

The Gaza Conflict

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1. Jewish Persecution (Spanish/Portuguese Catholic, German Protestant)

- A. 1478-1826—The Spanish Inquisition expels Jews from Spain and Portugal
- B. 1543—Martin Luther publishes “On the Jews and Their Lies”
- C. 1897—Theodor Herzl calls for a Jewish homeland for the Diaspora Jews

2. Conquest of Palestine

Egypt (1550 BC), Israel (1050), Assyria (722), Babylon (586), Persia (538), Greece (332), Ptolemy (305), Seleucus (198), Israel (164), Rome (64), Sassanid (614), Byzantine (629), Rashidun (634), Fatimid (909), Seljuk (1073), Crusader (1099), Ayyubid (1187), Mamluk (1268), Ottoman (1399), Britain (1920), Israel (1948)

3. World War I (Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant, Muslim, Secular)

- A. 1914—The Ottomans side with Germany and Austria-Hungary against Britain, France, Italy and Russia
- B. 1917—T. E. Lawrence organizes Arab opposition to the Ottoman Turks in exchange for Arab independence
- C. 1917—The Balfour Declaration declares Britain’s intention to create a homeland for Jews in Palestine
- D. 1920—The League of Nation gives Britain and France a “**Mandate**” to organize the Middle East (Egypt declines the Gaza Strip)

4. World War II

- A. 1936—The flood of immigrants to Palestine leads to the **Arab Revolt**
- B. 1939—Britain restricts Jewish immigration to keep the peace
- C. 1941-1945—The Nazi Holocaust kills 6 million European Jews

5. State of Israel (Jewish Secular)

- A. 1946—Jewish population in Palestine climbs from 13% to 33%
- B. 1947—United Nations proposes a **Partition Plan** creating a Jewish state and an Arab state in Palestine, but Arab Palestinians reject it
- C. 1948—The British Mandate expires and the Jews declare the independent **State of Israel**, which is not recognized by the Arab world

6. First Arab-Israeli War (Secular Arab-Israeli)

- A. 1949—Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq invade Israel from all sides
 - 1) Israel defends itself and takes 60% of the territory offered to the Arabs in the UN Partition Plan
- B. The Arab states sign an “**Armistice Agreement**” with Israel
 - 1) Egypt keeps the Gaza Strip

- 2) Jordan keeps the West Bank and East Jerusalem (Green Line)
- C. 1964—The Arab League (Secular) forms “The Palestinian Liberation Organization” (PLO) to liberate Palestine from Israel
- D. A massive exodus occurs in Palestine (al-Nakba “the catastrophe”)
 - 1) 700k of 1.6m Arabs are displaced from their homes
 - 2) 700k Jews immigrate to Palestine after the war and begin building settlements in the disputed territory

7. Six-Days War (Secular Arab-Israeli)

- A. 1967—Egypt and Iraq move troops along the Jordanian border
- B. 1967—In just six days, Israel takes the Sinai Peninsula, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and the Old City of Jerusalem
- C. 1 million Arabs come under the control of the State of Israel

8. The Yom Kippur War (Secular Arab-Israeli-American)

- A. 1973—Egypt and Syria launch an attack to retake Sinai and the Golan Heights, and reopen the Suez Canal
- B. 1974—Kissinger negotiates a ceasefire to lift the embargo, the US becomes the new target of Arab hostility

9. Conflicts in the Gaza Strip

- A. 1987—First Intifada protests 20 years of occupation
- B. 1993—Oslo Accords recognize State of Israel and Palestinian Authority
- C. 2000—Second Intifada after failure of Camp David Summit
- D. 2005—Israel unilaterally removes all its settlements from Gaza
- E. 2006— Hamas wins election by 42.9%, refuses to accept previous agreements, recognize Israel or denounce violence
- F. 2009—Israel retaliates for thousands of rocket attacks
- G. 2014—Israel retaliates for the murder of teenagers
- H. 2023—Israel retaliates for rocket attacks, murders and kidnappings

10. What the Palestinians Want

- A. The “Right of Return” of refugees to their 1949 property
- B. Israel to withdraw to the pre-1967 borders
- C. End of all Jewish settlements in disputed territories
- D. Most radical—all land between the “River (Jordan) to the Sea”

11. What Israel Wants

- A. A “Two-state” solution where both Israel and Palestine are recognized
- B. To swap land in exchange for return of property
- C. To maintain defensible borders and demilitarized zones
- D. For Palestinians to cease support for terrorism against Israel