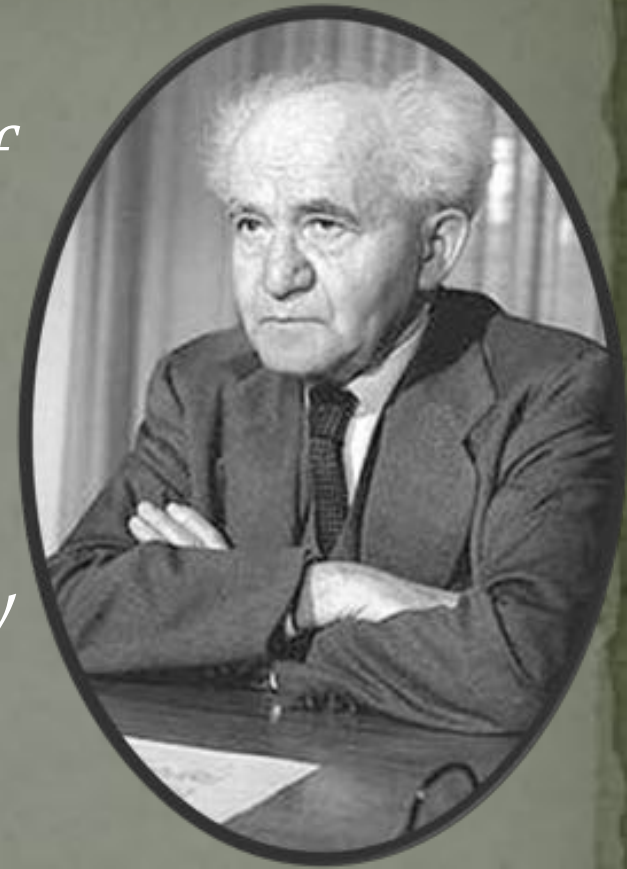
–Joseph Weitz, member of Jewish Agency Executive, involved in “transfer committees,” diary entry, 1940



Quotes from Leaders

“Why should the Arabs make peace? If I was an Arab leader, I would never make terms with Israel. That is natural: we have taken their country. Sure, God promised it to us, but what does that matter to them? ... They only see one thing: we have come here and stolen their country. Why should they accept that?”

– David Ben-Gurion, 1956



War ends in 1949

Ceasefires

- Feb - Egypt
- March - Lebanon
- April - Jordan
- July - Syria