

Post WWII - 1966: Israel's Establishment

United States Role during this period:

Instrumental in passing partition—threatened to cut WWII reconstruction aid to countries voting no

45% of land to Arab state despite population 2/3 Arab. -Local majority opposes partition.

1947 Partition Plan
UN approves plan to divide Palestine into Jewish and Arab states and an international zone



55% of land for Jewish state (33% of population and owned <7% of the land)

-Arabs ethnically cleansed from their homes
-400-600 villages destroyed

750,000 expelled Palestinians become stateless refugees



1947-1949 Nakba
The majority of Palestinians are forced from their homes in what became Israel

Decreases Arab population, solidifying Jewish majority

May, 14, 1948 Israel Created
Israel declares itself a state



-Create a Jewish state in Palestine
-Self-determination for Jews achieved



If all Palestinians returned, Jews would be a minority in Israel.

1948-1949 International Law
Declaration of Human Rights, UN Resolution 194, 4th Geneva Convention

International law formally recognizes the Right of Return (but it remains unenforced)

United States Role during this period:
Both the first to recognize Israel as a state and a key proponent of the UN Declaration of Human Rights

-Blocks Palestinians from returning to their lands
-Unilaterally takes Palestinian property

1950s Israeli Laws
Absentee Property Law
Prevention of Infiltration Act

-Confiscated homes house immigrant Jews
-Further secures Jewish majority

1950s-1960s Cold War Proxy Conflict
-US backs Israel with military and economic aid
-USSR arms Arab states and PLO. Superpower rivalry intensifies regional conflict

Movement does not recognize legitimacy of Israeli state

1964 Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) formed

Represents an official voice for the Palestinian people



From the right: Ahmad Sidiqi Dajani, Abdul-Karim Alami, Ahmad al-Shuqairi, Said al-Azza, Salah Dabbagh, and Nimr Masri.

Golan Heights, Sinai, Gaza and West Bank under Israeli military occupation

Another 300,000 Palestinians expelled from West Bank; become refugees

Military control of large swaths of territory populated by Arabs comes with security costs

1967 Occupation Begins
Following the Six Day War, Israeli military occupation of West Bank and Gaza

Israel triples size of territory it controls.

-Gave Israel right to exist in ethnically cleansed Palestinian territory
-Did not recognize Palestinian right to self-determination

Resolution 242
Calls for Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and recognition of all states' right to exist

- Declares inadmissibility of land acquisition by war
- Demands withdrawal of Israeli forces from land occupied in 1967

-Right to "secure and recognized boundaries"
-Interpreted withdrawal as conditional on comprehensive negotiations

