

# **The Arab (Palestinian)/Israeli Conflict, 1917-2005: Origins, Course, and Future**

- What are the historical roots of the Arab-Israeli Conflict?
- Which side, if any, is to blame?
- How is the United States involved in the conflict?
- What is the situation now? What issues are preventing a lasting peace?

## **I. The Origins of the Israeli State (late 1800s – 1948)**

The Rise Jewish Nationalism in Europe: The Zionist Movement

British Colonialism and the Balfour Declaration, 1917

- [Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1916](#)
- [British Mandate 1922](#)

Nazi Persecution, Jewish Emigration, Palestinian Resistance, and British Exasperation, 1936-1945

1945-1947 The Zionist struggle for Statehood

[UN Partition Plan 1947](#)

1948 The Establishment and Recognition of Israel

The War of 1948 and its Consequences: [The New Map of Israel Demographics, 1948](#)

## **II. Arab Nationalism and Palestinian Resistance, 1948-1993**

The Egyptian Revolution of 1952 and the Egyptian Republic of 1953

- [Gamal Abdel Nasser](#) and "Nasserism"
- Pan-Arab Nationalism and the Israeli "Other"

1956 The Suez Crisis: Israel, France, Britain vs. Egypt (and US/Soviet

Union)

- 1964 Establishment of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO)  
[Yassir Arafat](#) (1929-2004)
- 1967 [The Six Day War](#) and its Consequences:
- The West Bank, Gaza, and Golan Heights
  - The United States: Israel's Indispensable Ally
  - The Israeli Occupation (Colonization?)
- 1973 The Yom Kippur War
- 1978-1979 [Camp David Accords](#) and Egyptian-Israeli Peace
- 1978-1985 Israeli Invasion of [Lebanon](#)
- 1988-1993 The First [Intifada](#): The [Palestinian Uprising](#) in West Bank and Gaza

### **III. The Conflict since 1991: Steps Forward, Backward, and Forward Again**

- 1990/1991  
The First Gulf War (Iraq), Attacks on Israel, and Palestinian Isolation
- 1993 A Brief Moment of Hope: [Rabin and Arafat](#) agree to negotiations
- 1994 The Oslo Accords: Disappointed Hopes
- 1994-2000 Palestinian Resistance, Israeli Provocations
- 2000-2003  
The Second Intifada, Suicide Bombings, and Israeli Retribution

2003-2005      Slow Steps toward Peace: Palestinian Reforms and [Israeli Withdrawals](#) ([Gaza, 2005](#))

January 2006    The Election of  [Hamas](#) (Islamic Resistance Movement)

**Some Key Issues:**

- 1) Palestinian Statehood: How much sovereignty?
- 2) Israel's "Right to Exist"
- 3) Palestinian "Right of Return"
- 4) [Israeli Settlements](#) in Occupied Territory
- 5) Palestinian Terrorism vs. Israeli Military Action (State Terrorism?)
- 6) Palestinian Democratic Reform: The Consequences of Democracy
- 7) The Role of the United States and International Community