

<b>Forum:</b>	The Group of Twenty (G20)
<b>Issue:</b>	Measures for ensuring peace and security in the Palestine-Israeli conflict
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Karkavitsa Konstantina
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear Delegates,

My name is Konstantina Karkavitsa and I will have the honor of serving as the Deputy President of The Group of Twenty (G20) during the 7<sup>th</sup> Platon School Model United Nations Conference. This will be my third time chairing and my first time participating in the G20.

As your Deputy President, I have prepared a detailed Study Guide concerning the topic discussed, in order to provide you with basic yet solid and useful information for your preparation. I will ensure that correct procedures are followed and address any matter or problem relevant to the Committee, should it arise. Furthermore, I will be amenable to answer any questions and help you produce original resolutions during lobbying, which are going to lead to fruitful and constructive debate.

Ensuring peace and security in the Palestine-Israeli conflict is an intricate issue, which is comprised by multiple factors and is related to a plethora of fields, such as the political, social, financial sphere. Therefore, I strongly recommend that you should conduct your own research as well and not fully rely on the Study Guide given, since each country individually will have its own point of view related to the matter. Should you face any difficulty, please do not hesitate to contact me via email in [konstantinakarkavitsa@gmail.com](mailto:konstantinakarkavitsa@gmail.com).

I hope that The Group of 20 will be a challenging and interesting committee, which will offer us an unforgettable and enlightening experience. I am looking forward to meeting you all at the conference.

Best wishes,

Konstantina Karkavitsa

Deputy President of the G20

## INTRODUCING TOPIC

Israel is a country located east of the Mediterranean Sea and it consists of the only Jewish State existing in modern times. On the other hand, Palestinians are an Arab population, residing in Israel, who aspire to create an independent state in the region, called Palestine. The conflict between Israel and Palestine is one of the most crucial and complex struggles faced by the international community during the past few decades. It is often deemed as a territorial contest between Israel and Palestine, which is, falsely, commonly believed to be unending and that it derives solely from a religious aspect. Financial and territorial interests of major countries are fundamentally involved in a conflict which is related to competing nationalisms and its start could be traced back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The region, nowadays internationally recognized as Israel, used to be ruled by the Ottoman Empire, which was characterized by a multicultural population with different religious beliefs, but one common language, Arabic, and, despite these differences, have managed to maintain peace. At the same time, in Europe, nationalism was striving, with different nationalities wishing to gain independence and create individual autonomous states, like the Jewish population in Israel, who were supported by the concept of Zionism, which claimed that Judaism is a religion as well as a nationality.

After the fall of the Ottoman Empire, between 1896 and 1948, a major influx of Jews fled Europe and resettled in Palestine,<sup>1</sup> which was then under British control. Although there were some efforts made in order to facilitate Jewish immigration under certain conditions, the different constitutions established for each ethnic group residing in Palestine and the belief that Jewish influx was influenced by the European colonial movement, obstructed the prospects of a peaceful adjustment.<sup>2</sup>

Consequently, as the British realized that they were not able to control the violence in the area any more, in 1947 they handed, which they possessed as an honorary state, Palestine to the newly created United Nations. The UN decided to split the country in two parts, a Jewish and an Arabic one, so as to provide the Jewish with a state and simultaneously ensure the establishment of Palestinian independence. The aforementioned plan was not accepted by the Palestinians, leading to the Arab-Israeli war (1948-1949). Israeli forces defeated the Palestinian side, which as a result led to

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<sup>1</sup> "The Jewish Settlements in the Land of Israel 1881-1948." *The Jewish Settlements in the Land of Israel 1881-1948 Flashcards* | Quizlet. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <https://quizlet.com/3871779/the-jewish-settlements-in-the-land-of-israel-1881-1948-flash-cards/>

<sup>2</sup> Beauchamp, Zack. "Everything You Need to Know about Israel-Palestine." Vox. N.p., 21 Nov. 2014. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine>

an armistice according to which Israel would possess 77% of the country, leaving Palestinians' demands for an independent state unfulfilled.<sup>3</sup>

In 1967, the Six Days War occurred between Israel and several Arab states. As a consequence of Israel's victory, the territorial borders of the state were expanded.

Moreover, years after, two Palestinian rebellions, which were named "Intifadas" took place, the first one in the late 1980s and the second one in the early 2000s. Those uprisings had as an outcome the aggravation of the Israeli-Palestinian relations and the death of millions.<sup>4</sup>

Finally, many countries, such as the USA, have involved themselves in this conflict, with the ambition of assisting the two sides in reaching a common ground. Unfortunately, the approach of both governments towards the issue is based on the lack of understanding of the opponent, with both parties claiming to respond to provocations. For measures to be found in order to satisfy the visions of Palestinians and Israelis, more specifically through a number of proposed tactics and plans, each side has to accept the legitimacy of the other and approach the opposite party with constructive and effective negotiations and the willingness to achieve peace through compromise. It is also important to recognize the need for the international community's involvement, in order to achieve a successful peace protest.



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<sup>3</sup> "Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict | Middle East Research and Information Project." *Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict | Middle East Research and Information Project*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.  
<http://www.merip.org/primer-palestine-israel-arab-israeli-conflict-new#The%20United%20Nations%20Partition%20Plan>

<sup>4</sup> "Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict | Middle East Research and Information Project." *Primer on Palestine, Israel and the Arab-Israeli Conflict | Middle East Research and Information Project*. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.  
<http://www.merip.org/primer-palestine-israel-arab-israeli-conflict-new#The%20United%20Nations%20Partition%20Plan>

## KEY TERMS

### Zionism

Zionism is defined as “a movement for (originally) the re-establishment and (now) the development and protection of a Jewish nation in what is now Israel.”<sup>5</sup> It is characterized as a national Jewish ideology, according to which Judaism is not only a religion but a nationality as well, and therefore the creation of a national Jewish state in Palestine was deemed necessary. A more political aspect to the term was given by a journalist named Theodor Herzl, who argued that “if Jews were forced by external pressure to form a nation, they could lead a normal existence only through concentration in one territory.”<sup>6</sup> Although Zionists share similar beliefs, their struggle concerning the approach toward a Jewish state, the intervention of the government in the economy, the willingness to trade Israeli-controlled land for peace and the choice between a secular and a religious government, has split Zionists into two sub-groups, left and right.

### Nakba <sup>7</sup>

In 1948 thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee their homes and were removed from the country, creating a massive refugee influx of almost 700.000 people, which still is a major problem that has not yet been tackled. This displacement was named Nakba, (Arabic for catastrophe).

### West Bank

West Bank is an area located west to the Jordan River, which “was claimed from 1949 to 1988 as part of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan but was occupied from 1967 by Israel.”<sup>8</sup> From 1950 till 1967, when the Six Days War occurred, the West Bank was governed by Jordan. However, the large amount of Palestinians, who advocated the creation of an independent state and residing in the area, made the coexistence between West and East Bank residents difficult

### Jerusalem

Jerusalem is an “ancient city of the Middle East that since 1967 has been wholly under the rule of the State of Israel.”<sup>9</sup> Before the Six Days War, Jerusalem was divided and

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<sup>5</sup> “Zionism”. Oxford English Dictionaries.

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/zionism>

<sup>6</sup> “Zionism. Nationalistic Movement”. Encyclopedia Britannica

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Zionism>

<sup>7</sup> [Http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/reporters/orlando-crowcroft](http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/reporters/orlando-crowcroft). "What Does Al-Nakba Day Mean for Palestinians?" International Business Times UK. N.p., 15 May 2015. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<sup>8</sup> “West Bank” Encyclopedia Britannica.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Bank>

<sup>9</sup> “Israel.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<https://www.britannica.com/topic-browse/Countries-of-the-World/Countries-of-Asia/Israel>

was governed by Jordan and Israel. After 1967, Israel enlarged its territory by gaining control of East Jerusalem and declaring it as the 'official undivided capital of the state'.<sup>10</sup> Currently, the seizure of the East part of Jerusalem is characterized as a violation of international law, with the Security Council condemning the acts of the Israeli annexation through Resolution 478.<sup>11</sup>

## Gaza

Gaza is a strip of land located in the Israeli state region. Up to 1967, the area was controlled by Egypt, but after the victory of Israeli forces in the Six Days War, it was militarily occupied by the Israeli state and settlements had to be placed, not unlike the case of the West Bank. Israeli presence lasted until 2005, when the Israeli Prime Minister decided to demobilize the troops and withdraw them. Nevertheless, soon after, an extremist Islamist party, called Hamas, won the elections and took over the area. Under those circumstances, Israel imposed a blockade of commercial goods in Gaza, causing crucial deficiency of basic goods in the area. The relations between Gaza and Israel are stigmatized by constant military attacks, by both sides.<sup>12</sup>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Zionist movement was founded in Europe, as a consequence of the deeply nationalistic ideologies that were popular, but also due to the cruel prosecution of the Jewish in Europe. From 1880 till 1914, influenced by Zionism, the Jewish started immigrating to Palestine, then part of the Ottoman Empire, in order to accomplish the ambition of creating their own autonomous state.

At the same time, Europe, and more specifically the UK, actively participating in the political situation in the Middle East, contributed in creating severe instability in the area. In 1916, it triggered a revolt of Arab leaders against the Ottoman Empire, who wanted to seize the authority of the region, and in exchange support the creation of an independent Arab state in the area.<sup>13</sup> On the contrary, in 1917, Lord Arthur Balfour, British Foreign Minister, wrote a short letter, the "Balfour Declaration", to one the most influential Jewish men of the time, Walter Rothschild, with the intention of ensuring that the British Empire will support the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine. After the end of the war, the British Empire created a colony in Palestine, under the

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<sup>10</sup> "Who Owns Jerusalem?" Al Jazeera America. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2014/10/30/jerusalem-statusinternationalregime.html>

<sup>11</sup> "S/RES/478 (1980) of 20 August 1980." United Nations. United Nations, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<https://unispal.un.org/DPA/DPR/unispal.nsf/0/DDE590C6FF232007852560DF0065FDDB>

<sup>12</sup> McElroy, Damien. "Gaza Explained: Why Israel and Palestinians Are in Constant Conflict over Gaza." *The Telegraph*. Telegraph Media Group, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/middleeast/israel/11006125/Gaza-explained-Why-Israel-and-Palestinians-are-in-constant-conflict-over-Gaza.html>

<sup>13</sup> "The Ottoman Empire." *The Arab Revolt, 1916-18 - The Ottoman Empire* | NZHistory, New Zealand History Online. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/ottoman-empire/arab-revolt>

condition of being able to control the region until the Palestinian people have the financial, political and social means to govern it on their own.

In 1936, the Palestinians revolted against British authority, since the latter so as to honor the Balfour Declaration tried to achieve the increase of the Jewish population in Palestine, deteriorating tensions between the groups, since Palestinians disagreed with the aforementioned policy. The revolution was suppressed by Britain with the aid of Jewish. However, after these events, the British decided to follow a different policy by eliminating the Jewish immigration.

Due to the complex situation that had been created, the British chose to leave the colony and hand it over to the newly formed United Nations. In 1947, the UN proposed the Partition Plan, according to which Palestine was going to be divided into three parts, equal in size, a Jewish and an Arab one, as well as the internationalized Jerusalem. Unfortunately, Palestinians did not accept the Partitions Plan, and along with other Arab states, such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Trans-Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Egypt, emanated the Arab-Israeli war in 1948-1949, which led to the Israel's victory.<sup>14</sup> According to the armistice which was signed in 1949,<sup>15</sup> Israel got 1/3 of the land and rejected the idea of creating a Palestinian state. At the same time, Jordan controlled the West Bank and the city of Jerusalem and Egypt ruled the Gaza strip.

Several years after, in 1967, the Six Days War occurred; with Israel attacking Egypt, Syria and Jordan, leading once again to Israeli victory. Consequently, Israel managed to extend its borders by capturing the Golan Heights, the West Bank, where military administration was established, and the Gaza strip.<sup>16</sup> Even though the UN passed a resolution, which opted toward achieving peace, through the withdrawal of Israel from the newly obtained territory and the recognition of the legitimacy of both states' existence, this resolution was never implemented.

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<sup>14</sup> "Milestones: 1945–1952 - Office of the Historian." *U.S. Department of State*. U.S. Department of State, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1945-1952/arab-israeli-war>

<sup>15</sup> "Arab–Israeli General Armistice Agreements (1949)." *Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East and North Africa*. Encyclopedia.com, n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/arab-israeli-general-armistice-agreements-1949>

<sup>16</sup> Beauchamp, Zack. "Everything You Need to Know about Israel-Palestine." *Vox*. N.p., 21 Nov. 2014. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine>



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Meanwhile, thousands of Palestinians were forced to flee the country and seek refuge in neighboring states. On the other hand, the Israeli government established Jewish settlements, where the Palestinian element was relatively important, in order to mix populations and make the creation of an independent Palestinian state almost impossible.

By the late 1980s, the first Intifada occurred. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term intifada is the Palestinian uprisings against Israel and translates as “shaking off”. Its goal was to terminate the Israeli occupation of the areas they considered to belong to Palestinians, establish autonomy and eventually an independent Palestinian state, which they failed to accomplish. The first intifada was of a moderate nature, since its core was comprised by demonstrations, nonviolent actions and occasional attacks. Albeit casualties were caused to both Palestinians and Israelis, the violent response of the Israeli military forces had as a result the augmented Palestinian fatalities. Due to the fact that Palestinians felt that their aspirations of creating a state were becoming gradually impracticable, they took to a second, much more violent Intifada, in 2005. Palestinians used multiple violent tactics, such as suicide bombings and sniper fires, while the other party was equally brutal and aggressive. In the end, approximately 1,000 Israelis and 3,200 Palestinians were killed, according to statistics from United Nations Office for the Coordinator of Humanitarian Affairs, and relations between the two parties were never the same, since a peaceful approach toward the conflict ceased to exist. This rebellion, had as a consequence Israelis switching their point of view and becoming more skeptical,

<sup>17</sup> "A Synopsis of the Israel/Palestine Conflict." [famericansknew.org](http://famericansknew.org). N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.



concerning the peace process with Palestine, and also changing their dominant political party to a right-wing one.

Nonetheless, the first Intifada had a positive outcome. It steered toward the Oslo Accords, in 1993, whereby the Palestinian Liberation Organization, acknowledged the Israel's right to exist, discontinuing Palestinian claims on Israeli territory, in exchange for Israel to recognize it as the legitimate representative of Palestinians and prove them with autonomy, even though restricted. The most radicalized groups, of both sides, however, opposed the agreement and tried to disrupt it, in such an extent that the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin was murdered in 4 November 1995 on in Tel Aviv by an Israeli nationalist named Yigal Amir. Later on, the Israeli government withdrew from the Gaza strip, where the authority was replaced by Palestinian police forces.

The same year, Israel withdraw from Gaza, and after the 2005 elections and the death of the leader of PLO, Yasser Arafat, Hamas gained power in the area. Hamas and the PLO authority were driven to a civil war, separating Gaza from the West Bank. Under those circumstances, Israel imposed an unbearable blockade in Gaza, leading to unemployment, lack of basic goods, etc.

In 2014, a further effort was made by the US Secretary of State John Kerry with the ambition of reviving the peace process, which failed due to the fact that the Palestinian negotiation side was compromised by Hamas-Fatah, as a form of a joined-up government, and Israel declined to negotiate with Hamas.

## COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED

### ISRAEL

As one of the main countries involved, Israeli policy regarding the issue are a cornerstone, as far as measures in ensuring peace and security in the area are concerned. At the time, Israel defends its ideology, referring to their long-time historic attachment to the land, the legitimate right of owning a part of the conquered area, according to the UN partition plan, and the constant hostile and violent attacks coming from their neighbors. Although there were some statements made by the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu,<sup>18</sup> which concerned following a two-state solution strategy, during his election campaign, he clarified that the creation of a Palestinian state would not be feasible during his incumbency. Moreover, it is Israel's conviction that Palestinians cannot be trusted to be peaceful neighbors, since the Hamas controlling Gaza generates doubt as to whether peace agreements would be enforced in the

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<sup>18</sup> "Is a Two-State Solution (Israel and Palestine) an Acceptable Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict? - Israeli-Palestinian Conflict - ProCon.org." ProCon.org Headlines. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://israelipalestinian.procon.org/view.answers.php?questionID=001327>



mentioned area. On the other hand, Israeli occupation and the systematic settlements conducted by the government are considered to be international crimes, while the violent methods and disregarding attitude towards the Palestinian population are rationalized and often justified or underestimated.<sup>19</sup>

## PALESTINE

Sharing the same wary approach as Israel, the Palestinian government concentrates on victimhood and the hostilities they were forced to undergo under Israeli occupation. Additionally, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas does not wish to establish particularly tight relations with the Israeli government, currently led by a right-wing coalition, after the decision to extend the settlements' tactic, which was later wholly suspended everywhere, besides Jerusalem. An issue of utmost importance is the immense number of Palestinian refugees, still residing in areas such as the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. On the other hand, Palestine does not take the blame for initiating wars and violence, having a flawed leadership and refusing to seize opportunities for the imperative adjustment.

## HAMAS

Hamas is an extremist militant Palestinian-Islamic organization, founded in 1987 after the beginning of the first intifada. Its principal goals are to pursue the termination of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza strip, replace Israel with a Palestinian state and deliver social welfare programs. The organization seeks to implement these through carrying out an armed fight against Israel, via suicide bombings, rockets and mortars. In 2006, Hamas became politically active by winning a majority of the seats in the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) elections, entitling the group to govern both the West Bank and Gaza. However, tensions between Hamas and Fatah faction of the Palestinian Authority as well as with PLO escalated, leading to a war between Hamas and PLO, which had as a consequence Hamas governing Gaza independently from the West Bank-based PLO. Thus, since unity talks amongst the organizations have been recurrently annulled, there is no unified Palestinian authority. Hamas was considered to be a terrorist organization by numerous countries, such as Israel, USA, European Union and UK, but in 2014 the EU decided to remove it from the list of terrorist's groups.<sup>20</sup>



<sup>19</sup> "Israel's Settlement Policy in the Occupied Palestinian Territory." American Friends Service Committee. N.p., 10 May 2016. Web. 27 Jan. 2017.

<https://www.afsc.org/resource/israel%E2%80%99s-settlement-policy-occupied-palestinian-territory>

<sup>20</sup> "EU Court Takes Hamas off Terrorist Organizations List." BBC News. BBC, 17 Dec. 2014. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30511569>

## PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO)

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is the national representative of the Palestinian people, established in 1964 and including various organizations, acting as the key factor of the resistance, a political party and further functions. Since 1974, the PLO has been internationally recognized as the “sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people”.<sup>22</sup> Regarding its configuration, PLO administers “the Palestinian National Authority (PA), the semi-autonomous government tasked with managing the Palestinian territories until it makes a deal with Israel. Fatah, the secular nationalist political party that's dominated Palestinian politics for decades, controls the PLO and PA.”<sup>23</sup> Although several efforts, in order to institute a national government in cooperation with Hamas, have been made, these agreements could not be implemented due to the war between Hamas and Israel in 2014.<sup>24</sup> Most negotiations and peace talks are constantly debilitated by the ineffective relations between Hamas and PLO.

## USA

The United States of America shares an extremely conducive relation with Israel, by supporting it with substantial financial aid programs and diplomatic assistance. The diplomatic relations between the two countries began during the Cold War, when USA decided to use Israel to eliminate Soviet influence in the Middle East. The reasons for the support towards Israel are four:

- a. they both aim to achieve an efficient confrontation toward Jihadism,
- b. deep democratic ideologies characterize both nations,
- c. compassion and sympathy towards Israel amongst the American population and
- d. natural resources.

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<sup>21</sup> "PLO Votes to End Historic Israeli Security Agreement." *BBC News*. BBC, 05 Mar. 2015. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-31753946>

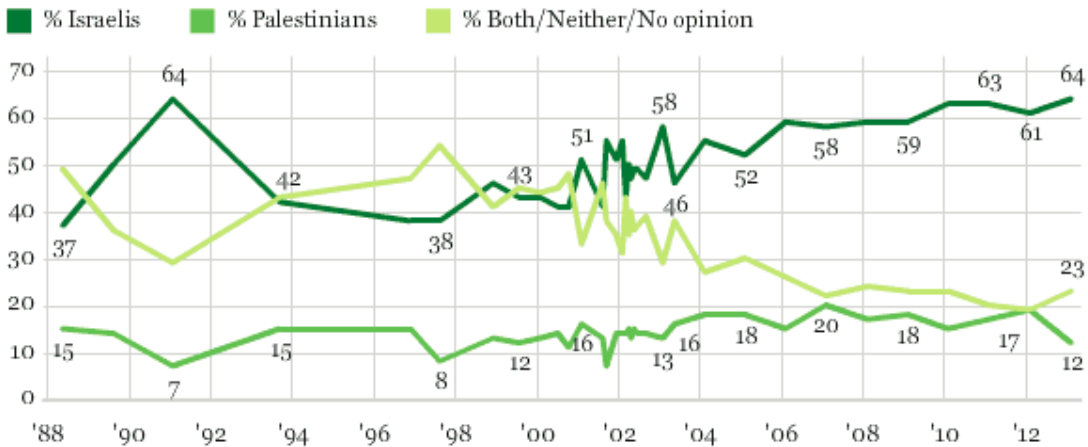
<sup>22</sup> "Palestine Liberation Organization." State of Palestine Mission to the United Nations. N.p., n.d. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://palestineun.org/about-palestine/palestine-liberation-organization/>

<sup>23</sup> "What PLO is?" Vox. <http://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/PA-PLO-fatah>

<sup>24</sup> Beauchamp, Zack. "Everything You Need to Know about Israel-Palestine." Vox. N.p., 21 Nov. 2014. Web. 27 Jan. 2017. <http://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine>

*Americans' Sympathies in Mideast Conflict*

In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?



GALLUP<sup>25</sup>

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**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

The below timeline of events is mostly based on the BBC "Israel profile – Timeline" (<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29123668>)

DATE	EVENT
1917	British Empire gains Palestine from Ottomans and endorses the "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine (Balfour Declaration).
1920	San Remo Allied Powers conference grants Palestine to Britain to prepare it for self-rule. Jewish migration into Europe continues.
1939	British government seeks to set a boundary to Jewish migration to Palestine to 10,000 per year, apart from emergencies.
1940s	Holocaust stimulates a mass migration to Palestine. Jewish armed groups in pursuit

<sup>25</sup> Beauchamp, Zack. "Why Are the US and Israel so Friendly?" Vox, 31 Mar. 2014, [www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/united-states](http://www.vox.com/cards/israel-palestine/united-states).

	of independent Jewish state fight British authorities.
1947	UN Partition Plan according to which Palestine would be divided into separate Jewish and Arab states, with international control over Jerusalem.
1948	Israel declares independence as British mandate ends
1948-1949	First Arab-Israeli war. Israel conquers more territory than envisioned under the Partition Plan, including western Jerusalem. Jordan seizes West Bank and eastern Jerusalem, Egypt occupies Gaza.
1967	Israel attacks Egypt; Jordan and Syria join the war. The war lasts six days and leaves Israel in control of east Jerusalem, all of West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights and Sinai.
1975	UN General Assembly adopts a resolution describing Zionism as a form of racism but withdraw it in 1991.
1985	Israel departs from the majority of Lebanon; continues to occupy narrow "security zone" along border.
1987	First Intifada in Occupied Territories. Creation of Hamas movement
1993	Israeli PM and PLO leader sign Oslo Declaration to plot Palestinian self-government and end First Intifada
1994	Israel withdraws from most of Gaza and the West Bank. PLO leader moves administration from Tunis; sets up Palestinian National Authority. Jordan and Israel sign peace treaty.
2000	Israel withdraws from southern Lebanon. First Intifada.
2004	ICJ issues advisory opinion that West Bank barrier is illegal.

2005	Israel withdraws all Jewish settlers and military personnel from Gaza, while preserving control over airspace, coastal waters and border crossings. First Intifada ends.
2006	Hamas Islamist group wins Palestinian parliamentary elections
2008	Israel launches invasion of Gaza to prevent Hamas and other groups from launching rockets.
2010	Direct talks resume between Israel and Palestine only to vacillate over the question of settlements.
2014	Atrocities and violence between Israel and Hamas in Gaza
2016	Israel and Turkey reach agreement over 2010 Gaza flotilla attack and normalize relations. US offers military aid package worth \$38bn over next 10 years for Israel (largest such deal in US history). Israel interrupts working ties with 12 countries that voted for a Security Council resolution condemning settlement building, with the US for the first time abstaining rather than vetoing the resolution.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

A solution to the situation at hand seems close to unrealistic, due to violent attacks, efforts for achievement of the peace process and restoration of negotiations between the two nations, illegal Jewish settlements, periodic wars between Hamas and Israel etc. It is necessary to understand the significance of the problem, comprehend the needs and demands of both sides and alert the international community, which imperatively has to hasten its efforts, in order to alleviate the conflict and facilitate negotiations.

Any possible solutions, have to refer to the core issues of the subject:

- West Bank borders,
- Jewish settlements,
- Israeli security,

- Palestinian refugees,
- The question of Jerusalem,
- The Gaza blockade,
- peace development,
- overcoming possible failure of peace processes.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict could have two possible ways of ending, the one state solution and the two states solution.

#### One-state solution

Israel, West Bank and the Gaza strip would be united into one country. There are two different practical applications of this solution: a. to establish a democratic country, where Arab-Muslims would outnumber Jews in the specific area, resulting in the disappearance of the Jewish state; the initial ambition for the Jewish population immigrating to Palestine and b. Israel to occupy the West Bank and force the Palestinian population to flee the area or deprive them from their voting right. Naturally, the aforementioned version cannot be implemented, as it violates human rights.

#### Two-state solution

The expected method of resolving the conflict is by following a policy which will endorse the creation of two separate states, a Palestinian and an Israeli one. Both countries are going to be independent and autonomous, with their individual government under a legal agreement. The only obstacle to that are the borders of each country to be established, since both sides claim the same parts of land.

It is of significance to take measures in order to establish peace and security in the area, but also put an end to a conflict which has cost thousands of lives. Satisfying both parties' demands will hardly be feasible, if not easy. This matter can only be resolved via thorough negotiations and international cooperation.

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