

Israel/Palestine

- **1947:** UN Partition Plan for Palestine announced.
- **1948:** British Mandate ends. State of Israel proclaimed, recognized by US.
- **1948: Arab-Israeli War: Palestinian Nakba.** Israelis defeat Arab Armies. Palestinians flee terror attacks on civilians. Origin of Palestinian refugee problem. Many Jews fled or were expelled from Arab countries to Israel. Egypt occupied the Gaza strip. Jordan occupied the West Bank and East Jerusalem.
- **1967: Six Day War:** Israel starts preemptive war against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, capturing Gaza from Egypt, West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and Golan Heights from Syria. Palestinians turn to nationalism and away from reliance on pan-Arabism to solve their problems. US ignores Israeli attack on US Navy's USS Liberty, which killed 34 sailors and wounded 173. Johnson Administration supplies Phantom jets to Israel as a commitment to ensure Israeli military superiority in Middle East.
- **1973: Yom Kippur War:** Syrian and Egyptian armies launched surprise attack against Israel. Egyptians and Syrians advanced during the first 24–48 hours, then momentum swings in Israel's favor. Eventually a Disengagement of Forces agreement signed and a ceasefire took effect that ended the war. The Yom Kippur War paved the way for the Camp David Accords in 1978, which set a precedent for future peace negotiations.
- **1978: Camp David Accords:** Israel and Egypt sign a separate peace agreement and normalized relations. President Sadat of Egypt is hailed as a hero in the west. He is assassinated as a traitor in Egypt.
- **1982: Israeli Invasion of Lebanon:** Following several Palestinian attacks in Israel, Israel invades and occupies Lebanon, including south Beirut. PLO forced into exile. Christian Phalangists massacre 3,500 Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. Israeli Kahan Commission found Israeli Defense Forces indirectly responsible for massacre and charged Ariel Sharon with "personal responsibility" for crimes. Prime Minister Menachem Begin fires Sharon as Defense Minister by.
- **1993: January:** Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) negotiators began secret negotiations in Oslo, Norway.
- **1993: September:** Yassar Arafat and PLO officially recognized Israel's right to exist and renounced terrorism. Arafat and Rabin signed a Declaration of Principles. The Oslo peace process begins. Israel and PLO negotiate, unsuccessfully, a two-state solution.

- **1987–1993:** First Intifada was Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories: the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza that Israel had captured from Jordan and Egypt in 1967 Six Day War. Palestinians reacted to de facto annexation through economic integration of the territories with Israel and increase of settler activities. Palestinians established their identity as separate nation claiming self-determination. US recognized PLO.
- **1993: Oslo Accords**— Israel committed to withdraw its forces from parts of Gaza Strip and West Bank, and affirmed right to self-government within those areas through the creation of a Palestinian Authority. PLO formally recognized Israel and committed to responsibility for internal security in population centers placed under their control. Palestinian self-rule was to last for a five-year interim period during which a permanent agreement would be negotiated.
- **1995—Prime minister Rabin assassinated at Peace Rally** by right-wing Israeli opposed to Rabin's signing of the Oslo Accords.
- **2000: May**— Israel ends occupation of Lebanon. Hizbollah gained prestige as a successful resistance movement against Israel.
- **2000: July 11-25**— Camp David Middle East Peace Summit Fails because of disagreements over territory, status of Jerusalem, right of return for refugees, and Israeli security concerns.
- **2000-2008: Second Intifada**— Continuing Palestinian frustration with expanding settlements, economic strangulation, and Israeli appropriation of Palestinian water resources leads to suicide bombing attacks within Israel. Israeli military operations leave hundreds of Palestinians dead.
- **2005:** Israel withdraws from Gaza
- **2006: January**— General elections for the Palestinian Legislative Council are held. Unexpectedly, Hamas, an Islamist fundamentalist group, won a majority of 74 seats. Fatah won 45. The US and European Union declare Hamas a terrorist organization and its gaining control over the Palestinian Authority would risk international aid to the PA.
- **2008 December – 2009 January: Operation Cast Lead.** Israel breaks cease fire with Hamas in Gaza Strip and wages war on the civilian population. 1400 civilians dead including 700 children.
- **2009:** Goldstone Report accuses Israel and Hamas of war crimes against civilians. US Congress rejects Goldstone Report criticisms of Israel.
- **2010:** US Vice President Joe Biden, in Israel for US-mediated peace talks, denounces Israel's plan for 1600 new settlements on occupied Palestinian land in East Jerusalem.