

A Zionist and A Palestinian Perspective of Israel/Palestine History

Note: Numbers in parentheses at the end of points below represent the importance of that point in each of the presented perspectives. (1) is the most important for each, (2) is next, etc.

	A Zionist Perspective	A Palestinian Perspective
Back-ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The history of Israel-Palestine is complicated based on issues of land, security, resources, religion. <input type="checkbox"/> Jews have a long history of persecution, especially in Europe culminating in the horrors of the Holocaust when millions of Jews were killed.(1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The conflict of Israel-Palestine is relatively simple: Zionists want Jewish supremacy in the historic land of Palestine with some wanting as few Palestinians as possible while Palestinians want self-determination and their human rights honored, including equal rights as Israelis. <input type="checkbox"/> Jews, Christians, and Muslims coexisted peacefully in Palestine until the immigration of Zionists. <input type="checkbox"/> Palestinians should not have to pay for Germany's crimes.
1915 - 1917	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In 1917 the British issued the Balfour Declaration promising a Jewish homeland in Palestine.(2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In 1915-6 the British agreed in the McMahon-Hussein Correspondence to Arab independence if they fought with the British to overthrow the Ottoman Empire. The Arabs lost 20,000 men in the fighting.
1947	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On November 29, 1947, the UN General Assembly passed resolution 181 proposing a Jewish and an Arab state in historic Palestine. Zionists agreed to the UN Partition Plan but Arabs rejected it.(3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Before the "The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine" was voted on, the UNGA rejected the Arab proposal of putting to a vote Palestine's independence.¹ <input type="checkbox"/> The Partition Plan assigned 56% of the land to the Jewish state even though Jews represented one third of the population and owned less than 7% of the land of Palestine.(1a) <input type="checkbox"/> The Partition Plan was never implemented: None of

¹ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-186346/>

		<p>the borders between the two states were ever honored, the Arab state has yet to be recognized by Israel and the US, and the Partition Plan's requirements for equal rights to all living in the states has never existed. (1b)</p>
<p>1948 - 1949</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> On May 14, 1948 Israel declared itself a state. Arab armies attacked the new state of Israel the next day. An armistice was reached in early 1949 with Israel's neighbors. (4) Jews in East Jerusalem were forced out and moved to Israel.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Zionist militias implemented 'Plan Dalet' in early 1948 which involved numerous massacres and a Zionist drive to ethnically cleanse Arabs; approximately 300,000 Arabs were made homeless before the first neighboring Arab army fought Israel. (2a)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> By early 1949 Israel denied 750,000 Palestinians access to their homes and land making them refugees. (2b)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> When Israel declared itself a state and before the first Arab army had entered Palestine, Israel had already taken land beyond what the Partition Plan had allocated to the Jewish-majority state. (2c)</p>
<p>1967</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> On June 5, 1967, Israel pre-emptively attacked Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Egypt had previously asked UN peacekeepers to leave the Sinai and had declared a blockade of Israel's access to the Red Sea. In six days Israel captured the West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Gaza strip and Sinai from Egypt, and the Golan Heights from Syria. The land Israel controlled more than tripled in one week.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Israel drove another 300,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1967.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The UN Security Council passed resolution 242 stating "the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war," the need for "withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied in the recent conflict" and the necessity "for achieving a just settlement of the refugee problem." (3b)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Israeli occupation of Palestinians begins in the West Bank and Gaza. Palestinians are denied citizenship and self-determination and live under military law while being denied human rights to this day more than 50 years later. (3c)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Israel attacked the American Navy ship the USS Liberty killing 39 US servicemen and injuring 139.</p>

<p>1973 - 1979</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> On October 6, 1973, Arab countries led by Egypt and Syria initiated a surprise attack on Israel on Yom Kippur. <input type="checkbox"/> The war highlighted Israel's vulnerability to being surrounded by enemies and the need for US protection and peace. <input type="checkbox"/> In 1978 Egypt and Israel took part in the Camp David Accords when Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt which led to the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty when Egypt became the first Arab country to recognize Israel. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Still today, Israel controls land taken illegally by force: land in Israel and the West Bank from Palestinians, Gaza from Egypt, West Bank including East Jerusalem from Jordan, the Golan Heights from Syria.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East with equal rights for all its citizens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Today more than half the people in the Israeli population registry are Palestinian Arabs. The only way Israel can claim to be a democracy is by denying most of the indigenous Palestinians citizenship.(4a) <input type="checkbox"/> Most of the indigenous Palestinian population under Israeli control has been under military rule since Israel's creation more than 75 years ago. (4b) <input type="checkbox"/> There are dozens of Israeli laws that are discriminatory against even Palestinian citizens of Israel.
<p>1987</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The terrorist organization Hamas (An acronym for Islamic Resistance Movement) is formed. In its 1988 charter, Article 7 includes: "The hour of judgment shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, so that the Jews hide behind trees and stones, and each tree and stone will say: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him,' except for the Gharqad tree, for it is the tree of the Jews." 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> In December 1987 the First Intifada (Uprising or Shaking Off) began. This was a series of protests, acts of civil disobedience, and riots in response to 20 years of occupation and human rights violations by Israel against Palestinians. <input type="checkbox"/> Israel's responses to the uprising were violent crackdowns on protestors. Israeli military fired on protesters. Tension escalated and within a few weeks while no Israelis died, 22 Palestinians, including five minors were killed. In 1988, 70,000 Israeli soldiers were deployed to the occupied territories with instructions to "break Palestinians' bones." By the end of 1988, about 10,000 Palestinians were held without charge for months. <input type="checkbox"/> Under this environment, Hamas was formed.

		<input type="checkbox"/> Peace efforts followed with the Madrid Conference in 1991 and Oslo Accords in 1993.
1993 - 1995	<input type="checkbox"/> Israel has repeatedly offered peace terms only for Palestinians to reject them. Israel recognized the Palestinian people in exchange for PLO recognizing the State of Israel.	<input type="checkbox"/> The Oslo Accords were promoted as a way to a Palestinian state within four years. Israel has yet to recognize a Palestinian state 30 years later. Contrary to the accords, Israel continues to violate the accords, such as by developing and growing Jewish-only settlements on Palestinian land. <input type="checkbox"/> None of the peace talks dealt with the fundamental issues: honoring of all human rights, full self-determination of Palestinians, or the right of return. Palestinians have consistently been expected to give up rights to their land, airspace, control of their borders, and a right to defend themselves militarily.
2000 - 2005	<input type="checkbox"/> Second Intifada - Palestinian suicide bombers kill Israelis in buses and cafes. Israel starts construction of a security barrier (fence/wall) in the West Bank.	<input type="checkbox"/> Israel builds the fence/wall on Palestinian land throughout the West Bank rather than on the border carving out land for Jewish settlements. It builds the wall in such a way to make it difficult for Palestinians to access East Jerusalem, part of the occupied Palestinian territory seized in 1967. (5)
2005 - 2007	<input type="checkbox"/> Israel disengages from Gaza removing Jewish settlers. <input type="checkbox"/> BDS movement is launched in 2005 and seen as an attack on Israel. The first US state passes anti-BDS legislation in 2014 and by 2024 most US states have adopted laws limiting doing business with the states if one boycotts Israel.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hamas wins the PA parliamentary election in 2006 (6a) <input type="checkbox"/> Israel imprisons winning candidates and withholds Palestinian tax revenues preventing Hamas from ruling. (6b) <input type="checkbox"/> Hamas subsequently takes partial internal control of Gaza while it remains under Israeli occupation per the ICJ. ² (6c) <input type="checkbox"/> Israel starts the blockade of Gaza limiting electricity, clean water, medical supplies, food, exports from Gaza, and freedom of movement. Israel limits fishing off of Gaza. (6d) <input type="checkbox"/> Gaza becomes known as the world's largest open-air prison. (6e)

² <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/186/186-20240719-adv-01-00-en.pdf>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Published In a November 2014 International Criminal Court decision: “the prevalent view within the international community is that Israel remains an occupying power in Gaza despite the 2005 disengagement.” (6f) <input type="checkbox"/> Israeli Jewish-only settlement construction increases in West Bank. Settlements on occupied territory is illegal under the Geneva Conventions. (7) <input type="checkbox"/> Palestinian Civil Society Calls for a non-violent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) against Israel until it complies with International Law and Universal Principles of Human Rights. It makes 3 demands: Equality for all citizens of Israel, end to the occupation, right of return for Palestinians.(8) 									
<p>2008 - 2010</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Palestinians launch rockets into Israel. Israel launches military campaigns on Gaza in 2008-9 (Operation Cast Lead), 2012 (Pillar of Defense), 2014 (Operation Protective Edge), <input type="checkbox"/> Israel claims self-defense in its attacks on Gaza. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Israel had incarcerated thousands of Palestinians prior to sending rockets. <table border="1" data-bbox="1165 792 1885 1247"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Palestinians killed</th> <th>Israelis killed</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Operation Cast Lead (2008-9)</td> <td>1,391 including 318 children</td> <td>3 Israeli civilians + 5 soldiers + Israel killed 4 of its own.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Operation Protective Edge (2014)</td> <td>1,462 including 551 children and 299 women</td> <td>5 civilians including 1 child.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Israel as an occupying power does not have the right to ‘self-defense’ from its occupied per 2004 opinion.³ 		Palestinians killed	Israelis killed	Operation Cast Lead (2008-9)	1,391 including 318 children	3 Israeli civilians + 5 soldiers + Israel killed 4 of its own.	Operation Protective Edge (2014)	1,462 including 551 children and 299 women	5 civilians including 1 child.
	Palestinians killed	Israelis killed									
Operation Cast Lead (2008-9)	1,391 including 318 children	3 Israeli civilians + 5 soldiers + Israel killed 4 of its own.									
Operation Protective Edge (2014)	1,462 including 551 children and 299 women	5 civilians including 1 child.									

³ <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/131/131-20040709-ADV-01-00-EN.pdf>

2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Israel passes Nation State Law stating that Israel is a state of the Jews rather than of its citizens. President Trump moves the US embassy to Jerusalem.	<input type="checkbox"/> Palestinians conduct a peaceful “March of Return” from Gaza every Friday for one year demanding the right of two thirds of the population in Gaza, whose families are from what is now Israel, their right to return. They are attacked by Israeli snipers killing 266 people and injuring almost 30,000 others in one year. ⁴ <input type="checkbox"/> The US embassy move is illegal under international law.
2020	<input type="checkbox"/> The Trump administration proposes its peace plan entitled “Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People.” It is rejected by Palestinians. <input type="checkbox"/> The Trump administration initiates the Abraham Accords. These trade and recognition agreements between Israel and Arab countries are supported by the US with military and political support.	<input type="checkbox"/> The plan required Israel control of Palestinian airspace, borders and be the military power in control of the area - Palestinians would be denied their own defense capabilities. Palestinians had restrictions on their immigration and had to give up their efforts in the international courts. During the press conference Prime Minister Netanyahu announced plans to annex parts of the West Bank. The plan described an occupation without the rights of an occupied people. <input type="checkbox"/> The Abraham Accords undermine Palestinian rights by enticing Arab countries into commercial and military deals at the expense of Arab countries demanding Israel honor Palestinian human rights.
2023 - 2024	<input type="checkbox"/> On October 7, 2023 Hamas and other militant groups in Gaza break through the barrier around Gaza capture more than 200 hostages killing those in their path. 1200 Israelis are killed, the largest number in decades. <input type="checkbox"/> Hamas continued to send rockets into Israel after October 7 and uses Palestinians as human shields by firing at Israeli troops and sending rockets from populated areas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Hamas seeing that the US was close to getting Saudi Arabia to sign on to the Abraham Accords while disregarding the deteriorating situation for Palestinians in the occupied territories, executed the October 7 surprise attack. <input type="checkbox"/> Israel announced a policy of stopping all food, clean water, electricity, fuel, and medicine to the 2.3 million population of Gaza; collective punishment is a war crime under international law. <input type="checkbox"/> Israel began its decimation bombing campaign with US munitions bombing every university, most hospitals, most

⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/3/30/gazas-great-march-of-return-protests-explained>

schools, leveling neighborhoods.

- ❑ South Africa charged Israel for the crime of Genocide for which the International Court of Justice issued a preliminary ruling of plausible genocide. Seven months after Oct. 7, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been killed including more than 15,000 children – more than all other conflicts in the world for the last four years combined.
- ❑ Israel took into custody more than 8,000 Palestinians and ethnically cleansed villages in the West Bank – where Hamas is not in control – during that same period of time.
- ❑ The US vetoed three Security Council resolutions calling for a ceasefire, the only country voting against ceasefire. It finally abstained on one non-binding resolution which required the freeing of Israeli hostages but not of Palestinian hostages/prisoners.
- ❑ The International Court of Justice issued an opinion on July 19, 2024 wherein it stated, “Israel’s... continued presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory is illegal.” and “The State of Israel is under the obligation to bring an end to its unlawful presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory as rapidly as possible,” It further stated: “the State of Israel has the obligation to make reparation for the damage caused to all the natural or legal persons concerned in the Occupied Palestinian Territory” and “all States are under an obligation not to recognize as legal the situation arising from the unlawful presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and not to render aid or assistance in maintaining the situation created by the continued presence of the State of Israel in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.”