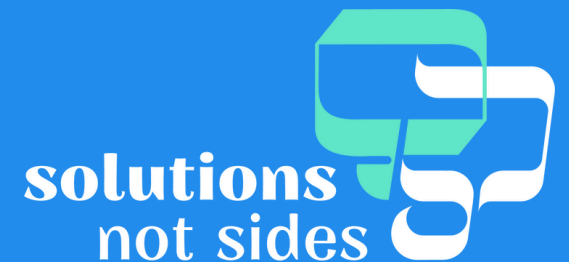


# A TIMELINE OF EVENTS IN PALESTINE-ISRAEL



# Israel-Palestine Historical Timeline



**1897**  
First Zionist Congress meets in Basel.

**1916**

The British Commissioner in Egypt promises the Arab leadership post-war independence for former Ottoman Arab provinces.



**1917 - The Balfour Declaration**  
British Foreign Minister Arthur Balfour commits Britain to work towards "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people", in a letter to leading Zionist Lord Rothschild.

**1929**

Over 60 Jews killed and many injured in Hebron Massacre following rumours that Jews were planning on seizing control of the Temple Mount.



**1937 - The Peel Commission**  
Lord Peel recommends partitioning a third of British Mandate Palestine into a Jewish state and making the rest an Arab state. Palestinian & Arab representatives reject this and demand an end to Jewish immigration. Violent opposition continues until 1938 before being crushed with reinforcements from the UK.

**1920**

Palestine becomes British Mandate after Ottomans defeated in WWI.

**1936-37**

The Arab Revolt against the British administration begins, at the height of Jewish immigration to Palestine. This immigration was facilitated by the British and occurred in various waves from 1917 onwards.

**1947**

Britain hands responsibility for resolving the conflict over to the UN. The UN recommends a partition of the land in a state of Israel and a state of Palestine, which is accepted by Israeli leaders and rejected by Arab leaders, who felt that the percentage of land was disproportionate, and that previous promises made to them had been broken. Civil war breaks out in the land.



## The Nakba/War of Independence

**1948**

The war results in the mass displacement of over 750,000 Palestinians by Jewish militants, and in many fleeing their homes, and creates a refugee crisis. 'Nakba' means 'Catastrophe' in Arabic.

**14th May 1948**

David Ben-Gurion proclaims the establishment of the new State of Israel.

## April 1948 - Deir Yassin Massacre

The massacre of around 100 Palestinians by some members of Jewish paramilitary groups leads to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fleeing to Lebanon, Egypt and the area which is now the West Bank. As well as this massacre, hundreds of other Arab villages were also destroyed.

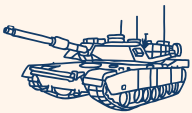
**15th May 1948**

Neighbouring Arab countries declare war on the new state of Israel and the civil war turns into a war between Israel and its neighbours.



**1964**

The Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) is established. Yasser Arafat becomes its chairman five years later.



**1967**

The Six Day War begins on 5 June when Arab armies amass on Israel's border. Israel launches a pre-emptive air strike and defeats the armies of Syria, Jordan and Egypt. Israel gains the West Bank (from Jordan), Gaza and the Sinai (from Egypt) and the Golan Heights (from Syria). Israel also annexes East Jerusalem, previously under the control of Jordan. The term 'occupation' that we hear today refers to these lands that Israel occupied in 1967. The Al Aqsa compound remains under the Jordanian Waqf.

**1972**

11 members of the Israeli team killed by the Black September group at the Munich Olympics.

**1970**

The PLO is headquartered in Jordan where it continues to grow. Tensions increase between the PLO and Jordanian leadership, resulting in an armed conflict known as Black September. The PLO is expelled from Jordan and regroups in Lebanon. The People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a faction within the PLO, hijacks passenger planes in order to draw international attention to Palestine.

**1973**

The Yom Kippur War catches Israel off-guard following a surprise attack from Egypt and Syria. The war lasts for nearly three weeks, and ends following international pressure for a ceasefire.

**1956**

## Suez Crisis

Israel, the UK and France unsuccessfully invade Egypt to try to regain control of the Suez Canal. Thousands of Jews ordered to leave Egypt in the aftermath.

**1974**

Yasser Arafat makes a speech at the UN. It becomes a watershed moment for the Palestinian struggle for international recognition. A year later, a US State Department Official would state that "the legitimate interests of the Palestinian Arabs must be taken into account in the negotiating of an Arab-Israeli peace".



**1978**

Egypt and Israel sign the Camp David peace accords in September 1978 outlining "the framework for peace in the Middle East" which includes limited autonomy for Palestinians. It also leads to the eventual return of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt.

**1982**

Lebanon war breaks out following fighting between the IDF and the PLO, which was based at the time in Southern Lebanon. Israel eventually withdraws slowly and in multiple stages, partly caused by global and national anger at the massacre at Sabra and Shatila refugee camp. This was a Phalange or Lebanese militia massacre of Palestinians in which Israel's responsibility was disputed.





1987-1993

### The First Intifada

The Palestinian National Council (a government-in-exile) convenes in Algeria in November and votes to accept a "two-state" solution based on the 1947 UN partition, to renounce terrorism and to seek a negotiated settlement calling for Israel to withdraw from territory captured in the 1967 war.

1988



### 1993 - The Oslo Accords

The election of the left-wing Labour government in June 1992, led by Yitzhak Rabin, triggers a period of Israeli-Arab peacemaking in the mid-1990s. Israel finally agrees to allow PLO participants in peace talks, culminating in the Declaration of Principles, signed on the White House lawn and sealed with a historic first handshake between Rabin and Arafat watched by 400 million people around the world.

On May 4, Israel and the PLO reach an agreement in Cairo to implement Israel's military withdrawal from most of the Gaza Strip, excluding Jewish settlements and the land around them and from the Palestinian town of Jericho in the West Bank. On 1 July, jubilant crowds line the streets of Gaza to cheer Yasser Arafat's return to Palestine after 27 years in exile. The Palestinian National Authority (PA) in the autonomous areas is formed.

1994

### 1995-2003

Several rounds of peace negotiations take place during these years but fail to bring about a lasting resolution:

- 1995 Oslo II negotiations, building on the Oslo Accords
- 2000: Bill Clinton invites Yasser Arafat and Ehud Barak to a summit at Camp David
- 2002: Arab Peace Initiative is proposed by the Saudi Crown Prince
- 2003: Geneva Initiative led by former Palestinian and Israeli officials
- 2003: The US, Russia, EU and UN create a roadmap to peace

1995

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish religious extremist on November 4th sending shockwaves around the world.

A mass uprising - or intifada - against the Israeli occupation begins in Gaza and quickly spreads to the West Bank. Protests & actions mainly take the form of civil disobedience, throwing stones and molotov cocktails, general strikes, boycotts on Israeli products, graffiti, and barricades. The uprising gets widespread international attention. The Israeli Defence Forces respond with plastic bullets and sometimes live ammunition, which is criticized as disproportionate. During the six years, 1551 Palestinians, 271 Israeli citizens, and 150 Israeli security forces were killed.

Yasser Arafat is taken ill and flown to France in late October 2004. He dies of a mysterious blood disorder on 11 November. Mahmoud Abbas is elected president of the PA in January 2005.

2004-05

2002

Palestinian militants step up their suicide attacks against Israeli citizens in 2002 as the death toll increases at an alarming rate. Israel responds with Operation Defensive Shield, building a "security barrier" along the West Bank that Palestinians see as an attempt to annex more land.



### 2000-05 - The Second Intifada

Ariel Sharon with an Israeli political delegation tours the Temple Mount, a provocative act to Palestinians, spurring demonstrations. The demonstrations marked a start to the violent Second Intifada lasting five years. During this time, 1010 Israelis and over 3000 Palestinians were killed. The Palestinians militant groups engaged in numerous suicide bombings, rock throwing and gunfire, while the Israelis responded with gunfire, tank and air attacks, and numerous targeted killings.

1996

Benjamin Netanyahu wins the election on 29 May, campaigning against the Oslo peace deals. Tensions increase under Netanyahu's settlement and religious sites policies.

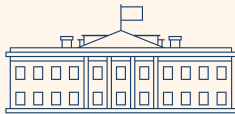


2006

Hamas wins a landslide majority in the Palestinian elections and ousts Fatah from Gaza.

2007

Israel and Egypt implement a full blockade of Gaza, controlling the crossing of people and goods across its borders.



Clashes between Hamas and Israel erupted with the deadliest violence since the 2008 Gaza invasion. Israel and Hamas exchange rocket fire killing and wounding dozens of Israelis and Palestinians.

2014

 @realDonaldTrump • 21st March 2019  
After 52 years it is time for the United States to fully recognise Israel's Sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which is of critical strategic and security importance to the State of Israel and Regional Stability!

2017

Donald Trump announces that the US government would recognize Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel. This was followed by the move of the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem soon after.

2012

Hamas and the PA form a reconciliation agreement as tensions rise on both sides leading to more violence. During seven weeks of fighting, approximately 2,100 Palestinians were killed (approx. 1617 civilians and 693 Hamas militants), with more than 11,000 wounded and 100,000 left homeless. On Israel's side, 64 soldiers and six civilians were killed while 469 soldiers and 256 civilians were injured.

2010

Obama, Abbas and Netanyahu gather to restart negotiations and direct them towards a two-state solution, with a Jewish state of Israel and the creation of a state for the Palestinian people.

2008-09

Israel launches 'Operation Cast Lead' in a full-scale invasion of Gaza to counteract the launching of rockets by Hamas. In January 2009 Israel and Hamas agree to a unilateral ceasefire ending months of war.

2010-20

Israeli settlement policy sees expansion and development of settlements in the West Bank

Hamas launches an attack on Israel, killing over 1,000 civilians and injuring and kidnapping hundreds more. Israel responds by declaring war and invading Gaza with the intent of wiping out Hamas through extensive bombing and the destruction of a vast amount of Gaza, killing an estimated 40,000 Palestinians, as of summer 2024. Subject to investigation, the ICC proclaims that Hamas and Israel have carried out war crimes, and the ICJ investigates an accusation brought by South Africa that Israel is committing genocide, ruling that it found it plausible that Israel's actions could amount to genocide and issued provisional measures.

October 2023-ongoing

June 2021 May 2021

The Ra'am party becomes the first Arab party in over 50 years to form part of a government coalition, with Yair Lapid and Naftali Bennett. The coalition falls in 2022 and is succeeded by the current Netanyahu-led coalition.

11 days of intense violence erupts, triggered by the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court to evict 6 families from the neighbourhood of Sheikh Jarrah. Over 200 Palestinians and 13 Israelis are killed, including children on both sides.

### 2020 The 'Deal of the Century'

After ongoing delays to the Trump administration's long awaited 'deal of the century', in January it is finally released. The plan suggests a two-state solution with Israel annexing the Jordan Valley and a complex proposal of land swaps between Israeli settlements in the West Bank and land in the Negev desert. The plan is rejected by the PA who cite that it is biased in nature.

