

Recent History

1878 - the establishment of the first Zionist agricultural settlement.

1882-1903 - the first wave of Zionist immigrants from Eastern Europe were allowed to enter Palestine. During this period Baron Edmund of Paris begins a financial campaign in support of the Jews in Palestine.

1904-1914 - the second wave of Zionist Jews numbering forty thousand entered Palestine. At this point, they make up 6% of the total population of Palestine. The famous slogan is coined "*a land without people for a people without land*"

1914 CE- This year saw the commencement of World War 1

1916 CE - The Arab revolt against the Ottomans encouraged by the British. The revolt was led by Faysal, son of Husayn (Shareef of Hijaz) and T.E Lawrence ("Lawrence of Arabia") This era also witnessed the infamous Mc Mohan-Husayn correspondence.

The Sykes-Picot, a secret treaty between Britain, France and Russia to divide and carve out the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire. Britain was allocated control of areas roughly comprising of the coastal strip between the sea and River Jordan, Jordan, southern Iraq, and a small area including the ports of Haifa and Acre, to allow access to the Mediterranean. France was allocated control of south-eastern Turkey, northern Iraq, Syria and Lebanon. Russia was to get Istanbul, the Turkish Straits and the Ottoman Armenian *vilayets*. The controlling powers were left free to decide on state boundaries within these areas.

1917 CE- The Balfour Declaration "His Majesty's government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country"

1918 CE - British took over Jerusalem at the hands of General Allenby. Upon his entry into the Blessed Land, he remarked "What the crusaders started then, I am finishing now" (Walsh, Pat. "Ireland and the Last Crusade")

1919-1923 CE - The third wave of Zionist immigrants to Palestine took place which included more than 35000 Jews. This brought the total Jewish population to 12%.

1920 CE - The San Remo conference. British mandate for Palestine was constructed which was a rejoicing moment for the Zionist.

1921 CE - The British divided the region which consisted of present day Israel, West bank, Gaza and Jordan in two: East of the Jordan River became the Emirate of Transjordan, to be ruled by Faysal's brother Abdullah, and west of the Jordan River became the Palestine Mandate.

The formation of the secret and illegal Zionist military organisation called the *Haganah* which instilled terror within the Palestinians. However, the British mandate turned a blind eye on their activities and at the same time, strict laws were imposed on the Palestinians from acquiring any kind of weapons including pocket knives.

1922 CE - The first British Census of Palestine published in October 1922, Muslims 78% Arab Christians 11% Jews 9.6%

1929 CE - A war broke out between Jews and Palestinians in which the British intervened and killed 116 Palestinians and wounded 232.

1935 CE - Martyrdom of Shaikh Izzudin Al-Qassam who fought against the British occupation in Palestine

1938 CE - The terror war begins against the Palestinians, burning of entire families and villages

1947 CE - The UN General Assembly voted to partition Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab. 60% of Palestinian land was given to the Jewish Zionist. Greece, France, Liberia and Philippines as well as several Latin American countries were blackmailed or bribed into supporting this U.N vote. (*Jerusalem Post, and America And The Founding Of Israel p. 141-143*)

1948 - April - Deir Yassin Massacre 107 Palestinian civilians are massacred. All Palestinian quarters in West Jerusalem are occupied by *Haganah* and the residents are driven out.

1 May - The Zionists forces occupied and massacred more than 70 civilians from 'Ayn al-Zaytun.

3 May - 175-200,000 Palestinian refugees reported to have fled from areas taken by Zionists.

15 May - the British evacuated Palestine, and Zionist leaders proclaimed the State of Israel a day before on the 14th.

May - Arab-Israeli War

1948 CE - Al-Nakba (the Catastrophe) marks the day of the mass expulsion and the dispossession of the Palestinian people during the war which had broken out in Palestine. A newly-created Israel forcibly seized around 675 villages and towns in historic Palestine. Of these, 476 villages were totally destroyed and ethnically cleansed of their Palestinian inhabitants. A Palestinian population of almost 1.5 million people – the majority in their country – was effectively reduced by an estimated 85 percent to make way for Jewish immigrants from mainly Eastern Europe.

By 1949 CE-, some 750,000 Palestinians had become refugees and several tens of thousands had become internally displaced in their own homeland. Only some 150,000 of them had remained behind only to be subject to Israeli rule.



Deir Yassin Massacre
1948

1967 CE- This is a hugely important part of the conflict today. Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and Gaza began in 1967. Up to that point, Gaza had been (more or less) controlled by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan. But in 1967 there was another war between Israel and its Arab neighbours, during which Israel occupied the two Palestinian territories. (Israel also took control of Syria's Golan Heights, which it annexed in 1981, and Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, which it returned to Egypt in 1982.) Israeli forces have occupied and controlled the West Bank ever since. It withdrew its occupying troops and settlers from Gaza in 2005, but maintains a full blockade of the territory, which has turned Gaza into what human rights organizations sometimes call an "open-air prison" and has pushed the unemployment rate up to 40 percent.

Israel says the occupation is necessary for security given its tiny size: to protect Israelis from Palestinian attacks and to provide a buffer from foreign invasions. But that does not explain the settlers.

Settlers are Israelis who move into the West Bank. They are widely considered to violate international law, which forbids an occupying force from moving its citizens into occupied territory. Many of the 500,000 settlers are just looking for cheap housing; most live within a few miles of the Israeli border, often in the around surrounding Jerusalem. Others move deep into the West Bank to claim land for Jews, out of religious fervour and/or a desire to see more or all of the West Bank absorbed into Israel.

1964 CE-The Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) is established and Mr. Ahmad Al-Shukairi is elected as the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

1965 CE-On 1 January, the Al-'Asifa military wing of the Fateh movement starts armed struggle against Israel. The Fateh movement had been organized underground in the mid-1950s as a Palestinian national movement.

1967 CE-War breaks out.

Israel occupies East Jerusalem. Immediately after occupying East Jerusalem Israel destroys the entire Magharbi quarter in the walled Old City and in its place builds a large plaza for Jewish worshippers.

Soon after its occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem, Israel begins to confiscate Palestinian land and to establish Jewish settlements (housing and other infrastructure in specific locations) in all of the occupied territories, as well as to transfer parts of its population into these settlements.

1969 CE-On 9 December, the U.N. General Assembly adopts resolution 2535 (XXIV) reaffirming the *inalienable* rights of the people of Palestine.

1980 CE- The European Economic Community Summit adopts the Venice Declaration on 13 June. The Declaration states that "a just solution must finally be found to the Palestinian problem, which is not simply one of refugees. The Palestinian people . . . must be placed in a position . . . to exercise fully their right to self-determination." The Declaration also states that any unilateral initiative designed to change the status of Jerusalem is unacceptable and "that Israeli settlements are illegal under international law."

- On 30 July, in flagrant disregard of international opposition and international law, the Israeli Knesset adopts the *Basic Law of Jerusalem*, reaffirming the de facto annexation of pre-1967 Palestinian East Jerusalem, and declaring that "Jerusalem, whole and united, is the capital of Israel."

In response, the U.N. Security Council adopts resolution 478 (1980) of 20 August in which it "censures in the strongest terms the enactment by Israel of the 'basic law' on Jerusalem" and affirms that it "constitutes a violation of international law and does not affect the continued application of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 12 August 1949 in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since June 1967, including Jerusalem." The resolution also "determines that all administrative measures and actions taken by Israel, the occupying Power, which have altered or purport to alter the character and the status of the Holy City of Jerusalem, and in particular, the recent 'basic law' on Jerusalem, are null and void and must be rescinded forthwith." It also calls upon member states with diplomatic Missions in Jerusalem to "withdraw such Missions from the Holy City."

1981- On 7 June, Israeli military planes destroy the Iraqi nuclear plant.

On 17 July, Israeli jets bomb PLO structures in Beirut, killing 300 people.

1985- On 3 January, Israel discloses its Falasha Transfer Operation, which it had been conducting for the past 5 years, bringing Jews from Ethiopia to Israel.

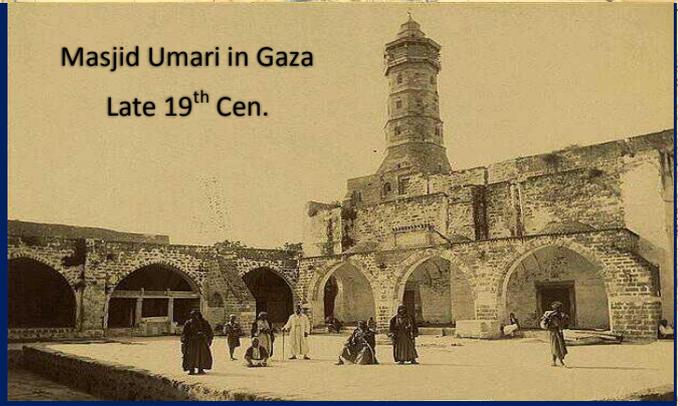
1987- The Palestinian *Intifada* (Uprising) against the Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza begins on 8 December.

1988- On 16 January, Israel announces that the Intifada will be met with an "Iron Fist Policy" which involves severe beatings (termed the "breaking of bones"), mass arrests and detentions, deportations, home demolitions, destruction of private property, and the use of live ammunition and rubber bullets.

- On 16 February, 2 Israelis soldiers are accused of burying alive 4 Palestinians.

Masjid Umari in Gaza

Late 19th Cen.



- On 16 April, Israel assassinates PLO leader Khalil Al-Wazir (Abu Jihad) at his home in Tunis, Tunisia.
- On 11 May, the Unified Leadership of the Intifada declares civil disobedience.

1990- On 20 May, an Israeli opens fire at Palestinian workers in the Israeli town of Herzelyia, near Tel Aviv, killing 8. On 8 October The Israeli army kills 8 Palestinians and injures more than 150 at Al-Aqsa Mosque inside Haram Al-Sharif in Jerusalem.

In the month of December, Jewish immigration to Israel from the Soviet Union, at 187,000, reaches its highest number for one year since the establishment of Israel.

1991- On 16 December, the General Assembly adopts resolution 48/86, revoking the determination made by General Assembly. resolution 339 of November 1979 determining Zionism to be a form of racism and discrimination.

1993- Oslo Agreement is signed . PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli PM Yitzhak Rabin exchange letters of mutual recognition. In his letter to Rabin, Arafat recognizes “the right of the state of Israel to exist in peace and security” and renounces “the use of terrorism and other acts of violence.” In his letter, Rabin recognizes the PLO as the representative of the Palestinian people. The famous handshake between Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin takes place.

1994- An Israeli settler massacres about 30 Palestinian worshippers at Al Haram al-Ibrahimi in Al-Khalil (Hebron), on 25 February, during the holy month of Ramadan.

1995- The PLO and Israel sign the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in Washington, D.C. on 28 September. This agreement supersedes previous implementation agreements.

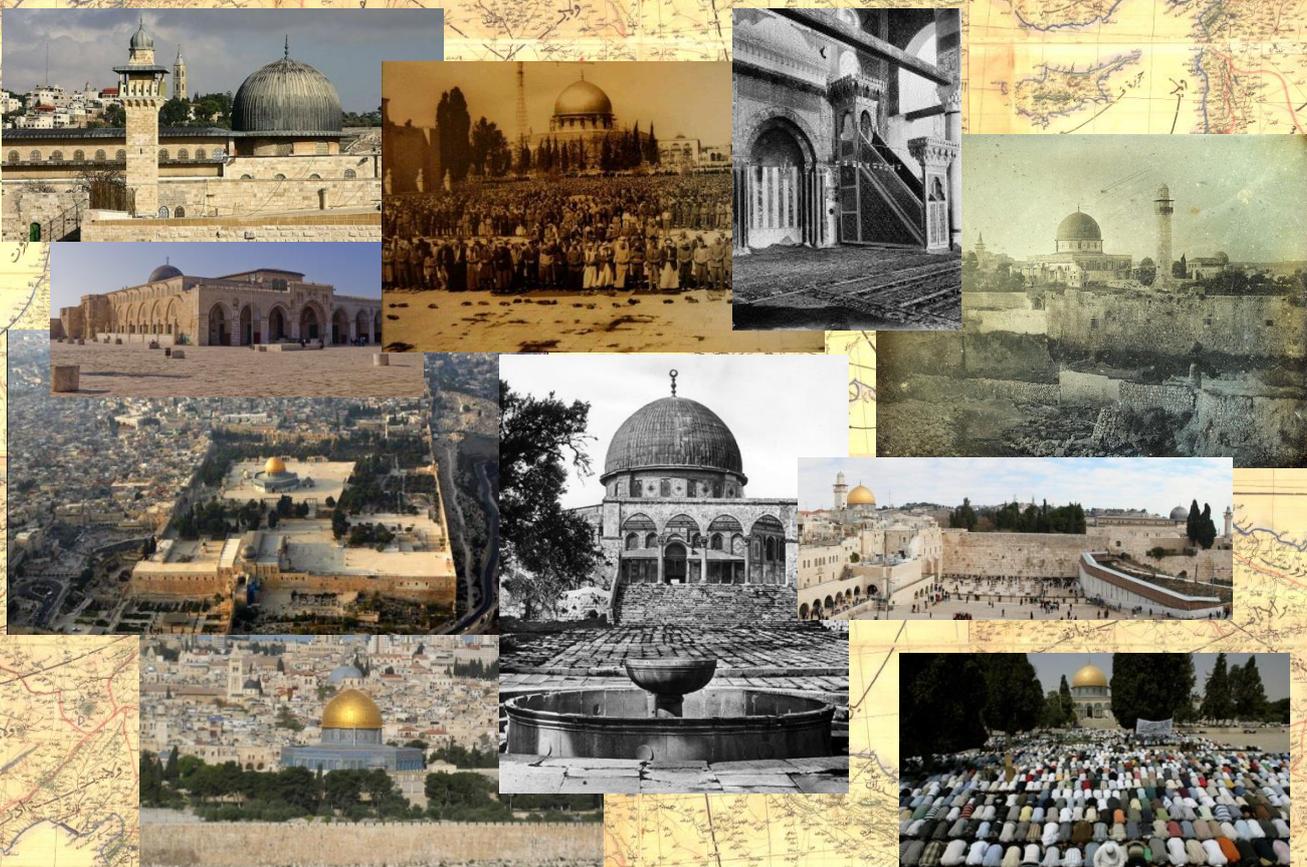
- Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated on 4 November in Tel Aviv by an Israeli extremist.

1996- On 30 May, Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu defeats Shimon Peres by a slim margin in the Israeli elections.

The Israeli government opens a tunnel near Al Haram Al-Sharif in the Old City in East Jerusalem on 24 September. Palestinians demonstrate against the Israeli action throughout the occupied Palestinian territory and in the ensuing days demonstrations continue and clashes take place between the Palestinian police and the Israeli soldiers, resulting in casualties on both sides. The Israeli army uses tanks and gun helicopters against both Palestinian police and civilians. The events result in the killing of 69 Palestinians, 15 Israeli soldiers and one Egyptian.

1997- The U.S. vetoes a Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem, presented by the four European members of the Council, on 7 March. The resolution calls upon Israel to abandon its impending construction of a new settlement at Jabal Abu Ghneim, to the south of East Jerusalem. On 21 March, the U.S. again vetoes a Security Council resolution calling upon Israel to halt the construction at Jabal Abu Ghneim.

On 7 May, the U.N. Committee against Torture in Geneva summons Israel for a hearing to face charges that it violates the International Convention against Torture. The committee criticizes Israel for being the sole nation to have codified and legalized the use of torture in interrogation.



Clockwise Right to Left: Masjidul Aqsa 1844; Mimbar of Nur-ud-Deen Zangi; Al-Aqsa late 19th C.; Al-Aqsa Dome & Minaret; Aqsa Masjid Front; The Haram Shareef of Aqsa; Dome of the Rock; Old Dome of the Rock (middle); Jummah with Dome of the Rock background; Buraq wall.

