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August 29, 1897

The first Zionist conference is held in Basel, Switzerland. Attended by nearly 200 delegates, the congress formulates the Basel Program, which remains the basic platform of the Zionist movement. The program defines Zionism's goal as the creation "for the Jewish people of a home in Palestine secured by public law."

Nov. 2, 1917

Britain passes the Balfour Declaration, expressing support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. In the previous 40 years, Eastern Europeans immigrated to the region in large numbers. By 1914, Jews living in Palestine grew to 85,000, about 12 percent of the population.

May 6-11, 1942

During World War II the U.S. becomes the center of Zionist activity. A conference in New York results in the Biltmore Program, which rejects British restrictions on immigration into Palestine and calls for the fulfillment of the Balfour Declaration urging the establishment of Palestine as a Jewish commonwealth.

Nov. 29, 1947

The United Nations proposes to partition Palestine into Jewish and Arab states with Jerusalem under international control.

The U.S. and Russia approve the plan, but Britain abstains. The Zionist movement - pushing for an independent state - reluctantly accepts the proposal that is denounced by Arab states. Arabs feel that the U.N. has no right to make such a deal.

33 members supported it,
13 opposed, &
10 were neutral.
Click to Scroll >

on 12/9/17
the British occupied
Jerusalem

Nov. 13, 1947

The British representative at the UN declared that Britain would have to withdraw from Palestine by May 1948.

Dec. 25, 1947-

The Holy War Troops (AL Jihad AL Mugall) were formed in Palestine presided by the leader Abdel Qader Al Husseini.

History
1897-2000
① 119

1948

As the British mandate over Palestine expires, Jewish authorities declare a new State of Israel. Many nations recognize the new country under first prime minister David Ben-Gurion. The Arab League declares war and Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Iraq engage in fighting with Israel until early 1949, when all parties sign truce agreements that established the borders of the new Jewish state.

12/8/49 The UN formed

1951-

UNRWA to look after & employ the Palestinian Refugees in the neighboring Countries.

12/16/49 - David Ben Gurion, the Israeli Prime Minister, declared Jerusalem as the unified capital of Israel



1951
Egypt denies Israel access to the Suez Canal and blocks the use of the Strait of Tiran, Israel's only direct access to the Red Sea. Palestinians

launch raids on Israeli soil from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Oct 29, 1956

Israel invades Egypt's GAZA Strip AND the Sinai Peninsula. The UN brokers A cease-fire Agreement AND sends in peace-keeping troops.

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Jan 1, 1965



Yasser Arafat's Fatah Movement (founded in 1956) begins armed guerrilla attacks against Israel, which responds with raids against Syria and Jordan. Israeli security zone and border incidents escalate in intensity throughout the year.

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June 5, 1967

Page 15



Egypt had signed an alliance with Syria, Jordan and Iraq, and moved troops into the Sinai

in May. In response, Israel launches an immense military strike at Egypt, Jordan and Syria in the Six-Day War, capturing the Gaza Strip, the Sinai, East Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Golan Heights.

* ON 11/4/66, A Joint Defense Treaty was signed by Egypt & Syria against Israel.

* ON 11/13/66, Israeli forces attack Al Samou', a village near Hebron, & killed 15 people, injured 14 & destroyed 125 houses.

Feb 26, 1969

Israeli Secretary General

Golda Meir is elected

Prime Minister of Israel.

11/22/67 The UN Security Council issued resolution NO. 242 in which Israel was called upon to withdraw from territories the occupied in the June war

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4/10/69

(6)

Egypt launches the War of Attrition
against Israel along the Suez Canal.
The U.S. brokers a cease-fire the
next year.

~~10~~ Sept. 1970

Jordan repels an attempt
by the Palestine Liberation Organization
(PLO) to grab control of the country.

(6)

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Sept 28, 1970



Egyptian President
Gamal Abdel Nasser,
who always strongly
opposed the state of
Israel, dies and
Anwar al-Sadat is
later elected the new

president.

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Oct 6, 1973



Sadat fails to negotiate the return of the Sinai to Egypt, and therefore, along with Syria, launches a surprise attack against Israeli positions in the area. Called the Yom Kippur War by Israel and the Ramadan War by Arabs, the fighting ends in late October.

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April 4, 1974

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Meir resigns following the release of a government report criticizing Israel's lack of preparedness for the Arab strikes the year before. Yitzhak

Rabin (pictured) assumes the prime minister position. He is replaced three years later by Menachem Begin.

Nov. 22, 1974

The U.N. recognizes the right for Palestinians to have statehood & sovereignty."

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Sept 18, 1978



U.S.
President
Jimmy Carter
hosts Sadat
and Begin at
Camp David,
where the

leaders approve the agreements for
a peace treaty between Israel and
Egypt and for a comprehensive
Middle East peace. They sign the
accord at the White House March
26, 1979.

Oct 6, 1981

Muslim extremists upset
with the Egypt-Israel treaty
Assassinate Sadat in Cairo

(12)

June 6, 1982



Israeli troops launch Operation Peace for Galilee into southern Lebanon, with the sole purpose of ensuring security for northern Israel and destroying the infrastructure in Lebanon of the PLO, which had staged raids into Israel.

Sept. 14, 1982

Bashir Gemayel, President of Lebanon, is assassinated less than one month after the PLO withdraws its forces from Lebanon.

(13)

March 84

14



Under pressure from Syria, which held considerable political and military influence in Lebanon, Lebanese president Amin Gemayel

nullifies a 1983 peace agreement with Israel. Most of the Israeli forces evacuate Lebanon in 1985, leaving a small force in the south to maintain security along the border

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December 1987

15



The 7-year-long Palestinian uprising, or intefadeh, begins as an expression of frustration at 20 years of Israeli rule and Jewish settlement in the Occupied Territories. The movement becomes more violent over time as cease-fire attempts continue to fail.

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11/15/88



Arafat declares
Palestine an
independent state,
acknowledges
Israel's right to
exist as a nation

by accepting U.N. Security Council
Resolution 242 - originally adopted
in 1967 - and renounces terrorism.
The PLO and The U.S. begin formal
dialogue and Israel proposes a
comprehensive peace initiative in
spring 1989.

August 2, 1990

Saddam Hussein's order for an
Iraqi invasion of Kuwait + the ensuing
Gulf War in 1991, suspends efforts
to seek an Arab-Israeli peace.

interruption

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Sept. 13, 1993.



The Oslo negotiations paved the way for the signing of a peace accord between Israel and the PLO. It proposes a Palestinian self-rule to be phased in over several years in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Peres, Rabin and Arafat win the Nobel Peace Prize.

MAY 4, 1994

18



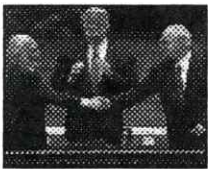
Israel and the PLO
sign an agreement in
Cairo on the final
status of Jericho and
the Gaza Strip. Israel
completes withdrawal
of troops from the two

regions. The Palestinian Authority
led by Arafat assumes civil matters
and sets up a Palestinian police
force to maintain internal security

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Oct 26, 1994

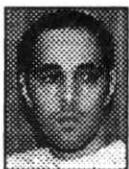


Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and
Jordanian King Hussein sign a
peace treaty.

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Nov. 4, 1995



Israeli ultranationalist student Yigal Amir, who opposes the peace process, assassinates Rabin at a peace rally in Tel Aviv. Shimon Peres,

also a major player in the peace process, takes over as Israeli prime minister.

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Nov 13, 1995



Israeli troops pull out
of towns and give the
Palestinians
autonomy in six cities
on the West Bank as
part of the Oslo
Accords.

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11/20/96



In their first elections since the formation of Israel almost 50 years earlier, Palestinians elect Arafat as president of the Palestinian Authority.

He wins more than 80 percent of the vote.

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8/27/96



Under Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli government lifts the four-year freeze on Jewish settlement construction in

Palestinian territories by giving the go head for the expansion of the Kiryat Sefer Settlement. The building angers Arabs and puts the peace process into a dire situation.

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~~Oct 23, 1998~~



After more than 30
years of occupation,
Israeli troops
withdraw from the
West Bank town of
Hebron the day after
an agreement is

signed with the Palestinian
Authority.

1/14/97

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10/23/98



Arafat and Netanyahu
sign the Wye River
Accord - a land-for-
peace deal involving
the West Bank.
President Clinton
hosts the Middle East

Summit at the Wye River
Conference Center retreat in
Maryland.

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