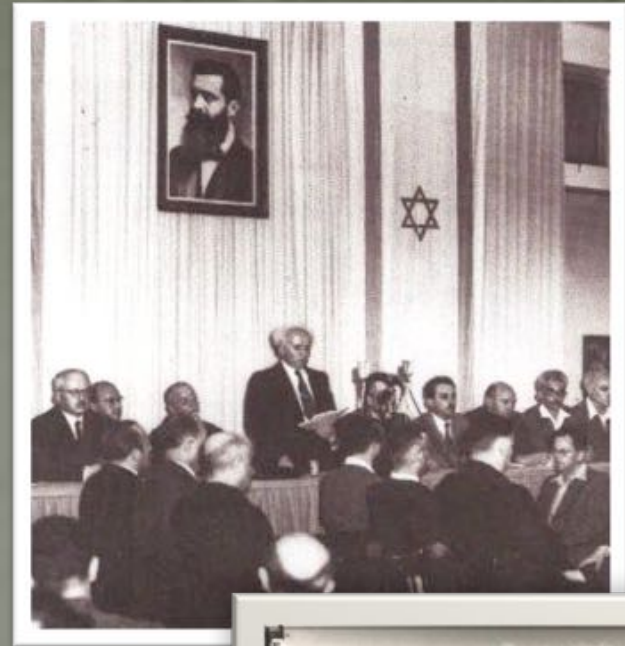# Israel-Palestine 101

1949 to First Intifada

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

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

| 1946 | UN PLAN 1947 | 1967 |

Map 1 (1946):
Jewish Land
Palestinian Land
PALESTINE
1946

Map 2 (UN PLAN 1947):
Israel Land
Palestinian Land
PALESTINE
ISRAEL
UN PLAN
1947

Map 3 (1967):
Israel Land
Palestinian Land
PALESTINE
ISRAEL
1967

DEPOPULATED PALESTINIAN VILLAGES IN 1948 AND 1967

MAP 6

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
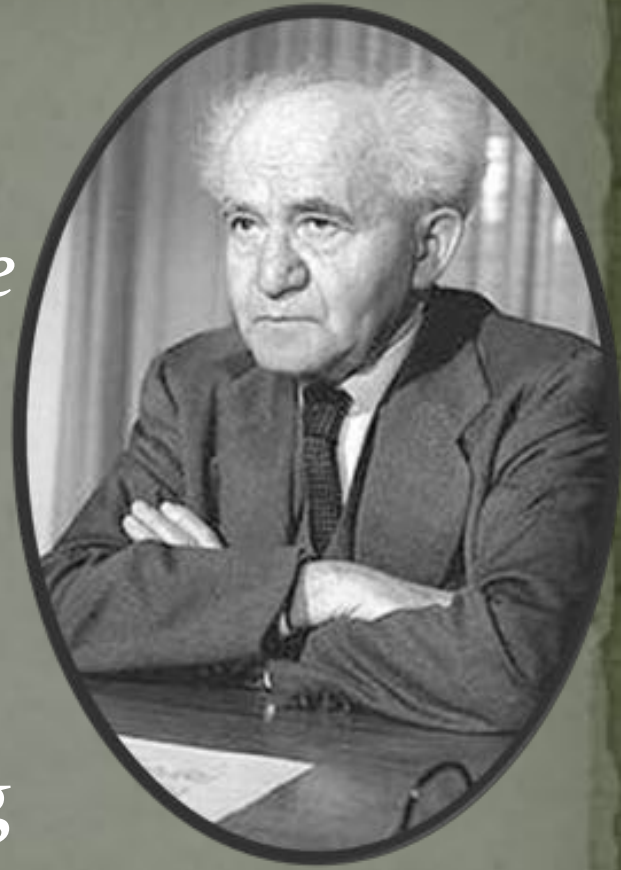
Quotes from Leaders

"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."

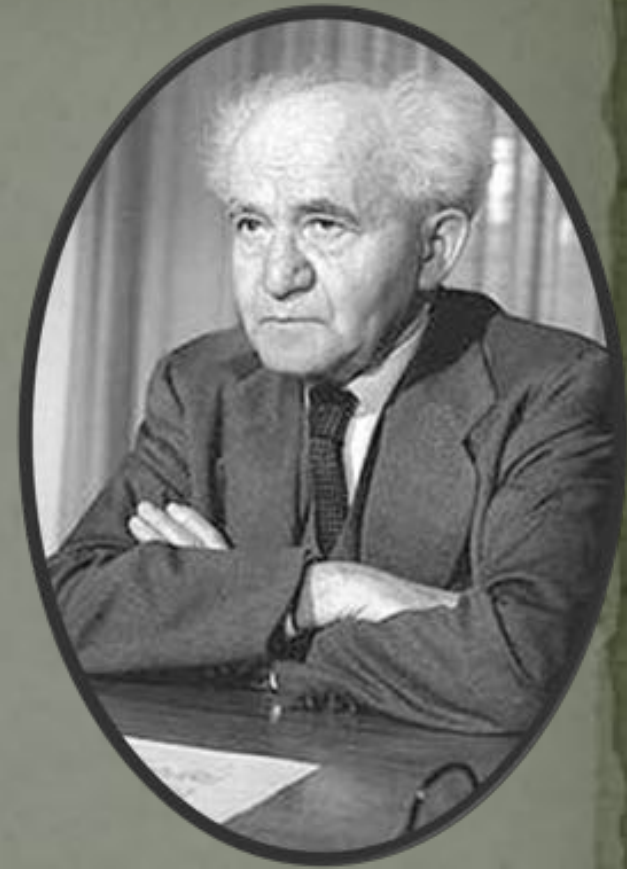**– David Ben-Gurion, following Peel Commission of 1937**

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."
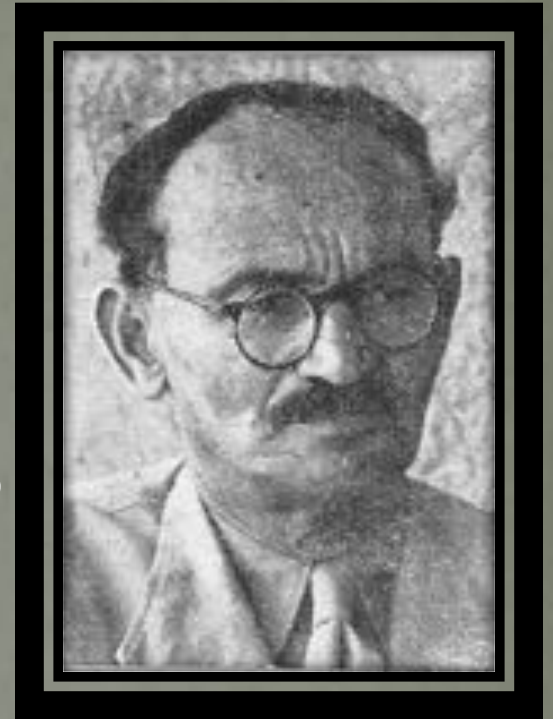
– David Ben-Gurion, 1937

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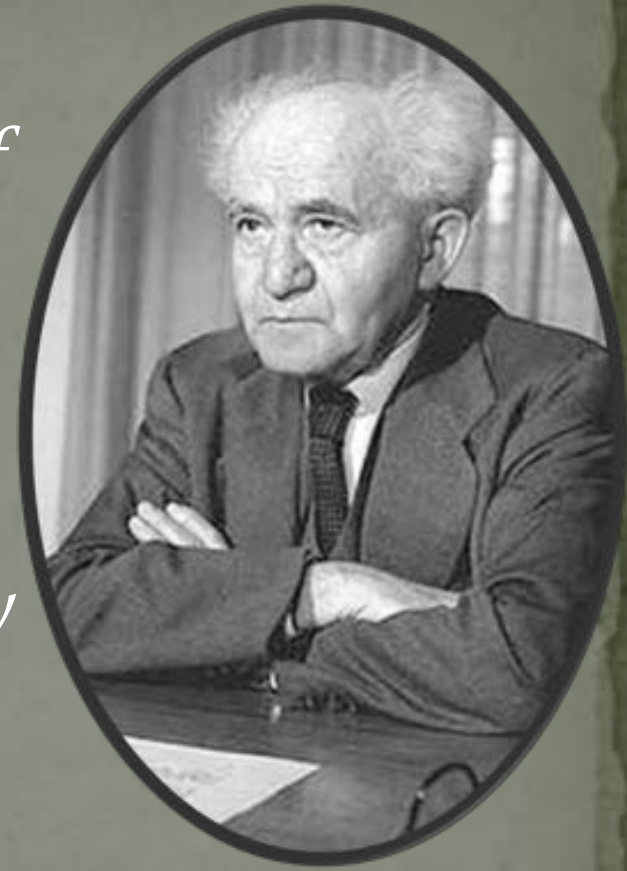
–Joseph Weitz, member of Jewish Agency Executive, involved in "transfer committees," diary entry,1940

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
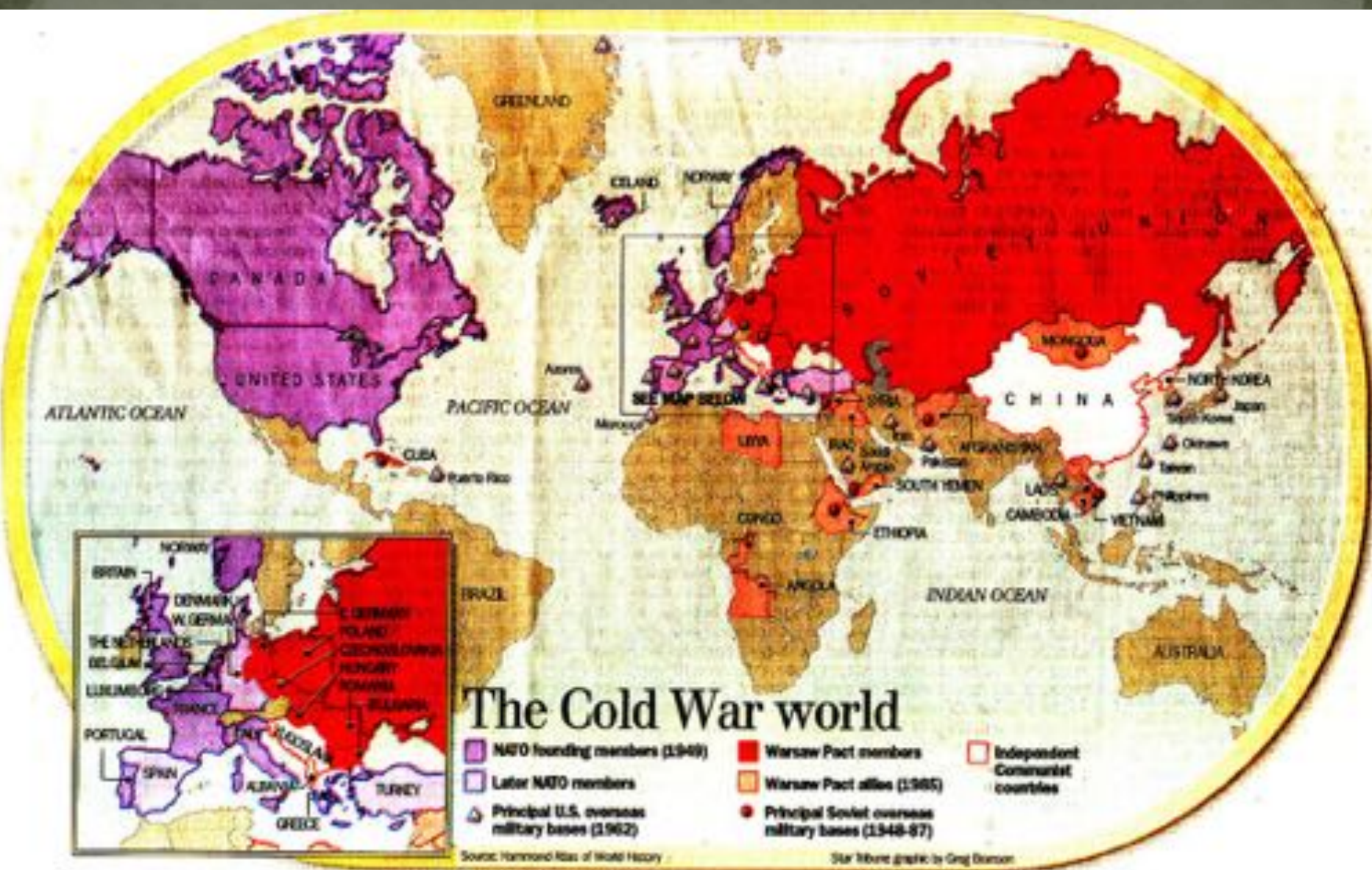- March – Lebanon
- April – Jordan
- July - Syria

December 1948
UN Resolution 194

"...the [Palestinian] refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date, and that compensation should be paid for the property of those choosing not to return and for loss of or damage to property..."

Israel rejects this, claiming "those who have declared war against us will have to bear the result after they have been defeated." – Ben-Gurion

1950
Law of Return

"Every Jew has the right to immigrate to the country"

The Cold War world

The Cold War

THE
SUFFERING
GRASSES

"When elephants fight, it's the grass that suffers."
- African proverb

The Near East after the 1967 June War

Territories conquered and occupied by Israel as of 10 June 1967

LEBANON
Beirut
Damascus
SYRIA
Golan Heights
Haifa
Tel Aviv
Jaffa
Amman
Jerusalem
Gaza
Mediterranean Sea
Kerak
Port Said
El-Arish
Negev Desert
JORDAN
Ma'an
Ismailya
Suez
Sinai
SAUDI ARABIA
EGYPT
Sharm Esh-Sheikh
Red Sea

Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs (PASSIA)

1967 – Six Day War

- Tensions are rising; military forces preparing for war

- Israel attacks Egypt first; defeats Syria, Egypt, Jordan, and Iraq in 6 days

- Israel takes the West Bank from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and the Sinai from Egypt, & the Golan Heights from Syria

- Refugees
  o 250,000 from West Bank
  o 70,000 in Gaza
  o 90,000 in Golan

What is Occupation?

- Article 42 of the Hague Regulations of 1907: "territory is considered occupied when it is actually placed under the authority of the hostile army."

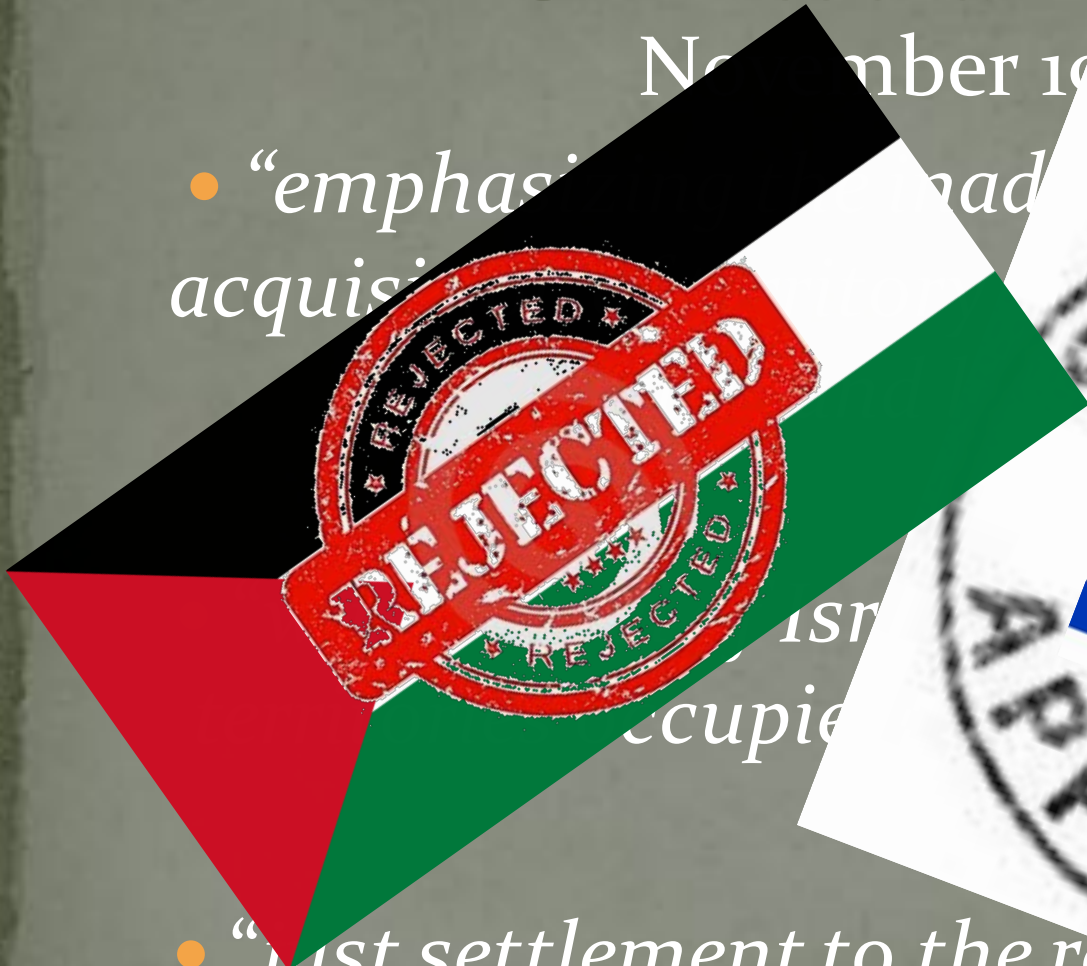- Israel has controlled and governed the Palestinian territories militarily since 1967

Beginning of International Consensus

- Israel must fully withdraw from the territories occupied during war
- Arabs must stop aggression toward Israel and sign peace treaty

UN Resolution 242
November 1967

- *"emphasi... ...nad... ...t of the acquisi... ...d*

- *... Isr... occupie...*

- *"just settlement to the refug... ...n"*

Palestinian National Charter
July 1968

- "Palestine, with the boundaries it had during the British Mandate, is an indivisible unit."

Palestinian National Charter
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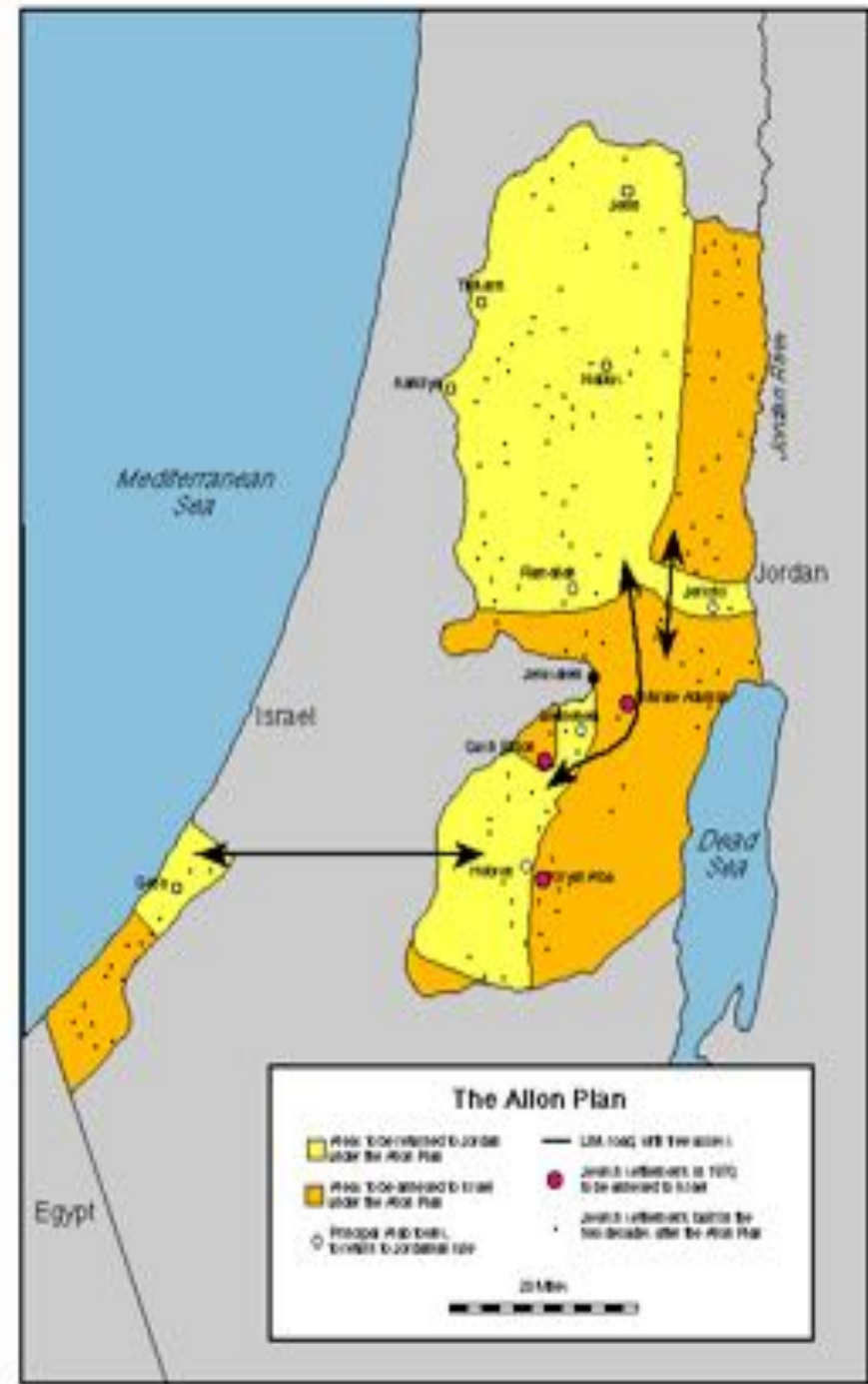
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- "Partition of Palestine in 1947 and the establishment of … Israel are entirely illegal … because they were contrary to the will of the Palestinian people…"
- "…liberation of Palestine will destroy the Zionist and imperialist presence…"

Behind the Scenes

- Fierce debate among Israeli leaders
- Annexation?
  - Demographic problem
- Partial withdrawal
  - Allon Plan
  - East Jerusalem never considered

According to the UN...

Between June 1967 and 1971, Israel destroyed approximately 16,312 Palestinian homes

SETTLEMENTS

Settlements

- Israeli Jewish housing units in land occupied during 1967 war

International Law

Article 49 – Fourth Geneva Convention:
"The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own population into the territory it occupies…"

- Israel claims areas are *administered*, rather than *occupied*.
  - Asserts that the article targeted *forced* transfers during WWII, while all Jewish citizens move *voluntarily*

Why settle the West Bank and Gaza?

- Security

"There was also a strategic justification for not wanting to give up the occupied West Bank and that was that it turned Israel's 'narrow waist' into something wider."

-Ahron Bregman, *A History of Israel*

Why settle the West Bank and Gaza?

- Dispossession

1967-1987

- 1967-1970 – "War of Attrition"
  - 350+ Israeli solider deaths; 10,000+ Egyptian soldier and civilian deaths
- 1968-1974—Rise of Palestinian Terrorism
  - Related to Soviet-sponsored terrorism around the world
  - Wave of hundreds of airplane hijackings by Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Palestine Liberation Organization, others
  - 1972—Japanese Red Army terrorists massacre civilians at Tel Aviv airport
  - 1972—Black September terrorists kill 11 Israeli Olympic athletes in Munich
- 1973 – Yom Kippur War
  - Egyptian and Syrian forces attack Israeli troops in Sinai and Golan Heights
  - Israel losing, but with American airlift of arms they ultimately win
  - 2,800+ Israelis die; 8,500+ Arabs die
- 1979 – Peace between Israel and Egypt
  - Camp David Accords – Sinai returned to Egypt
- 1982 – Israel invades Lebanon to attack PLO

Palestine National Council Resolutions
June 1974

"PLO will struggle by all possible means and foremost by means of armed struggle … to complete the liberation of the whole soil of Palestine"

FIRST *INTIFADA*
December 1987