

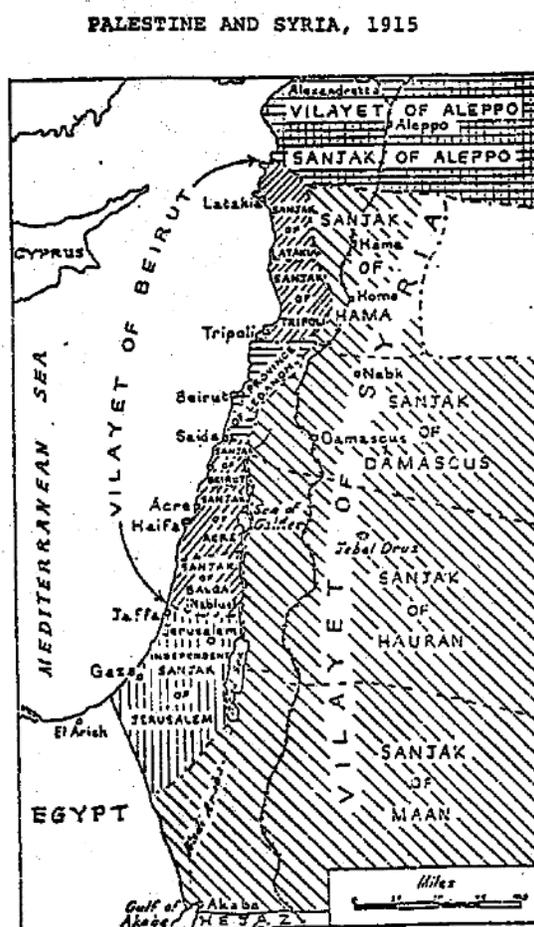
Israel and Arab-Israeli Conflict Timeline – 1800s to the Present

Selective and Abbreviated

Professor Kenneth Stein, 6.25.2020 ©

www.israeled.org

- ▶ To 1800s—Jews retain historical link to the land of Israel; [biblical covenants](#) and Jewish peoplehood sustains Jewish identity in diaspora; episodic but regular anti-Semitism contributes to common Jewish experiences.
- ▶ 19th century—Area of ancient Israel not an independent state or political entity and will not be until 1920.
- ▶ 1882 – First Aliyah of Jews returning to settle in the Land of Israel.
- ▶ 1884-1896—Trial and erroneous guilt of Jewish French Captain Dreyfus, pushes Theodor Herzl to write [The Jewish State](#), emphasizing need for Jews to free themselves from anti-Semitism by having a modern state of their own.
- ▶ 1897 – First Zionist Congress meets, Zionism emerges as Jewish national movement; however, it is embraced by relatively few Jews worldwide. Small Jewish settlements already established in Palestine from 1870s forward.



(Based on map printed in Cmd. 1557, and reproduced by permission of the Controller of H.M. Stationery Office)



The first Zionist congress held in Basel, Switzerland, 1897. Photo: Public Domain.

- ▶ 1901 – Jewish National Fund established to buy land and settle Jews in Palestine. Jewish numbers embracing Zionism are tiny.
- ▶ 1903-1905—Wave of anti-Semitic riots hit eastern Europe; these ‘pogroms’ are reminiscent of previous governmentally sanctioned attacks against Jews.
- ▶ Majority Arab population living in area later to become Palestine living subsistence agricultural lives, with small land-owing and urban elites driving local politics, much like the rest of the areas north of Egypt stretching into what is present day Lebanon and Syria.



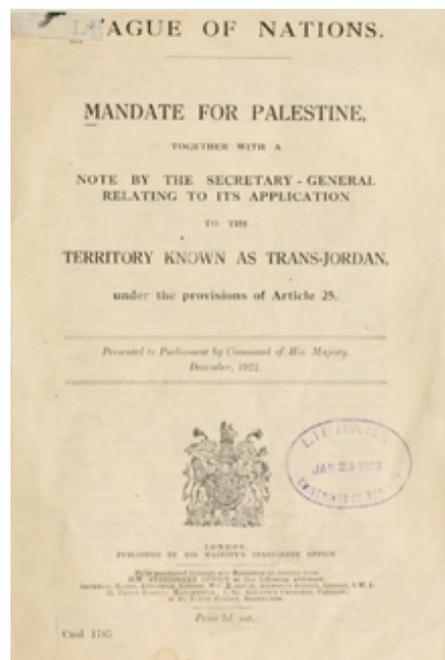
An early 20th century JNF collection box. Photo: JNF



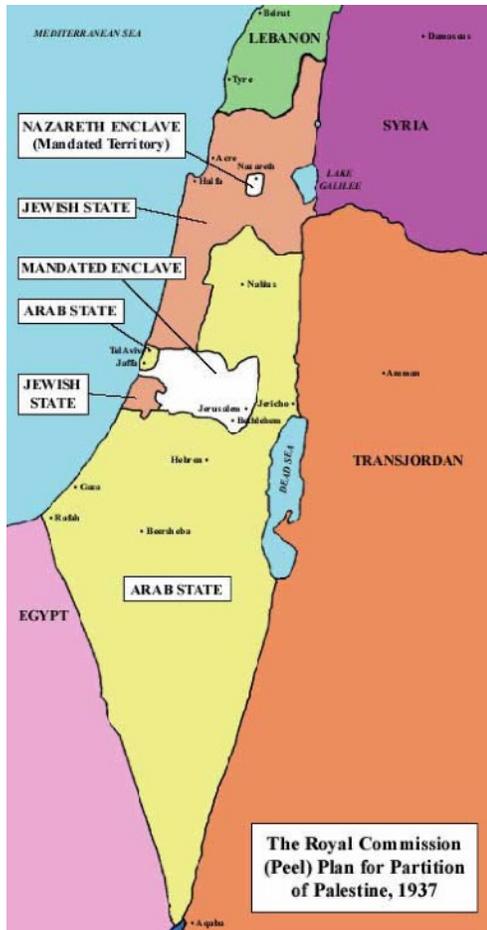
► 1917—The British issued [Balfour Declaration](#) provides the Zionists with legitimacy to develop a national home in Palestine; they do so slowly, diligently, and undeterred. Arabs in Palestine are decidedly opposed to giving Jews any political privileges in Palestine.

► 1922—League of Nations Mandates are trusteeships that Britain held after WWI over Iraq, Jordan and Palestine and France over Syria and Lebanon. The Balfour Declaration receives international legitimacy when in the preamble of the British [Mandate for Palestine](#).

► 1937 – In response to prolonged violence between Arabs and Jews in Palestine, Britain suggests in its [Peel Report](#) that the area of Palestine be divided into two states, believing that friction between Jews and Arabs too great from them to live together – first suggestion of a two-state solution; Arabs reject the idea. Zionists continue to build small infrastructure for a state, linking immigrants to newly purchased land acquired from Arab sellers. Small Jewish economy develops with large foreign capital inflows aiding economic growth. American Jews do not show enthusiastic embrace of Zionism.



► 1939 – Dramatically, British slow down the development of the Jewish National Home idea, appeasing Arab anger in surrounding Arab states at Jewish state



building. The [Mufti of Jerusalem](#) on behalf of the Palestinian Arabs rejects British offer for a majority Arab state in Palestine in ten years. Arab leaders want no Jewish political presence in Palestine. By the outbreak of WWII, Jewish population of Palestine is more than 450,000. This represents more than 2/3 of total Jewish population that will be in the country when Israel is declared a state in 1948.

► 1939 - 1945 – Nazis in Europe kill 6 million Jews during WWII. No safe haven is granted to Jews seeking to be rescued; profound need for a Jewish state reaffirmed for Jews and particularly for the Zionists.

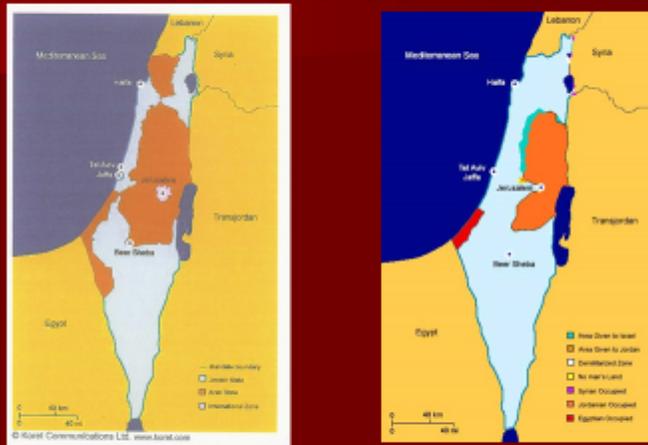
► 1945 - 1948 – persistent US State Department opposition to a Jewish state; Arab leaders vigorously reject Zionist offer for a two state solution in Palestine. [Azzam Pasha of the Arab League](#) says only war will determine outcome of Zionist-Arab

competition in Palestine, “even if Palestine is lost.”

- 1947 – [UN Partition Plan](#) calls for establishment of separate Arab and Jewish states in Palestine, connected with an economic union; Jerusalem was to remain independently run by international community; Jews accept partition (e.g. a Jewish state). Arab and Muslim states reject two-state solution.
- 1948—Israel’s [Declaration of Independence](#) as a Jewish state issued.



Comparison of the 1947 Palestine Partition Plan and Israel's 1949 armistice lines



Partition proposed Jewish state size: 14,900 sq km
 Israel's size at end of 1949 war: 20,500 sq km

Center for Israel Education, 2017

- ▶ 1948 - Truman recognizes Israel, although not with enthusiasm, since US State Department had opposed Israel as Jewish state, fearing Arabs might abandon US friendship; Soviet Union recognizes Jewish state as way to hasten Britain's departure from the region.



Prime Minister Ben Gurion and Ambassador Eban present President Truman with a gift in Washington, May 8, 1951.
 Photo: Public Domain

- ▶ 1948-1949 War—Jewish state’s borders at end of war 37% larger than originally decided by UN in 1947; no Arab state in Palestine area is established, with Jordan taking most of the territory destined for Arab state; end of fighting results in continued “state of war” between Israel and Arab states, known as [Armistice Agreements](#); no treaties signed. 730,000 Palestinians leave area that becomes Israel. Jerusalem becomes a divided city with Jordan and Israel each taking a portion.

End of Israel’s independence war, 1949

- When Israel’s independence war ended in March 1949, the area held by Israel was 20,500 sq kilometers, an **increase of 37%** of what the UN had allocated to the Jewish state in the UN’s 1947 partition plan; and a **50% decrease** of what was to be the Arab state per the UN Partition plan.
- The decision by Arab states not to accept partition in 1947 and to go to war resulted in land lost and Arab flight from Palestine. In 1950, Jordan annexed the West Bank (6,070 sq km) and Egypt controlled the Gaza Strip (390 sq km)



Center for Israel Education, 2017

- ▶ 1948-1952 – 800,000 Jews from Arab lands immigrate and settle in Israel, after undergoing significant duress at hands of many Arab leaders who believe all Jews are supportive of the new Zionist state. Jews in [Israel’s Law of Return](#) are given the right to come to Israel and become citizens. The organizational precursor of AIPAC, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee is established. Jordan poised to sign an agreement with Israel in 1951, however, it was aborted when Jordanian King Abdullah is assassinated in Jerusalem. Both the [Truman Doctrine](#) and



Yemenite Jews flying from Aden, Yemen to Israel, during the Operation Magic, 1949-1950

[Eisenhower Doctrine](#) demonstrate American defense of the Middle East against the spread of Communism and the USSR into the Middle East.

- ▶ 1950s -1970s—American Jews are not keen about Israeli leaders insisting that Jews should immigrate to Israel. US unsuccessfully seeks to slow down Israel's nuclear quest. Israel suffers difficult economic times due to Arab boycott and strains caused by absorbing hundreds of thousands of Jewish refugees.
- ▶ 1956—Suez War fought; Israel sweeps across Sinai in five days, with collusion but not physical assistance of France and Great Britain. Arab states believe that this Israeli success could not have come without British assistance.



Aerial view of the Suez Operation. Photo: British National Archive

- ▶ 1957—Eisenhower cajoles Israeli withdrawal from Sinai while UN offers placement of international emergency force in Sinai to protect Israeli shipping rights. Secretary of State Dulles angry at Israel but also realizes Israel needs US protection with arms, and calls Israel a strategic asset as USSR influence in Middle East grows. [Israel's Ben-Gurion addresses Egyptian injustices](#) of discrimination, hostility and boycott.
- ▶ Late 1950s—US begins to provide limited arms to Israel, in part because Arab states further align with USSR; US still uneasy about Israel's quest for nuclear capacity.
- ▶ 1967 – Arab states led by [Egyptian President Nasser](#) vigorously threaten Israel's destruction; Israel preemptively strikes Arab states to gain military advantage, fearing for its survival; Israel expands size five-fold, taking control over East Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, portions of the Syrian Golan Heights and all of the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. [UN Security Council Resolution 242](#)

[passes](#) and becomes a framework for future Arab-Israeli negotiations; it calls for recognition of all states in the region and exchange of unspecified amount of territories which Israel took in the 1967 war. Israelis expand municipality of Jerusalem to encompass the Old City and some Arab neighborhoods, north, south and east of the areas Israel controlled before the 1967 War. No Arab-Israeli treaties are negotiated at the conclusion of the war.

- ▶ 1967 – After war, Arab states unanimously agree at the [Khartoum Summit conference](#), “no peace, no negotiation, no recognition” of Israel. First Jewish settlements established in the Golan Heights and near Hebron. Israel begins fifty years of divided outlooks about retaining the West Bank and other territories.

Israel after the June 1967 War

kenstein@israeled.org
Ken Stein, Emory University



Before the war, Israel was 8,000 square miles; after the war, it controlled 38,000 square miles. It wielded influence over some 1 million Palestinians, including 350,000 in the Gaza Strip.

By 2015, population of Gaza increased more than 400%, to 1.8million plus.

By 2015, the West Bank Arab population numbered 2.8 million.

Center for Israel Education, 2017

- ▶ 1969 – [American Rogers Plan](#) – “withdrawal back to the 1967 lines” is the US Secretary of State’s suggestion--Israel surprised by public plan and rejects idea because it believes its interests are not represented. Israel wants to control own destiny, borders, and pace of negotiations with neighbors. Every Israeli Prime Minister dislikes foreign leaders deciding on Israel’s security policies.
- ▶ 1970 – Israel aids Jordan militarily when King Hussein’s regime is threatened by civil war and possible invasion from Syria.

- ▶ 1971 - 1973-US becomes engaged in testing negotiation waters between Egypt and Israel, but US administration does not initiate negotiations, after [secret meetings with Egyptian President Sadat's adviser, Hafez Ismail](#).

- ▶ 1973 – On Yom Kippur Day, Syria and Egypt attack Israel simultaneously—Egyptian President Sadat is interested in combining a limited military war along with diplomacy as means to liberate Sinai; Syria interested in destroying Israel—Cairo and Damascus see US involvement differently. Egypt embraces Washington, not so Syria.



- ▶ 1973 - US military resupply of Israel – after suffering initial setback, Israel beats back surprise attack - war ends with Israel 40 km from Damascus and 100km from Cairo; Israeli and Egyptian generals negotiate a disengagement agreement. Secretary of State Kissinger achieves [UNSC 338](#), that calls for direct negotiations between the parties, a keen desire of all previous Israeli governments, Kissinger choreographs Geneva Middle East Peace conference—it includes the USSR, but US drives negotiations and excludes Europeans and UN from mediation of dispute. Syria livid at Egypt's negotiations with Israel.
- ▶ 1974 – Kissinger continues mediation of E-I differences resulting in a [January 1974 Military Disengagement](#) between the countries, and persuades Syria to reach a Disengagement Agreement with Israel too. A five-month Arab oil embargo placed on US for supporting Israel during the 1973 War is removed.
- ▶ 1975 – US President Ford halts arms transfers to Israel temporarily because Israel will not immediately withdraw further from Sinai. Impasse broken and US mediates [Second \(1975\) Egyptian-Israeli agreement](#); aid is restored; significantly, the US places its troops in Sinai as monitors separating Egyptian-Israeli military forces; Egypt moves to reopen Suez Canal as sign of return to 'normalcy.'



(L-R) Prime Minister Rabin with President Ford in the Oval Office, November 6, 1975. Photo: Ford Library

- ▶ 1977 – US President Carter pushes Israel to accept negotiations with the PLO and withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in hopes of establishing a Palestinian State. Israeli Prime Ministers Rabin and Begin refuse to accept his conditions. Neither Israel nor Egypt are keen to go to an international conference where others will determine their negotiating positions; and neither want Carter’s preference to have the USSR engaged in Middle East negotiations. Sadat becomes impatient with Carter’s consumption with procedures; he and Begin have their emissaries meet away from US eyes. They prefer direct talks. Sadat goes to Jerusalem. [Sadat addresses the Israeli parliament](#). He stuns Arab world which still rejects any recognition or negotiations with Israel. [Begin openly welcomes Sadat to Israel](#). Little progress is made in direct Israeli-Egyptian talks, causing US to engage both with State Department followed by Oval Office mediation. Israel’s Begin does not provide Sadat with an equally noble gesture, such as a unilateral partial withdrawal of troops from Sinai.



President Sadat Arrives in Jerusalem, November 1977. Photo: GPO Israel

- ▶ 1978 – Camp David summit between Sadat, Begin, Carter and their aids results in Egypt and Israel signing two agreements, one for self-rule or autonomy for the Palestinians under Israeli control, and one an outline for an Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty. Continued negotiations for an E-I Treaty unfold slowly, with little progress made on implementing Palestinian self-rule. Israelis refuse to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to provide land for a Palestinian entity or state. Carter administration greatly angered and frustrated by Begin government; yet Sadat and Carter see absolute priority in seeing an Egyptian-Israeli treaty negotiated and signed. Arafat refuses to join talks with US.

- ▶ 1979—[E-I Peace Treaty](#) signed; Sadat willing to sign “separate peace” with Israel, leaving other Arab and Muslim states further angry at Sadat’s embrace of Israeli sovereignty; Shah of Iran leaves country due to unrest and illness; religious radical Islamic leader Khomeini returns to Iran; he powers Islamic political hegemony in Middle East and beyond. Israel and Egypt maintain a “cold peace,” though ambassadors are



(L-R) President Sadat, President Carter and Prime Minister Begin at Peace Treaty Signing at White House, March 26, 1979. Photo: Israel GPO

exchanged. Carter administration gladly casts UN vote categorizing Israel as occupier of territories taken in June 1967 War.

- ▶ 1980s—Reagan administration views Israel as strategic asset; Palestinian autonomy talks go nowhere, Israel builds settlements in West Bank and Gaza Strip, with US still opposed to settlement building; Europe offers first ideas of negotiating end to conflict in Venice Declaration.



(L-R) President Reagan and Prime Minister Begin meeting in Washington, 1981. Photo: AP

- ▶ 1981—US sells AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia despite loud Israeli protest; Israel withdraws from almost all of Sinai, per E-I Treaty. Reagan vilifies Israel for destroying Iraqi nuclear reactor; Sadat assassinated by Islamic militants, his successor, Husni Mubarak stays true to treaty with Israel.
- ▶ 1982—[Reagan Plan](#)— seeks to link future of West Bank with Jordan; Israel surprised and miffed at not being consulted prior to announcement. Again, Begin and Israel do not want to be told how to negotiate and what to concede in negotiations.



- ▶ 1982 – Israel invades southern Lebanon seeking to destroy PLO infrastructure there; Reagan admonishes Begin for moving Israeli troops into Beirut; American marines escort Arafat out of Beirut-- PLO moves headquarters to Tunis.

- ▶ 1983 - US-Israel sign



agreement declaring Israel a strategic asset to US; US assures Israel of Qualitative Military Edge in weapons supplies over Arab neighbors.

- ▶ 1986-1995 – one million plus Russian Jews immigrate to Israel.
- ▶ 1987 – Major Palestinian uprising (*intifada*) against Israeli rule in territories unfolds to Israel’s surprise; it continues until 1992 with violence perpetrated against Israeli civilians--generating Israeli reprisals against Palestinians.



Young Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli soldiers during first Intifada, 1988. Photo: Public Domain.

- ▶ 1988—US opens dialogue with PLO without telling Israel, hoping to modify PLO’s reluctance to give up terrorism and non-Israeli recognition. PLO accepts UNSCR 242 and forswears terrorism. [Hamas](#), the Palestinian militant Islamic organization issues its founding charter calling all land west of the Jordan River Muslim land, rejecting any acceptance of Zionism whatsoever; King Hussein announces his intention to politically disengage from the West Bank, leaving the PLO to fill the political vacuum.
- ▶ 1989-1992—US-Israel relations grow distinctly cold over continuation of Israeli settlement building. Group of Israeli historians publish books putting much of the blame of the dispersed Palestinian condition on Israeli behavior in 1947-49.
- ▶ 1991-1992—Bush administration— Iraq overruns Kuwait, with Iraqi president claiming he is also on the way to “liberate” Palestine. Iraq fires missiles at Saudi

Arabia and Israel. Kuwait sovereignty is restored, Iraq is defeated, and Israel withholds military retaliation against Iraq. Israel curries favor with US for doing so. Madrid peace conference unfolds evolving into bilateral negotiations between Israel and each Arab neighbor, with Palestinians present in Jordanian delegation; multi-lateral talks on topical issues like water, refugees, borders, and economic development ensue between Israel and individual Arab states, and international community. No agreements are reached from the [Madrid Peace Conference](#).



President Bush addresses attendees of the Madrid Peace Conference, October 30, 1991. Photo: US National Archive

- ▶ 1992-1993—Secret PLO-Israeli negotiations evolve, yielding 1993, [Oslo Accords](#) signed on White House lawn - - PLO and Israel recognize each other – Israel provides PLO with self-rule in the WB and GS. Nothing said about settlements; Palestinian Authority (PA) formed to govern WB and GS, PLO is not dissolved. Yasir Arafat remains head of both Palestinian political organizations.



- ▶ 1994—[Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed](#); US played no significant role in its signing; Jordan and Israel see each other as having mutual vital interests. Jordanian - Israeli military and intelligence cooperation continues. *(L-R) King Hussein, President Clinton and Prime Minister Rabin at Jordan-Israel peace deal signing., July 1994. Photo: AP.*
- ▶ 1995 – Israeli PM Rabin assassinated by right wing leaning Israeli disgruntled with Rabin’s signature on Oslo Accords and possible provision of WB (Judea and Samaria) to Palestinian control.
- ▶ 1996-1999—Clinton-Netanyahu relationship frosty; growth and expansion of Israeli settlements continues.
- ▶ 2000—Camp David II summit unfolds, without pre-negotiations, no tangible agreement results; PLO leader Arafat not ready to accept Israeli PM Barak’s proposals for a diplomatic agreement to end conflict.



(L-R) Prime Minister Barak, President Clinton, and Yasser Arafat at Camp David, July 21, 2000. Photo: CNN.

- ▶ 2000—Clinton tries to reopen Syrian-Israeli talks, but does not succeed in moving Damascus and Israel towards an agreement; second major Palestinian intifada (uprising) erupts against Israeli civilians in the West Bank and inside pre-1967 Israel.
- ▶ 2000-2001—Clinton leaves office after presenting [Clinton Parameters](#) as an outline for a negotiated settlement, no agreement is signed.
- ▶ 2001—Israel initiates building the security “wall/fence” around pre-1967 borders, including many Jewish settlements built over the previous “green line” or

armistice lines separating pre-1967 Israel from the West Bank; as consequence, over next decade and more, terrorist attacks against Israel largely reduced. Israel condemned by international community for building “fence/wall.” Fear exists from those abroad that the “fence/wall” will become de facto border between Israel and any Palestinian political entity. Active political De-Legitimization of Israel spawned through international meetings by progressives is joined by growth Arab and Islamic anti-Semitism.



The security barrier between Israel and the West Bank under construction. Photo: Noam Moskowitz

- ▶ 2002 – US President Bush suggests a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict; [UNSC 1397](#) affirms a two-state solution; first time UN suggests a two-state solution.
- ▶ 2002 – Arab states call for qualified normalization of relations in the [Arab Peace Initiative](#) with Israel, but remain imprecise on resolution of Palestinian refugee issue; Israel will not accept Palestinian Arab return to Israel inside the pre-1967 lines fearing end of Jewish majority in state.
- ▶ 2003—[Roadmap](#) for a two-state solution suggested by Quartet-EU, UN, US, and Russia - ambiguous language; Hamas rejects it out of hand; Israel accepts some of the terms suggested, but has reservations because of no final resolution to Palestinian refugee issue. Several EU countries show increased disfavor of Israel for continued settlement growth.

- ▶ 2004—[Bush-Sharon letter](#)—US affirms that Israel's borders can be greater than the 1967 lines; long time PLO leader Arafat dies. Palestinian Arabs remain severely splintered ideologically on whether to negotiate with and recognize Israel. Hamas says no, never. Israeli PM Sharon publically accepts idea of a two-state solution to the conflict. Palestinian intifada slowly ends, but Palestinian attacks against Israel continue. Sharon amplifies his [Gaza Disengagement Plan](#).



(L-R) Prime Minister Abbas, President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon following joint statement in Aqaba, Jordan, June 4, 2003. Photo, Public Domain

- ▶ 2005—Israel unilaterally withdraws from the Gaza Strip, and four small settlements in the West Bank, hoping to ease toward normalization with PA and PLO; 9,000 Israeli settlers leave Gaza.



Israeli evacuating Gush Katif settlement in Gaza, August 2005.

- ▶ 2006—Israel and Hezbollah engage in 34-day war in Lebanon- no geographic changes result. Hezbollah rearms with weapons from Iran, via Syria.
- ▶ 2006— Hamas defeats Fatah in Palestine Legislative Council elections; corruption in Fatah leadership alienates many Palestinian voters.

- ▶ 2007— Hamas removes PLO/PA control over the Gaza Strip in violent coup and militarizes the strip, which is then used to launch rocket and infiltration attacks against Israel.



- ▶ 2007— [Annapolis Peace Conference](#)— *Hamas supporters in Gaza in rally following coup in June 2007. Photo: AFP*
 Palestinian-Israeli negotiations jump started, but result in no end to the conflict, no agreements are signed; Palestinians seek permanent halt of all Israeli settlements.



Prime Minister Olmert, President Bush and President Abbas address attendees of Annapolis Conference, June 2007. Photo: US Navy

- ▶ 2008-2009—Israel-Hamas conflict erupts; Israel seeks to stop rocket attacks; Iran continues to build nuclear capacity to international and Israeli displeasure.

- ▶ 2009 – Settlements building controversy erupts anew between Israel and US; Barak Obama says settlements should stop, while [Netanyahu in Bar-Ilan speech calls for two-state solution](#), specifying a demilitarized Palestinian state.



- ▶ 2009 - UN publishes scathing report highly critical of Israel's recent conflict with Hamas for targeting civilians, then author of report retracts conclusions as perhaps biased. European Parliament endorses support for Palestinian self-determination.

Prime Minister Netanyahu Addressing audience at Bar Ilan University, June 2009.
Photo: Avi Ahayon



► 2010 – Renewed US effort at mediation; US affirms Israel’s right to be “a Jewish state.” Israel still seeks direct bilateral, no-pre-conditions to commence talks with the Palestinians.

► 2010-2011—Arab ‘Awakening’ – Arab publics overthrow many authoritarian regimes, seeking better economic opportunities and end of political cronyism and corruption. Syrian civil war remains brutal into 2017. Egyptian, Libyan, Tunisian, and Yemeni leaders



turned out of office. Sanctions against Iran’s building of nuclear capacity tightened. Barack Obama calls for negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians based on the June 1967 War lines; Israel again not pleased with US president defining what the negotiation outlines should be.

► 2012—Israel again strikes at Hamas in Gaza for launching rockets into Israel; violence ends after 8 days of fighting; Hamas leader reaffirms need for Israel’s disappearance.

► 2012—US law makers create [Enhanced Security Cooperation Act](#) and President Obama signs it into law, bringing two states closer on military and strategic issues, all while White House continues to staunchly opposes building of Israeli settlements.



- ▶ 2013—President Obama in Jerusalem appeals to [people of Israel](#) to support negotiations based on a two-state solution. *Prime Minister Netanyahu greets President Obama during his first presidential visit to Israel in 2013. Photo: Miriam Alster*
- ▶ 2013—Secretary of State Kerry makes concerted effort to restart Palestinian-Israeli negotiations based on creating a process that would lead to a two-state solution, but by middle of 2014, his mediation efforts do not succeed.
- ▶ 2013-2014— Hamas-Israel violence erupts.

- ▶ 2014 – [European Parliament calls for recognition of Palestinian Statehood](#) in context of two-state solution.



(L-R) Israeli president Shimon Peres, Secretary of State John Kerry, May 2013. Photo: AP/Jim Young

- ▶ 2014 – US law makers pass the US-Israel Strategic Partnership Act which President Obama signs into law; Israel’s [UN Ambassador Prossor](#) chastises UN for its hypocrisy

- ▶ 2015 – US and five other countries sign agreement with Iran to limit their nuclear development, relieve some sanctions; major disagreement between Israel and US over agreement’s



(L-R) Foreign ministers/secretaries of state Wang Yi (China), Laurent Fabius (France), Frank-Walter Steinmeier (Germany), Federica Mogherini (EU), Mohammad Javad Zarif (Iran), Philip Hammond (UK), John Kerry (USA) announce the JCPOA in Vienna, July 14, 2015.

worth; controversy swirls about [Israeli PM's address to US Congress](#) opposing the agreement with Iran.

- ▶ 2016 – US and Israel sign 10-year memorandum of understanding providing Israel with \$38 billion over that span of time. Obama administration continues to chide Israel because of its settlement building. UN passes [UNSCR 2334](#) that categorizes all the territories that Israel gained in the June 1967 war as occupied, including east Jerusalem as topics for negotiations.
- ▶ 2017—Middle East Conference in Paris emphasizes need for two-state solution, PM Netanyahu does not participate. President Trump and PM Netanyahu meet in February, and Trump startles audience, “One-state or two-states, whatever the Israelis and Palestinians want.” This a break from traditional US advocacy of two-state solution. In breaking international precedent, the [US officially recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital](#).

- ▶ 2018—Israeli parliament passes the [14th Basic Law declaring Israel as Nation State of the Jewish people](#), emphasizing the Jewish nature of the state above other ethnic and religious groups. Israel warms relations with major eastern European states, strengthens ties with India and Japan; women in Israel challenge denial of access to prayer at western wall; Israel periodically attacks threatening Iranian presence and capabilities in Syria.



U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry stands with French President Francois Hollande and his counterparts on January 15, 2017 during the Paris, France, during the French-hosted conference on Middle East peace. Photo: US State Department

- ▶ 2019—Through proclamation, US President Trump recognizes Golan Heights as part of Israel to the dismay of the international community. Israel's population tops 9 million, 74% are Jewish, including 45% of world Jewry; its GDP is \$353,000 billion, ranking 32 in the world. By comparison in 1948, there were 806,000 people in Israel, 80% Jewish with only 6% of world Jewry living in Israel. Israel holds April parliamentary elections, but failure to construct a coalition of 61 members forces a second election in September.

- ▶ 2020- After third Israeli election in less than 18 months, Israelis form coalition/unity government; [President Trump announces plan](#) for two state solution to the conflict including option for Israel to annex West Bank lands with major economic plan associated with his proposal.



MIDDLE EAST

