

HISTORY OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT



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Politics and Society in the Middle East

DEVELOPMENT TO WW1

- 132-135 – Shimon Bar Kokhba's revolt defeated by Roman Empire → Jewish diaspora (only a small community of Jews remained – Old Yishuv).
- Arabs came to the territory in 6th century from Arabic peninsula.
- 19th century birth of zionismus = Jewish nationalism (Theodor Herzl – his very influential book *Der Judenstaat*).
- Since the end of 19th century Jews began to move to their biblical homeland (aliyah =



Theodor Herzl

ARABS, JEWS AND WW1

- Both Arabs and Jews supported the Triple Entente in WW1 with a hope for independence/autonomy after the failure of Ottoman Empire.
- Goals of both nations contradictory – Great Britain and France had the secret negotiations with both of them (Balfour Declaration 1917, correspondence between sir Henry McMahon and Sharif Hussein in 1915-16).
- Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916): secret treaty between Great Britain and France.

MAP OF MIDDLE EAST IN 1920s



POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN MANDATE PALESTINE

- Growing tension between Jews and Arabs in 1920s and 1930s – more and more Jews emigrated to Palestine → protests of local Arabs (Grand Mufti of Jerusalem Amin al-Husseini).
- Great Britain aimed to balance the situation and to decrease the tension – not very successful (sir Herbert Samuel).
- Terrorist attacks of radical Jewish groups on British



Amin al-Husseini

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT IN MANDATE PALESTINE

- 2 main groups of Zionists:
 - Left-wing ideology – varieties of socialist program, one of the very important leaders David Ben Gurion.
 - Right-wing ideology (revisionists) - Ze'ev Jabotinsky (Irgun and Lehi – Menachem Begin, Yitzak Shamir).
- Effort to unite both groups, during the time left-wing prevailed (Altalena incident 1948).
- Establishment of Hagana (militia - predecessor of Israeli army).

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

- Since 1930 growth of anti-Semitism in Germany → Hitler's campaign against the Jews.
- Final solution of Jewish issue:
 - January 1942, designed by Adolf Eichmann.
 - Plan of the systematic genocide of all Jews in Europe → Holocaust (shoa) – more than 6 millions victims – Yad Vashem museum in Jerusalem.



HOLOCAUSTU AND FORMING OF ISRAEL

- Tragedy of Holocaust was often used as a moral argument why the independent Jewish state should be established.
- Argument of the Arabs: Why shall Arabs pay for the evil committed by Europeans?
- Ambiguous interpretations of Holocaust in Israel: Why did not the Jews fight more to defend themselves?

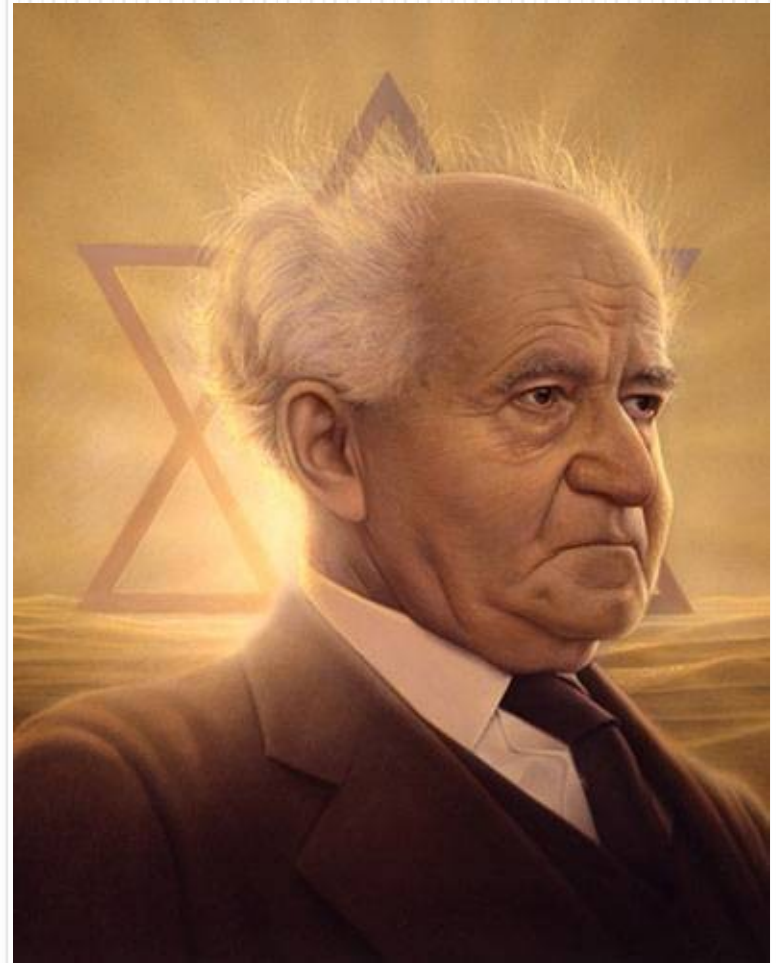


UN PARTITION PLAN (1947)



1st ARAB-ISRAELI WAR (1948)

- Independent war vs. disaster (al nakba).
- Israel vs. all surrounding states (supported by other Arab states such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq etc.)
→ Arab coalition was more numerous however many organizational problems + conflicts among Arab leaders.
- No external aid for Israel (exceptions: financial support from Jews living abroad, weapons from Czechoslovakia).
- The overwhelming victory of Israel.



David Ben Gurion

MAP OF MIDDLE EAST 1948

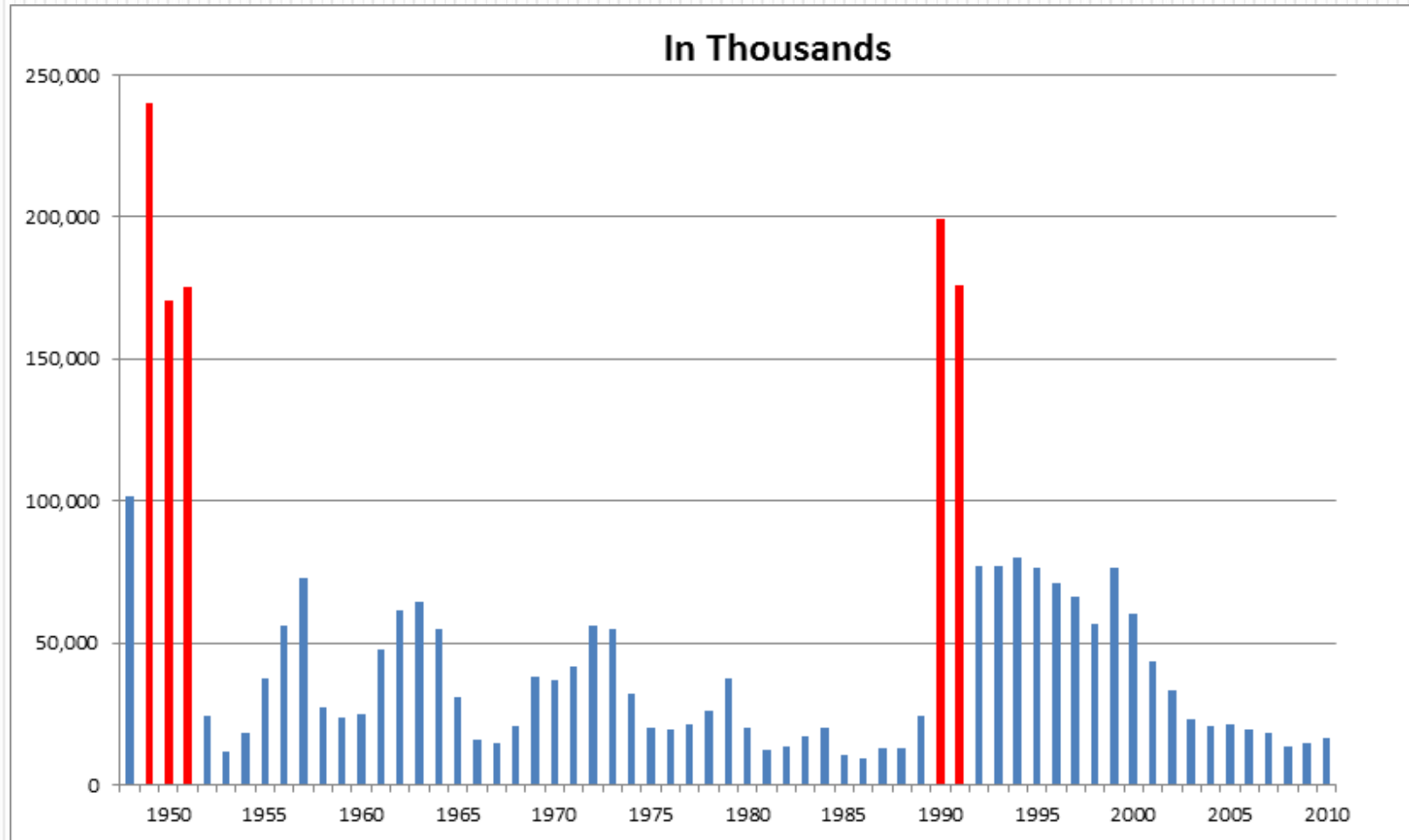
1949 Armistice Lines following
First Arab-Israeli War (1947-49)



MAKING OF ISRAELI SOCIETY

- Making of a new society (prior 1948 Hebrew culture, then Israeli culture).
- Concept of „melting pot“ (significant role of army)
- Many conflicting lines: Ashkenazi vs. Mizrahim, secular vs. Ultra-orthodox, Jews coming from different countries of the world.
- Israeli Arabs: second class citizens.

IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL 1948-2012



<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Immigration/imgraph.html>

SUEZ CRISIS 1956

- President of Egypt Gamal Nasser declared the nationalization of Suez Channel.
- France, Great Britain, and Israel decided for a military action against Egypt.
- From military perspective the absolute success, from diplomatic perspective a total fiasco.
- Role of USA and USSR in the context of ongoing Cold



Gammal Nasser

BIRTH OF PLO

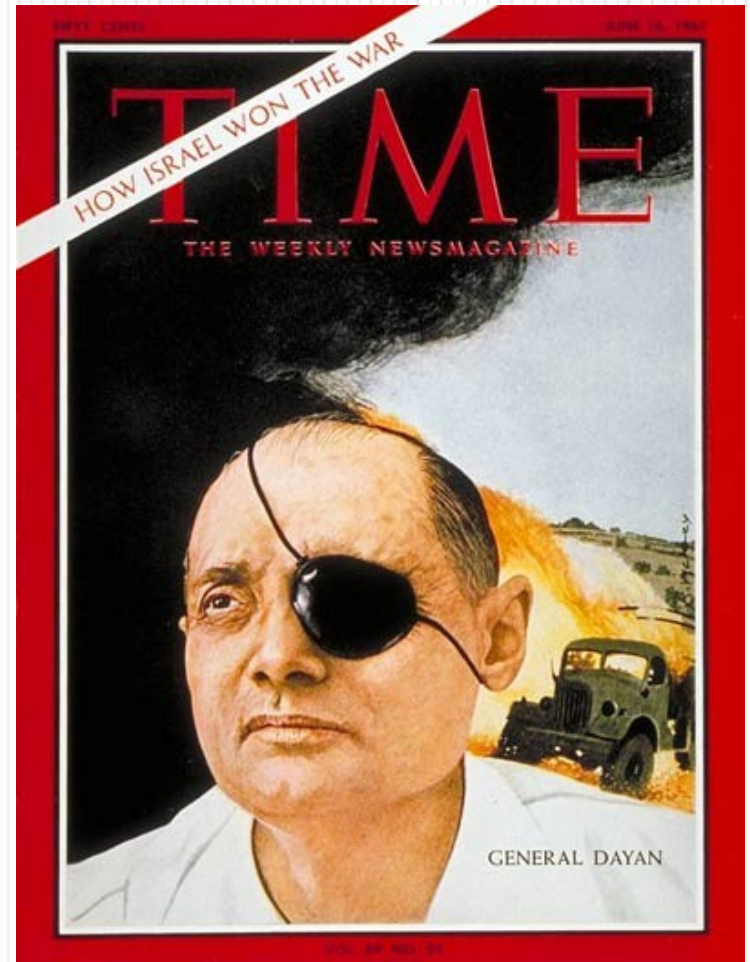
- Originally, king of Jordan recognized as the representative of Palestinians.
- 1964 Egypt initiated the establishment of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) – since 1969 Yaser Arafat was a leader of this organization (he founded Fatah in 1965).
- PLO operated in the territory of West Bank, in early 1970s attempt to assassinate king of Jordan (Black September 1970) → departure to Lebanon (later exile in Tunisia).



Yasser Arafat

SIX DAYS WAR (1967)

- Brought significant changes to Middle Eastern geography and politics.
- Israeli secret services received some information about the presumed war against Israel initiated by a coalition of Egypt, Jordan, and Syria → preemptive strike.
- Controversial in terms of existing international law (preemptive strike itself, making of Jewish settlement in occupied territory, UN resolution 242 etc.).



Moshe Dayan

1967 Après la guerre des Six Jours



- État d'Israël
- Territoires occupés par Israël
- Annexion de Jérusalem-Est
- Pays arabes

Source : F. W. Putzger, Historischer Weltatlas, Cornelsen, Berlin, 1992.

1973 Après la guerre du Kippour



- État d'Israël
- Territoires occupés, restitués en 1974, 1982 et 2000
- Territoires occupés en 2007
- Ligne d'armistice en octobre 1973
- Pays arabes

CONSEQUENCES OF SIX DAYS WAR

- New territories under the control of Israel (Gaza Strip, West Bank, Golan Heights, Sinai).
- Jewish settlement (pragmatic and/or religious motivation).
- Growth of radicalism and extremism in the Middle East.
- Roots of the future conflict at the Middle East (Khartoum conference 1967).

YOM KIPPUR WAR 1973

- First time when Israel did not achieve unambiguous victory.
- A surprising attack by Arab armies → big shock for the Israelis.
- The supplies of US weapons and other military equipment to Israel → oil embargo and 1st oil shock (Saudi king Faisal).
- Changes in Israeli politics – road to peace treaty with Egypt.



Moshe Dayan and Golda Meir

ARAB-ISRAELI PEACE PROCESS

- Secret peace negotiations took place since 1948.
- Separate peace vs. complex peace solution.
- Milestone: 1978 peace treaty between Israel and Egypt (Camp David summit supported by Jimmy Carter).
- 1994 peace treaty with Jordan.
- 1999 peace treaty with Mauretania, relatively good relations with Tunisia and Morocco.



Anwar Sadat, Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin

PEACE PROCESS WITH THE PALESTINIANS

- Crucial part of Arab-Israeli peace proces.
- Breaktrough came in 1990s (decade of hope) – in previous decades both parties refused to negotiate together)
- 1st intifáda (Palestinian uprising) in 1987-1993: intensively discussed by whole international community.
- 1991 conference in Madrid – first official meeting of the delegations however without the highest political representatives.



OSLO PROCESS

- A series of peace negotiations supported by Norway and USA in 1990s.
- Key person Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin who personally promoted the peace process despite of the intense criticism – in 1995 assassinated by radical student Yigal Amir.
- Protests against the Oslo Accords on both sides (Hebron massacre, Hamas's attacks, demonstrations etc.).



Yitzhak Rabin, Bill Clinton,
Yasser Arafat

RESULTS OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN EARLY 1990s

- Palestinian autonomous territories, first democratic elections – victory of PLO and Yasser Arafat.
- Mutual recognition and the promise of future cooperation and further peace negotiations.
- The most difficult issues such as the status of Palestinian refugees, Jewish settlements, status of Jerusalem left for later round of negotiations.

OSLO PROCESS: 2nd PHASE

- After Rabin's assassination a slowdown of the peace process → early elections – new government made by Binyamin Netanyahu from Likud party.
- Netanyahu was known as a critic of peace process – reluctance to any kind of compromise (security to be the first priority).



Binyamin Netanyahu
and Yasser Arafat

CAMP DAVID SUMMIT 2000

- In 1999, another early election in Israel → Ehud Barak from Labor Party became the new prime minister.
- Barak had a very ambitious vision to solve out Arab-Israeli conflict: peace negotiations with the Palestinians, and Syria.
- Summit in Camp David has been the last big political meeting → failure of the peace process.
- Prevailing interpretation: Barak made the most generous offer in history but Arafat refused it.

BARAK'S OFFER TO ARAFAT (UNOFFICIAL)

- Israel would withdraw from 95 % of occupied territory in West Bank, and from 100 % of occupied territory in Gaza Strip.
- Israel would remove the isolated Jewish settlements and this territory shall be returned back to the Palestinians.
- The highly populated Jewish settlements shall remain under Israeli control – the Palestinians shall receive a compensation in form of other territories.
- The Palestinians shall obtain a control over East Jerusalem (Muslim and Christian parts of the Old City).
- Religious sovereignty over Temple Mount.
- Palestinians shall declare the official end of the conflict, to accept this situation as final and give up all potential future claims.

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 2000

- After the failure of peace processes, the deep disillusion in both Israel and Palestine → escalation of tension, freezing of peace processes.
- Changes in international community since 9/11/2001 – shift in attitudes towards Palestinian nationalist groups.
- Changes in Israeli politics – Ehud Barak lost the elections → 2000 victory of Likud Party led by Ariel Sharon.



Ariel Sharon

2nd PALESTINIAN INTIFADA

- Characteristic with suicide attacks in public space.
- Unilateral withdrawal of Jewish settlements from Gaza in 2004.
- Security Wall built with the intention to separate Israel from Western Bank – heavily criticized (apartheid wall vs. Security guarantees).

CHECK-POINT, BETLEHEM



SECURITY WALL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND WEST BANK



YASSER ARAFAT'S TOMB, RAMALLAH



SPLIT OF THE PALESTINIANS

- After the death of Yasser Arafat significant clashes inside the Palestinians → his successor became Mahmud Abbas but he has not had a support of all fractions and groups.
- The mutual tension escalated after the elections in 2006 when Hamas got dominance in Gaza Strip while Fatah won in West Bank → in fact a civil war
- The western countries mostly support Fatah, Hamas is perceived as terrorist group.



Mahmud Abbas

MAIN ISSUES

- Restoring of the peace process.
- Status of Jerusalem and other religious sites.
- Jewish settlement in Western Bank.
- Palestinian refugees and their claims.
- Radicalism and terrorism.
- Contemporary conflicts in the Middle East.

JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN WEST BANK





JERUZALÉM



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION