

## Snapshot Timeline of Israel-Palestine: from Ancient Period to 2007

*updated: 2 April 2012*

- **19<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries BCE:** Biblical accounts of lives of Abraham (forefather of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam), Isaac, Ishmael, Jacob, Moses
- **13<sup>th</sup> century BCE:** Israelite conquest of Canaan following exodus from Egypt
- **1020 BCE:** Israelite tribes united in kingdom under Saul
- **1003 BCE:** Reign of David in United Kingdom of Israel, establishes Jerusalem as national capital, achieves military victory over Philistines and other neighbors
- **970 BCE:** Kingdom of Solomon, construction of the First Temple in Jerusalem
- **926 BCE:** King Solomon's death, split between Kingdom of Israel (contained Schechem and Samaria) and Kingdom of Judah (contained Jerusalem)
- **911-608 BCE:** Neo-Assyrian Empire expands territory, including former Egyptian Kingdom and Kingdoms of Judea and Israel; Aramaic is official language of the Empire
- **9<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> century BCE:** pre-Islamic, Arabic dialect-speaking tribes in Arabian peninsula are mentioned in ancient Assyrian texts
- **6<sup>th</sup> century BCE:** peak of the Qedarite (northern Arabian) tribes, descendants of a son of Ishmael; establishment of Petra, capital of the Nabataeans
- **586-7 BCE:** Babylonian siege of Jerusalem and destruction of First Temple
- **1<sup>st</sup> century BCE:** Roman empire takes over region of Judea, renames it Palestine
- **70 CE:** Jerusalem destroyed at the hands of Roman forces, Second Temple razed
- **132-6:** Bar Kokhba revolt, 3<sup>rd</sup> major revolt of Jewish tribes against Roman Empire, fails; Jewish diaspora grows
- **4<sup>th</sup> century:** Constantinople (Istanbul) replaces Rome as capital of Roman/Byzantine Empire, Empire is increasingly Greek-speaking and Christian, with Jewish minority communities concentrated in cities
- **512:** First recorded text in the Arabic alphabet (in Syria)
- **540-628:** War between Byzantine and Sassanid Empire (Iraq/Iran/C. Asia) Sassanids occupy Syria, Palestine and Egypt before being forced to withdraw
- **570:** Muhammad born into Quraysh tribe in Mecca
- **610:** Muhammad's revelation of the first parts of the Qur'an
- **632:** Muhammad's death
- **636:** Battle of Yarmouk, Arab caliphate, under Umar, defeats Byzantine forces
- **638:** Jerusalem falls to the Arab caliphate; Islam replaces Christianity as the dominant religion among the indigenous population and Arabic becomes the dominant language

- **641:** Final victory of Arab caliphate over Sassanid forces
- **661-750:** Umayyad Caliphate, capital of empire moves to Damascus
- **691-2:** Dome of the Rock built in Jerusalem under Umayyad Caliphate
- **750-1258:** First Abbasid Caliphate, capital of empire moves to Baghdad
- **9<sup>th</sup> century:** Fatimid dynasty conquers Palestine, status of Christians under Muslim rule declines
- **1099:** Siege of Jerusalem, Frankish Kingdom of Jerusalem established, governing Muslim, Jewish, and Eastern Christian subjects
- **1187:** Salah-a-din captures Jerusalem, reclaiming it for Muslim forces, reopens Jerusalem to Jewish population a few years later
- **1261-1517:** Second Abbasid Caliphate
- **12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries:** Jewish migration to Poland, Lithuania and Russia accelerates with Crusades and related persecution
- **1370s:** ‘Abd al-Rahman ibn Khaldun writes history of the Maghrib, and the rise and fall of dynasties (first part of this history is the famous *Muqaddima*)
- **1453:** Constantinople falls to the Ottomans, end of Byzantine Empire
- **1492:** Spanish Inquisition, both Jewish and Muslim populations were forced to convert or were expelled; many Jews flee persecution for territories in Ottoman Empire
- **1519:** Establishment of the Ottoman empire
- **1520-1566:** Reign of Suleiman I (“Suleiman the Great”), who oversees territorial expansion east to Baghdad, modern Hungary, parts of North Africa and far-reaching administrative reforms
- **1680-1768:** Attacks against Jews mount in Ukraine and Poland
- **1798:** Napoleon invades Egypt but was ultimately defeated
- **18<sup>th</sup> century:** Series of Ottoman defeats to Russian Empire
- **1830:** Treaty between the US and Ottoman empire
- **1831:** Jerusalem annexed by Muhammad Ali’s dynasty of Egypt
- **1834:** Arab Peasants Revolt in Palestine against forced conscription by the Egyptian army
- **1839-1876:** *Tanzimat* reform period in Ottoman Empire, including 1858 Land Law that displaced many Arab peasants and allowed for settlement by foreigners, including Zionist immigrants
- **1858:** 1858 Land Law in Ottoman Empire requires land to be registered to individuals, displacing many Arab peasants who had been living on communally-owned property in Palestine

- **1869:** Mark Twain travels around Europe and Palestine aboard a retired US civil war ship and publishes *The Innocents Abroad*
- **1881:** Alexander III becomes new Tsar of Russian Empire, anti-Jewish pogroms begin to spread across the empire; massive Jewish flight from Eastern Europe and Russian Empire, including about 25,000 immigrants to Palestine in the first *aliya* (wave of Zionist migration)
- **1882:** Leon Pinsker anonymously publishes pamphlet *Self-Emancipation* arguing for Jewish national independence; British defeat Egyptian Army and take control of Egypt
- **1894-9:** Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army, convicted of treason and imprisoned on what were later shown to be false charges, revealing anti-Semitism's potency in Europe
- **1897:** First Zionist Congress held in Switzerland, founding of World Zionist Organization, following Theodor Herzl's publication of *The Jewish State*
- **1897-8:** Muhammad Rashid Rida launches *al-Manar* journal with mentor, Egyptian modernist intellectual, Muhammad Abduh; Rida promoted gradual reform toward an Islamic state based on *shari'a* law
- **1905:** First Russian Revolution and pogroms lead to large exodus of Jewish population, with 40,000 migrating to Palestine in the second *aliya*; Najib Azuri publishes *Le Reveil de la Nation Arabe* (The Awakening of the Arab Nation)
- **1908:** First World Zionist Organization office established in Palestine
- **1908-1913:** Young Turk revolution; Arab nationalist activity increases, including formation of regional Arab parties/secret societies to demand autonomy; establishment of a number of Arab nationalist and Palestinian newspapers
- **1913:** First Arab Congress held in Paris, demanding greater Arab autonomy within the Ottoman Empire
- **1914:** Outbreak of World War I, Ottoman Empire signs pact with German Alliance
- **1915-1916:** McMahon-Hussein Correspondence between Sharif Husayn bin Ali of Mecca and Sir Henry McMahon promising United Kingdom's alliance with Arabs and recognition of Arab independence following revolt against Ottomans
- **1916:** Arab Revolt begins at the Battle of Mecca, ending with Ottoman surrender; Sykes-Picot Agreement between the United Kingdom and France dividing region into British and French spheres of influence
- **1917:** The Balfour Declaration is issued, declaring British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine; Under the leadership of General Allenby, the British Army captures the city of Jerusalem; Russian Civil War begins, initiating wave of anti-Jewish pogroms
- **1918:** Ottoman Empire concedes defeat to Allied forces in World War I

- **1919:** First All-Palestine Congress held in Jerusalem, organized by the Muslim-Christian Association, one of the early bastions of Palestinian nationalism; Paris Peace Conference held to determine status of former Ottoman provinces, mandate system established; American sponsored King-Crane commission meanwhile visits the region to determine local desires for future political arrangements
- **1919-1920:** Conferences and meetings held by pan-Arab nationalists in Syria
- **1919-1923:** Third *aliya* immigrants arrive from Russia and Eastern Europe
- **1920:** The British and French mandates in the Middle East are officially recognized in the Treaty of Sèvres; French forces capture Damascus and expel Faisal I, third son of Sharif Hussein bin Ali (leader of the 1916 Arab Revolt)
- **1920-1:** Arab riots began in Jerusalem between Arab and Jewish residents and British police officers; *Haganah*, Jewish paramilitary defense forces, formed
- **1921:** Faisal I becomes King of Iraq under the British mandate; Abdullah I appointed emir of Transjordan; al-Hajj Amin al-Husayni appointed Mufti of Jerusalem by the British
- **1922:** League of Nations entrusts Mandate for Palestine, Mandate for Transjordan, and the Iraq Mandate to the British; The first Supreme Muslim Council is elected with al-Hajj Amin al-Husayni elected president
- **1923:** French mandate of Syria becomes official; Britain recognizes Transjordan as independent government, although maintains a military presence
- **1925:** Palestine Arab Workers Society, the first major Palestinian union, established in Haifa
- **1929:** Jewish Agency for Palestine officially established by World Zionist Congress; Western Wall Uprising and Hebron massacre spark riots in Tel Aviv, Haifa, and elsewhere across the country; 133 Jews are killed, mostly by Arab rioters, and hundreds wounded; 116 Arabs are killed, mostly by British security forces, and hundreds wounded
- **1930:** British White Paper published recommending restricted Jewish immigration; Mapai party founded
- **1931:** *Irgun*, a Revisionist Zionist paramilitary splinter group, formed after splitting from the Haganah
- **1932:** Kingdom of Iraq granted independence from British rule
- **1932-5:** Formation of a number of pan-Arab and Palestinian political parties, including Istiqlal, the Youth Congress, the National Defense Party, and the Palestine Arab Party
- **1933:** Adolf Hitler becomes chancellor of Germany
- **1935:** Death of Sheikh Izz al-Din al-Qassam, a leader of resistance movement against the *yishuv*; Nuremburg Laws introduced in Germany, depriving Jewish population of civil rights, including right to marry non-Jews
- **1936:** Egypt granted independence

- **1936-9:** Palestinian uprising against British rule and Jewish immigration
- **1937:** Peel Commission recommends partition between Jewish and Arab state for the first time
- **1939:** MacDonal White Paper rejects partition and recommends binational government, recommends further restrictions on Zionist immigration; Britain declares war against Germany, formally entering World War II
- **1939-40:** Following Nazi invasion of Poland, ghettos and extermination camps are set up, beginning massacre of approximately six million European Jews (Holocaust) and other minorities
- **1942:** Extraordinary Zionist Congress convened in New York, calling for the opening up of Palestine as a refuge to Jews in Europe; Portions of Zionist movement become more militant and more firmly against partition as a solution
- **1945:** The Arab League is formed with newly independent states of Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Transjordan, Saudi Arabia and Yemen
- **1946:** The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan achieves official independence with Abdullah I, the second son of Sharif Hussein bin Ali, as first king
- **1947:** United Nations General Assembly recommends the Partition Plan for Palestine (Resolution 181), civil war erupts in Palestine
- **1948:** End of the British Mandate on May 14, Israel declares independence with Jewish Agency for Palestine, led by David Ben-Gurion, becoming the provisional government; Beginning of the Arab-Israeli War (War of Independence / *al-Nakba*) hundreds of thousands of Palestinians left their homes for Arab-controlled territories (West Bank and Gaza) or neighboring Arab countries
- **1949:** Armistice agreement between Israel and Arab forces, demarcating cease fire lines; First Knesset elections are held, Mapai wins 36% of popular vote and nominates Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister
- **1951:** Abdullah I, King of Jordan, is assassinated in Jerusalem; Elections for the Second Knesset are held
- **1952:** Gamal Abdel Nasser and the Free Officers overthrow King Farouq's monarchy in Egypt, spurring the establishment of the modern republic
- **1956:** Suez Crisis (1956 War): Egyptian President Nasser nationalizes Suez Canal, British and French forces unsuccessfully attempt to regain control of the Canal with support of Israel
- **1958:** Syria and Egypt merge to form the United Arab Republic
- **1959:** Fatah founded with Yasser Arafat, head of the General Union of Palestinian Students in Cairo, as its head
- **1964:** Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) founded as umbrella organization for all Palestinian factions, with support of Egypt
- **1967:** Six-Day War begins on June 5: Israel launches air and land attack in response to Soviet intelligence and conquers the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula,

the Golan Heights, and the West Bank; Arab League Summit in Khartoum issues resolution confirming League members would engage in no peace, no recognition, and no direct negotiations with Israel; United Nations Resolution 242 is adopted unanimously by the Security Council calling for Israel withdraw from occupied territories, a termination of all hostilities, and a just resolution to the refugee problem

- **1969:** Fatah consolidates power in PLO at the Palestinian National Congress meeting; Yasser Arafat appointed Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee
- **1970:** Death of Gamal Abdul Nasser, President of Egypt; Anwar Sadat succeeds him
- **1970-1:** Jordanian government expels Palestinian organizations from Jordan in what is known as “Black September”; the PLO is expelled and driven to southern Lebanon
- **1973:** Yom Kippur/October War between Egypt, Syria, other Arab countries and Israel; Sinai is returned to Egypt
- **1974:** PLO declared to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people
- **1975-1990:** Lebanese Civil War involving various Lebanese factions, PLO, Israel, Syria and multinational forces results in hundreds of thousands of deaths
- **1977:** Likud party wins legislative elections, Menachim Begin becomes Prime Minister, ending decades of Labor party (previously Mapai) domination
- **1979:** Camp David Summit results in a peace treaty and normalization between Egypt and Israel, Israel withdraws troops from the Sinai
- **1981:** Egyptian President Anwar Sadat assassinated by Islamic extremists
- **1982:** June: Israel invades southern Lebanon, PLO expelled and relocates base to Tunis; September: Assassination of President Bashir Gemayel followed by Israel’s move into West Beirut and the Sabra and Shatila massacre, hundreds (perhaps thousands) of Palestinian and Lebanese civilians are killed at the hands of Maronite militias with tacit aid from the IDF; December: Israel and Lebanon enter into negotiations; Hizbollah is established in southern Lebanon to fight the Israeli occupation
- **1983:** May 17 Agreement between Israel and Lebanon, declaring an end to war, withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and security arrangements
- **1987-1993:** First Intifada begins in 1987 with uprising in Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza; Hamas is founded; Hussein-Peres agreement between Jordan and Israel is signed but never implemented
- **1990:** August: Saddam Hussein invades Kuwait, sparking U.S. intervention with international coalition in Gulf War
- **1991:** February: Hussein’s forces are successfully expelled from Kuwait, the Gulf War ends in coalition victory, 1991 Kurdish uprisings in Iraq are met with fierce

oppression causing mass casualties and forced exodus; October: Madrid Conference launches bilateral and multilateral peace tracks between Israel and Arab representatives; December: The Soviet Union is dissolved, Russian Federation assumes modified role on global stage

- **1992:** June: Israeli legislative elections bring Labor government to power in Israel, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin; November: Bill Clinton beats incumbent George H.W. Bush in US presidential election
- **1993:** January: secret talks begin between Israeli and PLO representatives begin in Oslo; September: Declaration of Principles signed between Israel and the PLO (The Oslo Accords), calling for mutual recognition, immediate Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho, elections, the establishment of the Palesitnian Authority (PA), and future “permanent-status” negotiations; Jordan signs “Common Agenda” with Israel; November: First multiparty general election held in Jordan
- **1994:** February: Baruch Goldstein, American-born Israeli settler, open fires in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron, killing 29 Muslim worshippers and wounding over 100; May: Cairo Agreement between Israel and the PLO as follow-up to Oslo I detailing Israeli withdrawal and transfer of authority in Gaza and Jericho; July: Washington Declaration announces end to Israeli and Jordanian hostilities, plans toward peace; October: Israeli-Jordanian Peace treaty signed
- **1995:** September: Oslo II Agreement signed, defining areas of Palestinian and Israeli jurisdiction in the West Bank and the transfer of further control to the PA; November: Rabin assassinated by far-right Yigal Amir, Shimon Peres becomes interim Prime Minister
- **1996:** String of Hamas suicide bombings on buses and in busy centers in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, each killing tens of Israelis, amidst a general environment of escalating terror attacks; March: Egypt convenes Israeli, American, and Arab leaders at the “Summit of the Peacemakers” in Sharm El-Sheikh; May: Israel holds general election, Prime Minister is elected on a separate ballot for the first time, Benjamin Netanyahu and Likud party prevail; September: Prime Minister Netanyahu authorizes opening of an access point to the Western Wall, sparking confrontations between Palestinians and the Israeli soldiers in the West Bank and Gaza
- **1998:** October: Wye River Memorandum signed calling for more Israeli redeployments from Area C and security cooperation, agree to resume permanent status negotiations
- **1999:** Early Israeli Knesset and Prime Ministerial elections are held, Ehud Barak wins
- **2000:** July: Israeli PM Ehud Barak, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, and members of the Clinton Administration meet at the Camp David Summit fail on issues of Jerusalem, refugees, and territory; September: Outbreak of Second Intifada after Ariel Sharon visits the Temple Mount, sparking riots in Jerusalem, violence escalates across West Bank and Gaza
- **2001:** January: Taba Summit

- **2003:** Road Map
- **2006:** Hamas wins a majority of seats in election for the Palestinian Legislative Council, triggering international sanctions
- **2006-7:** Fighting erupts between Hamas and Fatah after a failure to form a government, Hamas seizes control of the Gaza Strip, triggering Israeli blockade
- **2007:** Annapolis Peace Conference
- **2008-9:** War between Israel and Hamas in Gaza (Operation Cast Lead) kills 1,200 to 1,400 Palestinians and 13 Israelis