

Arab – Israeli conflict

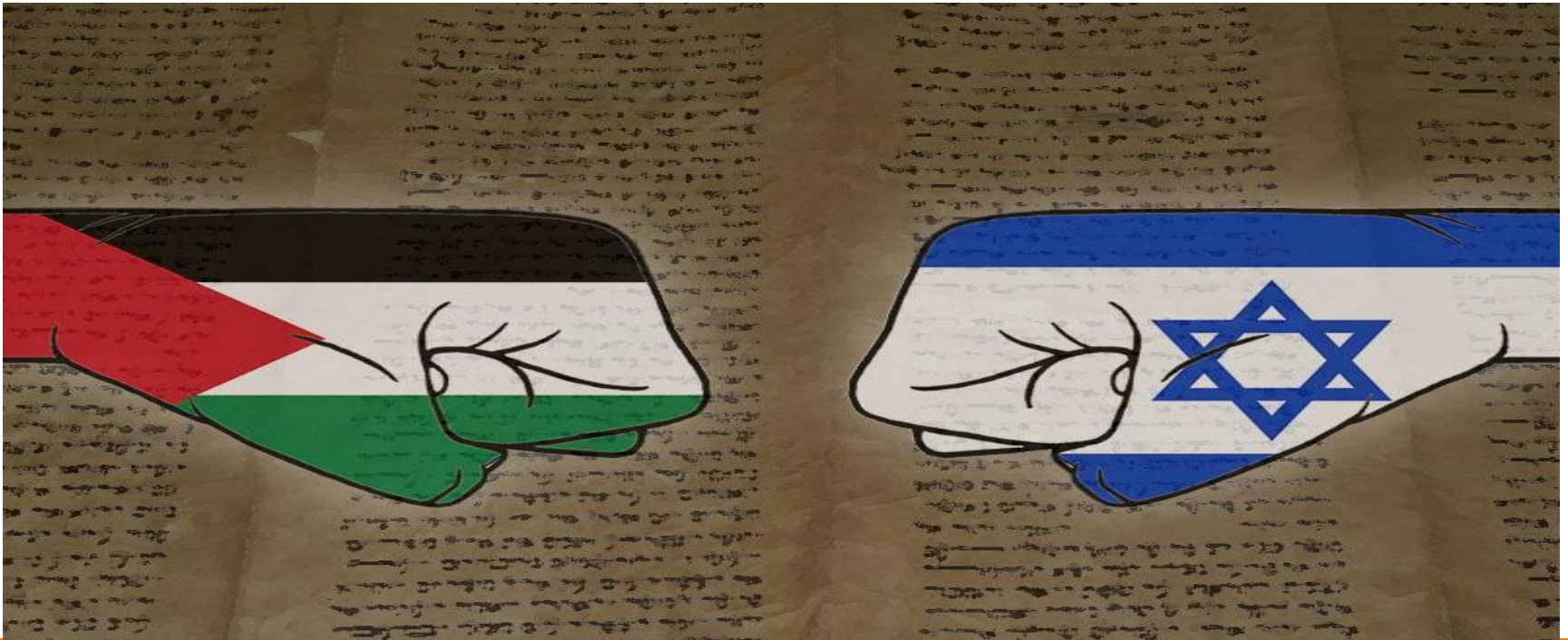
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The Arab–Israeli conflict is a modern phenomenon, which has its roots in the end of the 19th century. The conflict became a major international issue with the birth of Israel in 1948. The Arab–Israeli conflict has resulted in at least five major wars and a number of minor conflicts. It has also been the source of two major Palestinian uprisings.



This conflict begins after WWI, when the Ottoman Empire lost control of the Middle East. The land was divided and European countries were given mandate, or control, of the region. In 1947, the United Nations announced a plan to divide Palestine into an Arab and Jewish state. Jews agreed, but Arabs vowed to do anything needed to prevent the U.N. plan from being carried out.



Major Conflicts:

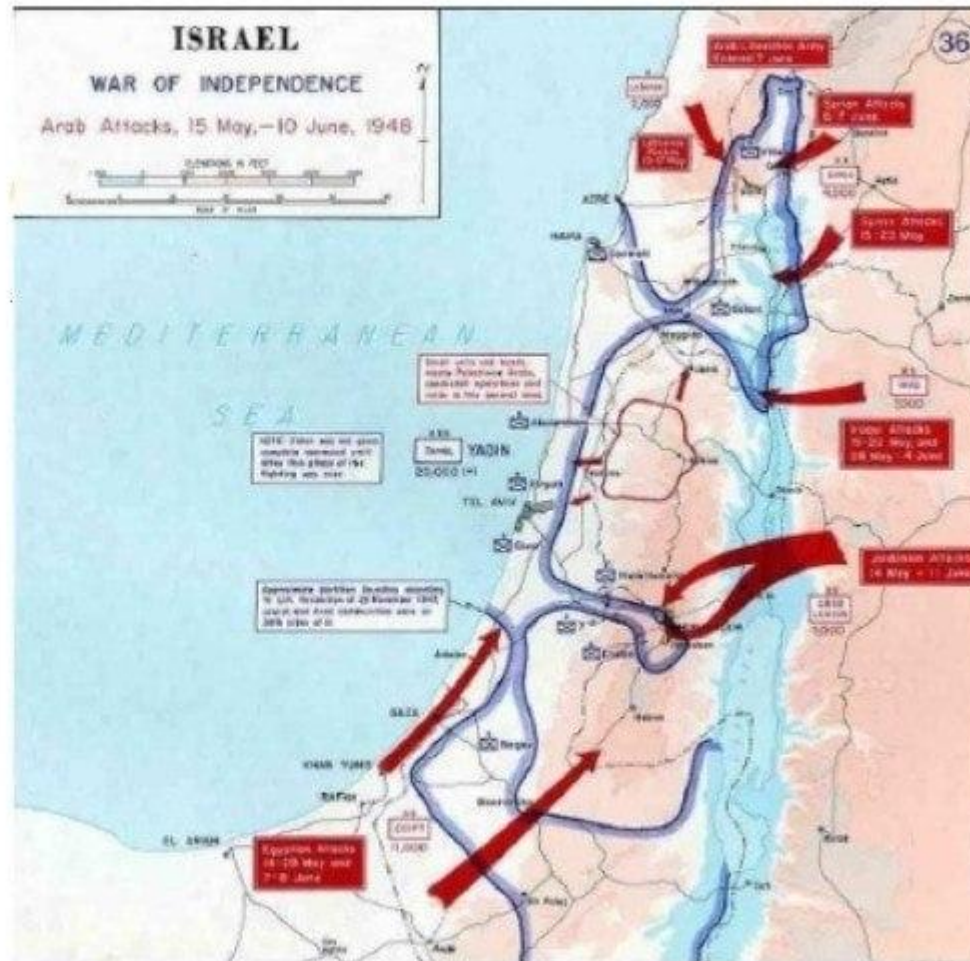
- 1948 – War for Independence
- 1956 – Suez Crisis
- 1967 – Six Day War
- 1973 – Yom Kippur War/October War

1948 First Arab-Israeli War

- May 15, 1948 – Israel declared itself an independent state.
- Led to first Arab-Israeli War.



- Egypt
- Syria
- Jordan
- Iraq
- Lebanon



- Results
 - Israel defeated the combined Arab countries – and seized territory UN had designated for the Palestinians.
 - Cease-fire agreement ended fighting, but Arabs refused to sign peace treaty.
 - No Arab country recognized Israel.
 - 750,000 Palestinian refugees fled to Arab states.

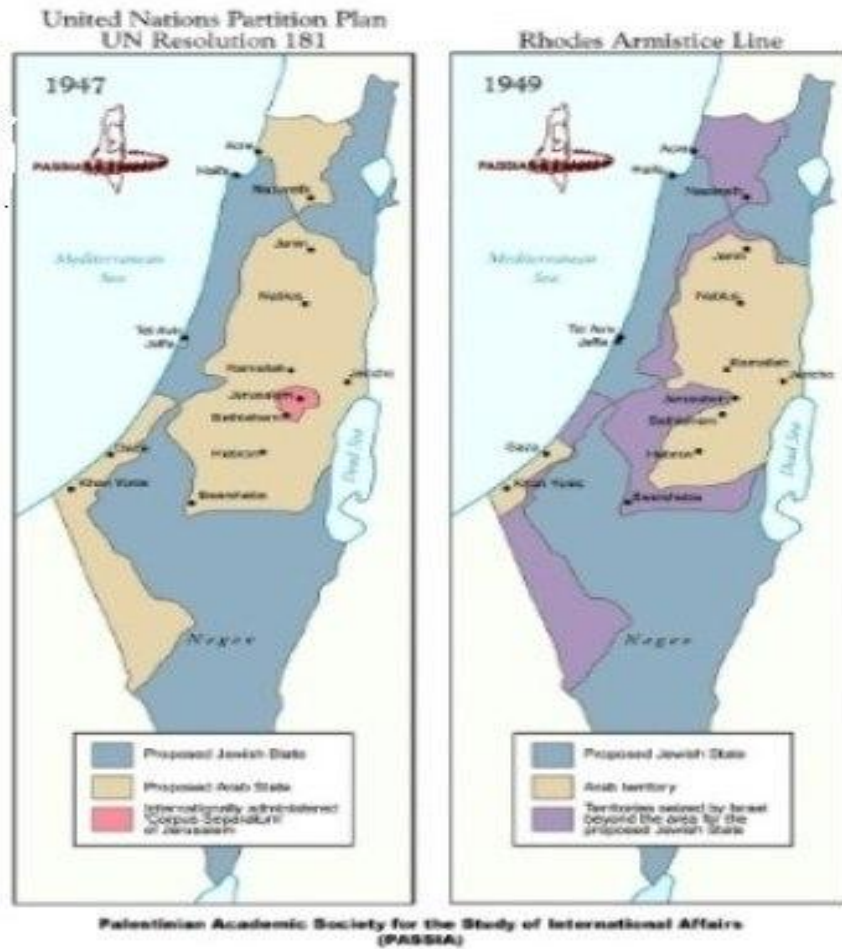


Victorious Israeli soldiers
1948



Palestinian refugees
1948

Israeli territory before and after the 1948 war:



1956 The Suez War

- Egypt nationalized Suez Canal.
- Israel, Britain and France. attacked Egypt and captured the canal and Sinai peninsula.
- U.S. opposed attack and U.S. and U.N. imposed a cease-fire and a withdraw from Sinai.



Egyptian President
Gamel Abdel Nasser



1967 The Six Day War

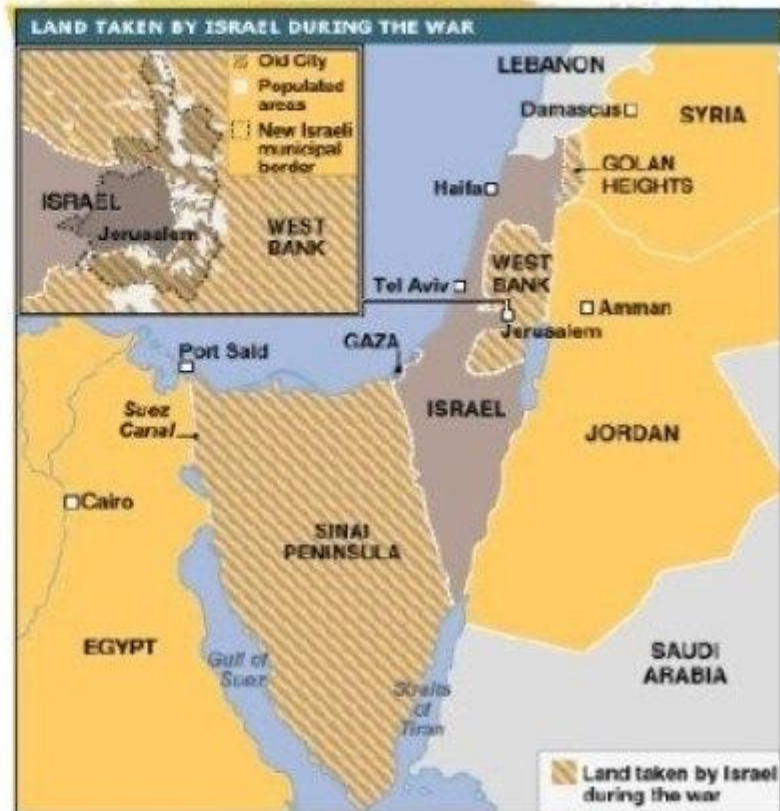
- Israel preemptively attacked Egypt after Egypt mobilized its army.
- Jordan and Syria attacked Israel.
- War ended with decisive victory for Israel and Israel tripled amount of territory it controlled.



Results of Six Day War

Israel captured this territory in 1967:

- **Golan Heights** from Syria.
- **West Bank and East Jerusalem** from Jordan.
- **Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip** from Egypt.



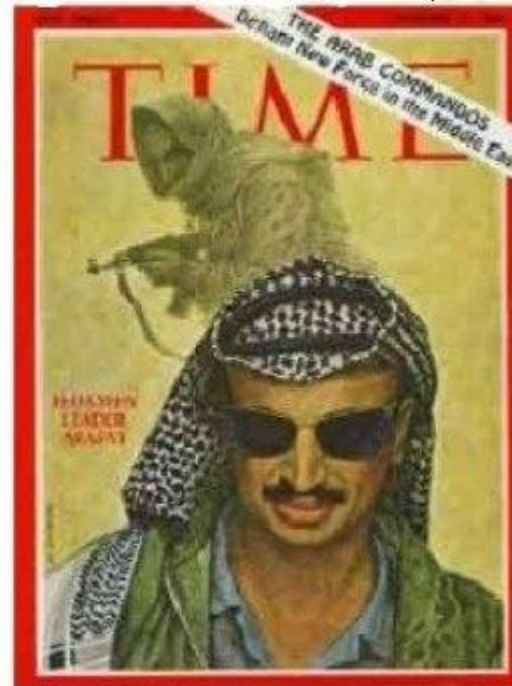
Results of the Six Day War

- Israel now governed 1 million **Palestinians** in Gaza and the West Bank.
- UN Security Council passed **Resolution 242** calling for Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories. Israel refused.
- Also called for Arab states to recognize Israel and guarantee security of Israel's borders.



Results of the Six Day War

- Arab's suffered humiliating defeat, but Arab leaders remained committed to Israel's destruction.
- Many Palestinians became radicalized and turned to guerilla groups like the **PLO**.

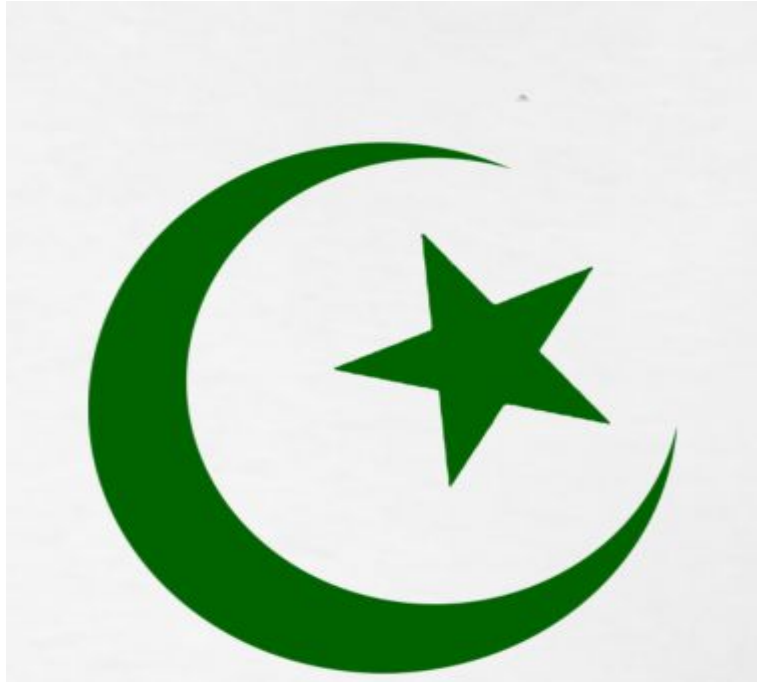


1973 Yom Kippur War

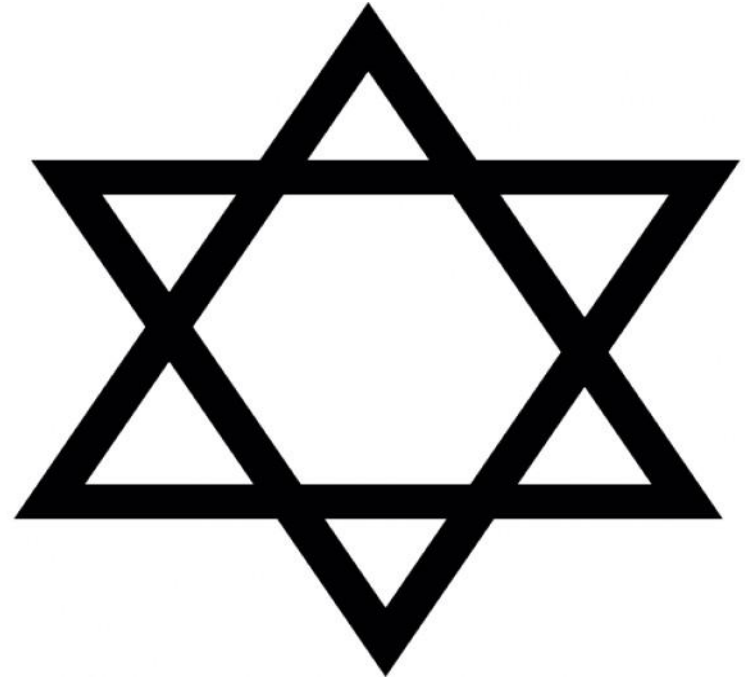
- Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Jewish holy day.
- Israel repelled attack and cease-fire declared.



The most important reason is the religion



Most Palestinians are Muslims



Most Israelis are Jews

The key issues are:

Border security



Control of Jerusalem



Land rights



Legalities concerning refugees.



Water rights



The P.L.O.: The Palestinian Liberation Organization

The Palestine Liberation Organization is an organization founded in 1964 with the purpose of the "liberation of Palestine" through armed struggle, with much of its violence aimed at Israeli civilians

Yasser Arafat's group, Fatah , took control of the PLO (1969-2004).

Actions - Under Arafat, PLO fought a decades-long guerilla war against Israel to "liberate Palestine."

Goals: Destruction of Israel and establishment of secular Palestinian state.



PLO Chairman
Yasser Arafat

1993 -95 The Oslo Accords

After years of violence, in 1993, representatives of the Israelis and the PLO began negotiating a peace accord in Oslo.

This peace agreement allowed for a limited progress towards autonomy for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza (under the control of Fatah and the PLO) in return for their agreement to renounce violence and acknowledge the existence of Israel.

The agreements were hailed as a victory by moderate Israelis and Palestinians, but angered militants on both sides culminating in the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin of Israel by an Israeli in 1995



Israel–The United States relations



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